

## 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.

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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.’

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