

EMMA
THOMPSON

ALAN
RICKMAN

KATE
WINSLET

HUGH
GRANT



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Jane Austen



 SCHOLASTIC

Contents

Page

Sense and Sensibility 4–61

People and places 4–5

The language of Jane Austen's time 6

Introduction: The Dashwood Family 7

Chapter 1: Leaving Norland 9

Chapter 2: Barton 14

Chapter 3: Willoughby 16

Chapter 4: Bad news 21

Chapter 5: Edward's visit 26

Chapter 6: Lucy Steele 28

Chapter 7: London 33

Chapter 8: Willoughby's letter 37

Chapter 9: Colonel Brandon's past 40

Chapter 10: Mrs Ferrars 44

Chapter 11: Edward's promise 47

Chapter 12: Marianne in danger 51

Chapter 13: Willoughby's story 53

Chapter 14: Mrs Edward Ferrars 56

Chapter 15: Together 59

Fact Files 62–67

Jane Austen 62

Love or money? 64

The London season 66

Self-Study Activities 68–72

New Words inside back cover

MRS DASHWOOD

has three daughters: Elinor, Marianne and Margaret. ▼

MARIANNE

is sixteen. She thinks love and feelings are the most important things in life. ▼

ELINOR

is nineteen and Mrs Dashwood's oldest daughter. She is kind and has good sense. ▼



▲
MARGARET is Mrs Dashwood's youngest daughter. She is thirteen years old.

SIR JOHN MIDDLETON is Mrs Dashwood's cousin.

MRS JENNINGS has two married daughters. Her favourite hobby is finding partners for her unmarried young friends.

LUCY STEELE and her sister, Anne, are from Devon. Lucy is pretty, and loves to talk, but she has a secret ...

JOHN DASHWOOD is the Dashwood girls' half-brother. He is married to Fanny.

EDWARD FERRARS ▶

is Fanny Dashwood's brother. He is a young man with a good future ahead of him. Fanny wants him to become rich. But Edward wants to be a clergyman*.

* A 'clergyman' works for the church.



WILLOUGHBY ▶

is a handsome young man from Combe Magna in Somerset. He has no fortune of his own.



◀ **COLONEL BRANDON** is a quiet, serious man. He is a friend of Sir John Middleton and often visits him in Devon. He has a secret in his past.



◀ PLACES

NORLAND PARK in Sussex is the home of Mrs Dashwood and her three daughters.

BARTON PARK and **BARTON COTTAGE** are Sir John Middleton's country homes in Devon.

DELAFORD in Dorset is Colonel Brandon's family home.



The language of Jane Austen's time

Jane Austen wrote *Sense and Sensibility* between 1795 and 1811. The English that people spoke and wrote at that time was a little different from modern English. Here are some of the differences that you will find when you read *Sense and Sensibility*.

Jane Austen's language		modern English
cannot	=	can't
I cannot believe it!		I can't believe it!
do not	=	don't
Do not speak of it.		Don't talk about it.
Why do you not ...?	=	Why don't you ...?
Why do you not ask Marianne?		Why don't you ask Marianne?
Must we ...?	=	Do we have to ...?
Must we go to dinner this evening?		Do we have to go to dinner this evening?
a handsome man / woman	=	a good-looking man / woman
a drawing room	=	a large sitting room for guests

People only used first names for children, families and very good friends. So Lucy Steele uses Miss Dashwood for Elinor.

When Jane Austen started to write this book, she called it *Elinor and Marianne*. Later she changed it to *Sense and Sensibility*. 'Sensibility' means having deep, strong feelings. Marianne's feelings are the most important thing to her, but Elinor is different. She thinks about her feelings, and uses sense to find answers to her problems. So, Elinor is 'Sense' and Marianne is 'Sensibility'.

SENSE & SENSIBILITY

INTRODUCTION

The Dashwood family



Old Mr Dashwood lived at Norland Park in Sussex. For many years, he lived there with his sister. Then his sister died. Old Mr Dashwood felt sad. He did not like living alone. Norland Park was a large estate* in the country and suitable for a large family. So he invited his brother's son, Henry, and his family to live with him. Henry Dashwood came with his wife and their three daughters – Elinor, Marianne and Margaret. They were soon very comfortable there. The family were kind and the old man was happy.

Henry had a son, John, from his first wife. As a young boy, John and old Mr Dashwood spent some happy times together. And the old man always remembered this. John only visited Norland sometimes, but he was still the old man's favourite.

After some years, old Mr Dashwood died. He left one thousand pounds to each of the three girls. Norland and the rest of his money went to Henry.

* An 'estate' is a large area of land with one or more buildings on it.

‘But when Henry dies,’ he wrote, ‘everything will go to John.’

The following year, Henry became very ill. He knew he was going to die. He was worried about his wife and daughters. He only had ten thousand pounds to leave them.

Henry asked John to come and see him. John and his wife, Fanny, were rich. Henry asked John to look after his three daughters. John was a rather selfish man, but he was not unkind. He promised to help. He decided to give Elinor, Marianne and Margaret one thousand pounds each. But first, he had to tell Fanny.

For Review Only

CHAPTER 1

Leaving Norland

Very soon after Henry died, John and Fanny arrived at Norland with their young son. Mrs Dashwood could not stop them – John and Fanny were now the new owners. But she was angry. She and the girls were still very sad about Henry. They needed to be alone. Did John and Fanny have no feelings?

Mrs Dashwood wanted to leave Norland at once. Marianne felt the same.

‘We were so happy in this house,’ Marianne cried. ‘But now I feel it is not my home anymore. I do not even want to speak to Fanny and John!’

‘We must speak to them, Marianne,’ Elinor said. ‘John has been kind to us. We do not want to upset him.’

Elinor was only nineteen but her mother always listened to her. But Mrs Dashwood understood Marianne’s strong feelings, too. She and Marianne were very similar. Mrs Dashwood put her arms around Marianne.

‘Do not worry, dear,’ she said. ‘We will buy another place as fine as Norland.’

‘Do not promise what we cannot pay for, mother,’ said Elinor.

Margaret watched but said nothing. She was only thirteen but she was already very much like her mother.



Fanny did not agree with her husband’s plan to help Mrs Dashwood and her daughters.

‘A thousand pounds is too much,’ she said.

‘But I made a promise to my father,’ John said. He now sounded unsure. He always listened to his wife. ‘Perhaps

you are right,' he continued, after a few moments. 'It is rather a lot. Do you think five hundred pounds is a fair offer?'



Fanny moved closer to her husband and smiled. 'Think of your own son, John. Your father was very ill when he spoke to you. Did you really understand him? I do not think he wanted you to help with money at all. He left them ten thousand pounds'

'That is more than enough,' John said.

'I think he meant you to help your sisters. To find a new home perhaps,' Fanny continued, 'or a present of food sometimes.'

John Dashwood looked at his wife. 'Yes, Fanny,' he said. 'I believe you are right.'

At the end of that first month, Fanny's brother, Edward Ferrars, arrived. He was quiet, kind and very different from his sister. He liked to talk to Elinor and watch her drawing. They spent more and more time together.

Mrs Dashwood was pleased. For the first time, she stopped thinking about leaving Norland. She liked Edward very much. Could he and Elinor become engaged? As time went on, she became certain of it.

'In a few months, I believe Elinor and Edward will be married,' she told Marianne one day. 'You will then have a brother. Edward is a good man. I am sure your sister will be very happy.'

'Oh, mother,' Marianne cried. 'How are we going to live without her?'

'Do not worry, dear. They will not live far away and I am sure we will meet every day.'

But Marianne still looked sad.

'What is it, Marianne?' asked her mother. 'Do you not agree with your sister's choice?'

'I think Edward is a very nice man,' said Marianne. 'But he has no real taste. I do not think he listens when I play the piano. It is the same with Elinor's pictures. He appears to like them. But does he really understand that they are very good? And books, also. Last night he read to us. But there was no fire in his words. I could never be happy with a man like Edward. My husband must have the same tastes as myself.'

For a moment, she looked lost. 'But I do not think I will ever find him.'

Mrs Dashwood laughed. 'Oh, Marianne,' she said. 'You are still only sixteen. You have all the time in the world.'

That evening, Marianne spoke to Elinor about Edward. 'I am sorry that Edward has no taste for drawing,' she said.

'No, you are wrong, Marianne,' Elinor said. 'Edward is unsure of himself, that is all. I like him very much.'

'Like him?' laughed Marianne. 'You sound so cold, Elinor. Is that all you feel for Edward?'

'No, Marianne. I am being careful. I do not know for certain that Edward loves me. And it is not only about love.'

'What could be more important than love?'

'Oh, Marianne. You and mother think only of feelings. Edward is not free. I believe his mother is no different from Fanny. She is a difficult woman with great hopes for her son. She would not like him to marry someone like me. I have so little money of my own.'

Marianne was quiet. She and her mother were wrong about Edward and Elinor. Their future together was not certain. Why was love so difficult?

Fanny was unhappy about Edward and Elinor. Fanny and her mother had great plans for Edward. Above all, Fanny wanted him to marry well.

'But, of course,' Fanny told Mrs Dashwood one day, 'Edward has not met anyone good enough for him yet.'

Mrs Dashwood was very angry with Fanny. 'We must leave Norland at once,' she thought.

Happily for Mrs Dashwood, a letter arrived for her the next day. It was from her cousin, Sir John Middleton. Sir John was writing from Barton Park, his estate in Devon. In the letter, he offered Mrs Dashwood and her daughters a small house on the estate.

Mrs Dashwood showed the letter to her daughters and

they agreed to move. The house was inexpensive. It was also far from Norland. But Elinor felt sad about leaving Edward.

At dinner that evening, Mrs Dashwood told Fanny and Edward the news. Edward looked very worried.

‘Are you going so far?’ he asked.

‘My dear Edward,’ Mrs Dashwood answered, ‘you will always be welcome at our house.’



At the end of the week, the family left Norland. John did not keep his promise to his father. Mrs Dashwood now lost all hope of receiving any money from him. She and her daughters looked back at their old home one last time. They wanted to escape Fanny, but they also remembered happier times.

‘Dear Norland,’ said Marianne, sadly. ‘Who will love you now?’

The London

In *Sense and Sensibility*, Elinor and Marianne go to London for the 'season'. What was the 'London season', and what happened there?

An exciting time of year

From January to June, young people came to London with their families for the 'season'. There were dances (called 'balls'), parties, breakfasts, lunches and dinners. It was the best time for young people to become engaged.

What's on?

A newspaper called *The Morning Post* gave information every day about balls and parties.

'Will you marry me?'

From the right young man, a marriage proposal was welcome. From the wrong person, it could mean danger. After marriage, it was almost impossible for a woman to escape a bad choice.

What were the good and bad things about the London season for a young lady?



Most young ladies chose quickly and were engaged by the end of their first season. It was not surprising. In 6 months, the average young lady went to 50 balls, 60 parties and 30 dinners!

Out of time

Of course, not everyone found a husband. Some young ladies came away every year with no marriage proposal. As each year passed, it became more and more difficult for them. In Jane Austen's time, it was not usual to get married after the age of 25.



Season ♣

The diary of Miss Henrietta Horrocks

Saturday, 5th February, 1814

4 p.m.

This morning at 9 o'clock I went riding in Hyde Park with my brother and Mama. I saw Captain Palfrey. He smiled at me. I am sure he is going to the ball at Almack's tonight. I am so excited!

At 10 o'clock, I had breakfast with Mama. After breakfast, we went to the shops. Mama bought me a new green dress.

At 1 o'clock in the afternoon, I went visiting with Mama. We called at cousin Fanny's, and then went on to my aunt's in Chelsea. I can't remember anything anyone said – I am far too excited about the ball!

Sunday, 6th February, 1814

4 a.m.

This evening was wonderful! At 6 in the evening, Colonel James and his wife came for dinner. After dinner, I joined the ladies. The men played cards until 8.30. I could hear them as I got ready for the ball.

Around 10 o'clock, I arrived with my family at the ball. Almack's is my favourite place in London! I am sure my new dress was the most beautiful in the room. Captain Palfrey was there. We danced together until 3 a.m.

Now I must go to bed. I do not know if I will sleep. Captain Palfrey will visit us later today ...



What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.

season marriage proposal lady / ladies average