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Sense and sensibility sparknotes chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary: The Dashwood family is introduced; live in Norland Park, an estate in Sussex, which has been owned by their family for many years. Henry Dashwood has a son from a previous marriage, who is wealthy because of his mother's long-time fortune. Mr . Dashwood also has three daughters from his current wife, who are left with very little when he dies and the estate goes to his son. Before Mr. Dashwood dies, he asks his son to promise to help his stepmother, and John Dashwood agrees. However, his son John is also selfish, and fails to really help his step-mother and half-sisters, as he promised to do. John's wife comes too early to the house, giving the Dashwoods little time to grieve before reminding them that they are going to evacuate the premises. Mrs. Dashwood is very angry at this lack of decency that she almost defeats. But Eleanor, her eldest daughter, convinces her to stay and maintain good relations with her step-son. Elinor is perfectly reasonable and prudent, able to handle people and situations very gently; Her sister, Marianne, is very emotional and never modest, missing some of the good feeling that Elinor has. While Marianne and her mother allow themselves to drown in grief, Elinor grieves too, but also watching the issues at hand. Margaret, the younger sister, is young and well-meaning, and not as extreme in either sense or sensibility as the other two. Analysis: The themes of money and heritage are of direct importance in the novel; Dashwood women are immediately thrown into a terrible situation, since none of them have money themselves, they can't inherit because they are women, and they can't earn a living either. Gender is also a decisive issue in this, since the reason they can't keep Mr. Trump's property or money is because they can't keep their property or money. Dashwood is because women are not legally entitled to receive or own property at this point in history. Austen contrasts the poor state of Dashwood women with that of his eldest son, who is already very wealthy, and thus provides social commentary on the practices of the time; that the son becomes even richer, while his stepmother and half-sisters have nothing, is very unfair, but is supported by outdated laws that require it to be so. Already, Austen finds an object of ridicule in John Dashwood; her tone is cynical and mocking when she notes that John is not unwise to be cold and rather selfish, it is not to be in the mood. His wife is even less kind than him, Austen to point this out through her tone. Austen notes the 'impertinence' of Mrs John Dashwood's behaviour, and mocks her for showing 'little attention to other people's comfort'. The conflict of the title, between sensation and sensitivity, is introduced through the characters of Elinor and Marianne. Elinor holds back and tempers her emotions with good logic and careful judgment; Marianne can't hold back. not at all, and lacks Elinor's ability to act wisely. Austen describes them in a much more positive light than he does with John Dashwood and his wife, but her descriptions suggest that both are probably missing something. Marianne is unrestrained, and Elinor always very careful; They are both extreme, and will undoubtedly become more modest by the end of Austen's novel. Chapter 2 Summary: Ms. John Dashwood immediately takes over as mistress of the estate as Ms. Dashwood and her daughters become visitors to their former home. Mrs. John Dashwood also questions the extent of her husband's generosity; She advises her husband not to give too much to diminish their son's future legacy. She talks to him under a gift of a thousand pounds each, occasionally giving them help, of a non-financial kind. Fanny reasons you won't have expenses and more than enough money; reckons that four of them will be better off for their five hundred pounds a year than herself and her husband, although they have many thousands at their disposal. So John decides to only do nice things for them in some cases, and forget any ideas of giving them money at all. Analysis: Mrs. John Dashwood, or Fanny, is revealed here as a creature even more selfish and indifferent as her husband. The coldness and selfishness of her logic is clearly exposed by Austen, as further ridicule of her greed in this situation. That Fanny Dashwood can confidently claim that Dashwood's women will be comfortable away with very little money, and their home taken from them, is obviously untrue. Fanny is certainly greedy in denying that Mrs. Dashwood and her daughters should have no need, while Fanny and her husband deprive them of much of their past money and their home as well. That John Dashwood finds his wife's argument irresistible shows how he relies on his wife to confirm any crappy tendencies he may have. She is even more selfish and indifferent than him, which helps him justify himself when he acts almost the same. It is perhaps ironic that John Dashwood's wife brings out the worst in him rather than the best, and that they can be so miserable in the face of misfortune, but this same irony is a part of human nature. Chapter 3 Summary: Ms. Dashwood and her daughters stay in Norland for a few months because it is difficult to find a new home they can afford with their small income. She knows John Dashwood's promise to his father, her late husband, and that reassures her, neither she nor her husband were sure of the John, but he was nice to her and her daughters, which means he feels some kind of obligation at least. However, she doesn't like Fanny Dashwood at all, and she would have left Norland sooner had it not been for the friendship that developed between Eleanor and Edward Fairs, Fanny's brother. Edward is very shy, but he is a one and kind person as soon as people become familiar with him. Mrs. Dashwood is happy about the attraction between him and Eleanor, more so because he's kind and kind-hearted than the fact that his family is very rich. Although his mother and sister have great ambitions for him, he is a very retiring species, and he wants a quiet life and peace instead. Mrs. Dashwood grows up to admire him, and she believes the affection between him and Eleanor will lead to marriage. However, Marianne doesn't approve as much as she finds Edward less bold and charming than she is ideal. Marianne requires a man who is much more passionate but has all the virtues of Edward; It is understood that she will never find such a man, although her mother reassures her. Analysis: Money again becomes an issue, as it will be a determining factor in how well girls get married. Although Ms Dashwood believes the money won't turn out to be much of a barrier if a couple is in love, the reality is that money does and will play a role in dashwood girls' hopes for marriage. Ms. Dashwood is perhaps very hopeful and idealistic in her assessment that there are no financial barriers to Elinor and Edward's relationship; for the time of Austen, women of good family, but little money will certainly not be able to acquire a fight with a rich, high-profile gentleman like Edward. Austen's dry, witty tone is evident in her description of Edward coming to Ms. Dashwood's favor; Austen reports that Ms Dashwood only began to become aware of him after Elinor stated how different he was from his sister, and this recommended him more violently to Ms Dashwood. This kind of comment is the epitome of a combination of understatement, a sly tone, and sharp observation that signals Austen's appreciation of an often ridiculous society and its less pleasant members. The contrast between Elinor and Marianne is highlighted through their ideas about a suitable man. Elinor's model of a suitable man is Edward, very virtuous, polite, though rather sedated. Marianne wants someone bolder, artistic, and passionate, to coincide with her own interests and qualities. However, that also says that he would like a man with all the virtues of Edward foretells that he may end up with a man who is more reasonable than he expects, and probably more tempered in his passions than he is. Chapter 4 Summary:Marianne questions Edward's taste in design; Elinor is perfectly satisfied that he is not as obviously passionate about art as Marianne should hope, although he knows that this is one of Edward's flaws with Elinor says he is perfectly happy with his tastes and education, and even Marianne can't find fault with the good nature and heart of the species. Marianne says she'd like Edward even more if she married Eleanor. Elinor knows that her sister and mother believe there is a connection between her and Edward, but does not wish to confirm Because she's not sure the feelings are exactly mutual. Elinor also admits that there is something in Edward that suggests he doesn't love her as much as she loves him. She thinks it may have something to do with the expectations and authoritarian nature of Edward's mother, though of course Eleanor can't be sure. Fanny is particularly unhappy with this attraction, and comments to Ms. Dashwood about how there are high hopes for Edward, and must marry a woman with high birth and a lot of wealth. Fortunately, Ms Dashwood then receives a letter from a relative offering her a cottage on his property very cheaply. The letter is very friendly and urges Ms Dashwood to come to Barton Park, his devonshire estate, to take a look at the nearby cottage and see if it is suitable. Since Mrs. Dashwood is about to escape Fanny, she accepts. Marianne and Eleanor approve of the proposal, though Eleanor doesn't want to be separated from Edward. Analysis: The conflict between sensation and sensitivity is shown again in this conversation between Elinor and Marianne, and what their views are on Edward and Elinor's relationship. Eleanor, with all her sensitivity, doesn't allow herself to get carried away. She knows that Edward's affection may not be hers, and that there is no promise of connection between them. Marianne researches the situation with a more romantic eye, assuming you have to love her just as well, and is sure to propose soon. That romantic notions lead Marianne to take on more about the situation than is true shows the failure of reason; the feeling is far from accurate, and faith and hope often fall short of reality. Eleanor's confession to Marianne portends a secret from Edward. He must have reason to act sometimes cautious about Marianne, if his love is as genuine as it seems. Another obstacle is, of course, the approval of Edward's mother, who has high hopes for Edward's progress and certainly will not look favorably in a less-than-ideal race. Fanny's insinuations to Ms. Dashwood suggest that any match between Eleanor and Edward would be strictly opposed by the Fairs family, and this heralds further obstacles for Edward and Eleanor to unite. Chapter 5 Summary: Ms Dashwood announces she is going to leave soon, and take the cottage to Devonshire; Fanny Dashwood is delighted of course, although Edward seems surprised to be moving so far. Ms. Dashwood takes pleasure in the arrangements, and sends their furniture in front of the house; invites Edward warmly, hoping that he will come to visit them Ms. Dashwood's former hopes that John Dashwood could somehow help them come to zero; Indeed, he begins to comment on the costs of his housekeeping, suggesting that his generosity only extended to keeping them in Norland for those few months. Analysis:Although John Dashwood's desire to be is for Dashwood women is cordial at one point, unfortunately it does not last; proves unmistakably selfish, as he joins his wife in making frequent comments to rush dashwood women's departure. Edward's reaction to the announcement of their departure seems to confirm his love for Elinor, although her doubts about his love certainly haven't been settled in this case. Marianne's thoughts before you leave show her unmistakable romantic thoughts, through her high-flying diction and a very emotional tone. He is a master of hyperbole as he declares that he could never feel at home anywhere else; but they will probably feel at home in Barton Cottage, although not as great as Norland. Although Elinor's pain at retirement remains unresolved, Marianne's tendency to feel very strongly, and to express this overabundance of feeling freely becomes clear. Chapter 6 Summary: The Dashwoods are brooding for the start, but as they approach Barton Cottage they become more interested in this new area and the new home they are going to inhabit. They find Barton Cottage a bit small and comfortable, although not as romantic as a cottage is believed to be. The valley and countryside around it is very pleasant,

and helps them think carefully about their new place. They're doing the best they can, though Ms. Dashwood wants to make improvements to the place in the future. Sir John Middleton, their owner and Ms Dashwood's cousin, is coming soon to visit: he's very kind, and happy to see that he's there, and somehow settled. He invites them up to dine at Barton Park until he is more at home, and insists they often visit him there. Lady Middleton comes to visit them the next day; She is Sir John's wife, very elegant, though much colder and wary than her very friendly husband. After her visit, they are invited to Barton Park the next day, and accept the invitation. Analysis: This chapter highlights the issue of expectations against reality, for although Marianne is expected to miss Norland terribly for a long time, and her mother expected their diminished circumstances to be very difficult, and both are able to cope admirably with their new circumstances. Adaptation doesn't seem as difficult as they expected, especially with the kind of an owner and host like Sir John Middleton is. However, this is a transitional phase for the family, as they have to accept a reduced income along with a reduced social position. However, their tone remains relatively optimistic, as Does Austen when describing the new home and their situation in the cottage Barton. Chapter 7 Summary: Barton Park is a very open and elegant home, and Sir John and his wife are never without a good many visitors. Sir John's only job is hunting, and his wife raises their children. have guests and travel to have fun differently, Sir John is really fond of Dashwood girls as they are quite quite unaffected, as he calls them. He's good to them by the goodness of his heart, and he enjoys their company. When the Dashwoods arrive, they meet two people in Barton, which is much less than Sir John would have liked to have had; One is Mrs Jennings, Sir John's mother-in-law, who is a cheerful, somewhat vulgar old woman who enjoys jokes and general cheer. They also meet Colonel Brandon, one of Sir John's old friends. he is a gentleman and a bachelor, and although rather silent and serious, he is not unpleasing to them. Marianne plays for the party after dinner, and is pleased with Colonel Brandon's silent attention, compared to the blabbering of Sir John and his mother-in-law, and the preforms of Lady Middleton. Analysis: Sir John Middleton seems to symbolize the best of the upper class society, while his wife represents the usual rich person. While Sir John is really kind and enjoys having visitors and socialising, his wife is busier with elegance, designing suitably eye-catching gatherings, and is generally kind company. Lady Middleton is dull and simple, as are many from the upper class; she may be polite, elegant and refined, but as Austen observes, she also seems to have had life polished by her. Sir John, while more of an anomaly, manages to combine the riches and pursuits of the upper class with true friendliness and personality; it could represent what this class of people could be if they don't deal with vanity and phenomena to an overwhelming degree. It seems very strange that Marianne and Eleanor regard 35-year-old Colonel Brandon as an old bachelor. but, it is easy to forget that they are 17 and 19 respectively, and that life expectancy was shorter then. Marriages usually took place at a younger age as well, at least for women. But, Marianne considers Colonel Brandon's age with such exaggeration that it makes Marianne look pretty silly and naïve. She comments on Colonel Brandon's advanced state of life as if he were a man sixty or seventy, and Austen's cunning tone in communicating this thought makes Marianne's misjudgment quite humorous. Chapter 8 Summary: Ms. Jennings is a widow with two married daughters, leaving her with no other profession, Austen says, than to try and get married by everyone else. She's convinced that Colonel Brandon is in love with Marianne, and decides to take them along, since she thinks it's a pleasant fight. Marianne soon realizes Mrs. Jennings's intent, and. Mrs. Jennings thinks such an old man would be a good fight for her. But Marianne is distracted by this subject by the thoughts of Elinor and Edward's seizure; He hasn't visited them yet, which makes Marianne afraid she's not well. Marianne and her mother question Eleanor and Edward's behavior when they broke up, which showed nothing more than friendship between them. which That something may have come between them, though Eleanor naturally refuses to talk. Analysis: Ms. Jennings is a portrait of a multi-woman who, with no hobbies and no profession, must entertain herself with social interests. Austen's tone ridicules Mrs Jennings' concern, and her completely unfounded opinion that Colonel Brandon is in love with Marianne. Ms. Jennings is a younger parallel with Emma Austen in her choice of entertainment and her speed of jumping to conclusions, and also because both women take on their duties for both self-satisfaction and a desire to help couples get along. Once again, Marianne puts her impulsive, ill-informed attack on Colonel Brandon's age; since she is a passionate romantic, it is ironic that she thinks someone who is only 27 will no longer be able to feel passionate. Marianne's belief that Colonel Brandon is old and must be unhealthy is exaggerated and not fully taken into account. as usual, she says exactly what she thinks, and doesn't pause to weigh and censor her comments as a careful Elinor tends to do. Chapter 9 Summary: The family is now settled in Barton Cottage, and much happier there than they were in Norland after Mr Dashwood's death. The Dashwoods keep busy and are usually for the cottage, although Sir John often visits and offers them the use of his carriage to make social calls. The girls especially like to go on foot to the beautiful countryside, and one day Marianne and Margaret decide to go on foot despite the threat of rainy weather. When it starts raining heavily, they start running back home; However, Marianne stumbles and twists an ankle and can't walk. A man who sees the accident comes to their rescue, and carries Marianne home while Margaret follows. Elinor and Ms. Dashwood are surprised by his sudden appearance, but he is charming and handsome and quickly wins them over. Mrs. Dashwood thanks him, and despite her invitation to stay, she insists she should leave. He says his name is Willoughby, he lives on the nearby Allenham estate, and he'll call the next day to ask after Marianne's condition. Sir John visits and has been informed of the incident and of Willoughby; he can tell them a little about his personality, but he informs them that he lives with his aunt in Allenham and is going to inherit the entire estate. Sir John assures them he is a good man and deserves to be 'caught', despite Marianne's claims that he is not trying to catch anyone. However, Sir John feels sorry for his friend the Colonel, since he deserves a good wife as one of the Dashwood girls, and is already missing as a suitor. Analysis: At this point, Willoughby is little more than stock romantic foreign character thrown into some novels; It appears conveniently, and nothing is known about him. But the fact that Willoughby seems to be the perfect romantic. Romantic. it also foretells that it will naturally have shortcomings; He must be too good to be true, otherwise he can't be a realistic character at all. Mrs Dashwood's insistence that her daughters are not out to catch their husbands is dishonest and somewhat ironic, since finding husbands is actually their biggest concern. Willoughby's appearance highlights the theme of marriage in the play; it is an economic and social imperative that Elinor and Marianne marry in the near future, and that every eligible person in the novel so far is discussed in terms of suitability as a marriage perspective highlights the necessity and urgency of this concern. Elinor and Marianne need to be on constant alert for a suitable husband, lest they end up poor and unattached later in life. Sir John's comments about Colonel Brandon portend here, the fact that he is perfectly decent and worthy means that he will probably be better regarded in the long run as a desirable suitor. Chapter 10 Summary: Willoughby calls again the next morning, and the family is again convinced of his charm as he comes to admire them, and Marianne in particular. Marianne poses for him asking him about books, music, and dance, and is pleased to learn that they have similar tastes and passion for the arts. Marianne and Willoughby are already comfortable with each other after this first meeting, but Marianne is reminded that maybe she shouldn't have been so forward with her views and love on this first visit. Willoughby, however, admires Marianne very much and enjoys hosting her family; begins to visit them every day, as his commitment to Marianne deepens. Mrs. Dashwood thinks about him very well, though Eleanor understands the lack of discretion in his behavior and judgment that he should possess. Elinor is upset when Willoughby proceeds to lightly Colonel Brandon, when Elinor knows he is a kind, kind man behind his reserve; Marianne and Willoughby underestimate him because he is older, more experienced, and reserved, although Elinor sees these as assets rather than obstacles, and continues to defend his character. Analysis: Marianne shows neither shyness nor reserve in her conversation with Willoughby is consistent with her character, but confirms the importance of discretion in personal relationships. Discretion is an issue that turns out to have some significance for society; the revelation of himself very quickly or completely can lead to disappointment, embarrassment, or sadness, as Marianne is to learn very soon. Eleanor and Marianne's disagreement on the issues of discretion and shows them to be the pure embodiment of logic and sensitivity, respectively. Marianne lacks the wisdom to be able and limit herself where she knows she should, and Elinor in turn lacks the courage and passion to express her feelings with confidence. Both would be better off. developing some of each other's qualities, learning how to temper passion with reason, and attention with emotion. Willoughby's outburst about Colonel Brandon portends the discovery of some kind of bad blood between them. Willoughby's contempt for Colonel Brandon, like Marianne's, is brash and childish in nature, but Willoughby's greater loathing suggests there may be more to his take-off from Colonel Brandon than is immediately apparent. Marianne and Willoughby's aversion to the Colonel is ironic because of their own failures. they could do better to emulate part of his reserve than spend time mocking it. This.

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