CHAPTER 2

Things quickly settled in a routine. Over the next few days, Emilia divided her time in the gallery between watching the filming – which was mainly interesting but sometimes tedious[1] – and doing her own work in Robert's office – which, being Internet research and writing reports, was mainly tedious. So it was a welcome diversion[2] when some of the actors dropped in[3]. Despite Kathy's meticulous[4] organisation they often had to wait for short periods until they were called for filming.

"They're repeating it for the umpteenth time[5]," Leo Sandys had come into the room, "James wants more subtle rivalry between Elizabeth and Caroline Bingley, and you can tell that Jean and Nora are fed up." Jean Whyte was the actress playing snobbish Caroline Bingley, but actually a very likeable person – like Leo, who had been cast as George Wickham, the villain[6] of both *Pride and Prejudice* and the *Bennet Sisters*, and, Emilia suspected, would much have preferred to be nice Mr Bingley.

"He's needling[7] them until everything they say comes out with a waspish[8] undertone," Alan Gibson stated. He had appropriated[9] the armchair next to Robert's bookcase and was pretending to read a book ("If I'm disturbing you, simply ask me to bugger off[10]," he had told Emilia). Alan's was the role of Andrew Fitzwilliam, Darcy's cousin. It was not large, but more important than in the book – in the new adaptation he was to be a real rival for Elizabeth Bennet's affections[11].

"Anyone up for a walk?" Jessica Sleightholme looked into the room. "The weather is quite nice and they will be at it for hours." "Thanks, but I'll pass[12]. I'd rather not be chased by the press again," Leo replied. Jessica came into the room as well. "I forgot," she sighed.

"This waiting is getting on my nerves," she said a few minutes later, during which everyone had tried to read or work. "I'd elope[13] with you to Italy any time, my dear Jessica," Alan said gallantly. "Don't you dare," Nora Palliser had suddenly appeared, "not without me!" "So you're finished," Leo said. "At last," Nora leaned against the wall, as if desperately needing support. "So what about Italy?" she asked. "If we hurry up," Alan

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1 tedious: langweilig 2 diversion: Ablenkung 3 to drop in: vorbeischauen 4 meticulous: sehr genau 5 for the umpteenth time: zum zigsten Mal 6 villain: Schurke 7 to needle s.o.: jmd. piesacken 8 waspish: giftig, reizbar 9 to appropriate: in Beschlag nehmen 10 to bugger off (ugs.): abhauen, verduften 11 affections: Gefühle 12 I'll pass: nein danke 13 to elope: durchbrennen

said, getting up and offering Nora his arm, "we might make it for dinner in Rome. Sorry Jessica, darling …" Everyone laughed.

"Here you are – disturbing Ms Ramsay," said Ivor Byrnes, whom nobody had seen entering. "There's a perfectly good room for us to wait in next door. Alan and Nora, James wants us."

Exercise 11

Who's who?

Which person has which function or plays which role in *The Lives and Loves of the Bennet Sisters*?

Persons: *1. Alan Gibson – 2. Christopher Cox – 3. Emma Gill – 4. Ivor Byrnes – 5. James Riddell – 6. Jean Whyte – 7. Jessica Sleightholme – 8. Kathleen Cochrane – 9. Leo Sandys – 10. Nicholas Trent – 11. Nora Palliser*

Functions or roles: *a) Andrew Fitzwilliam – b) Caroline Bingley – c) Charles Bingley – d) director – e) Elizabeth Bennet – f) first assistant director – g) George Wickham – h) Jane Bennet – i) location manager – j) second assistant director – k) William Darcy*

The room emptied quickly after that. Privately, Emilia (who had been rereading *Pride and Prejudice*) sometimes amused herself by comparing the actors to the characters they played – realising, of course, that she did not know them very well. But there were some interesting similarities. A person she couldn't quite make up her mind about was Ivor. From what Emilia could tell, he was a wonderful and extremely professional actor, who, on set, was perfectly civil, at times even friendly. But the private Ivor Byrnes seemed to be another matter. Sometimes he was a bit arrogant, otherwise he did not say very much. Was he too proud to mingle[14] with everyone or was he simply shy? Or was he a very private person? He seemed to be less stiff in his interactions with Nora Palliser, Emilia observed, who had got into the habit of teasing[15] him. Did Nora want to draw him out of his shell[16] or did she simply think that even Ivor should be made to contribute

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14 to mingle: sich unter die Leute mischen 15 to tease: necken 16 to draw s.o. out of his shell: jmd. aus der Reserve locken

his share[17] to a general conversation? Or was there a genuine[18] attraction between the two?

Nora Palliser made an enchanting[19] Elizabeth Bennet and as a person she was no less charming. She had a very expressive face, which made whoever she was talking to feel that she was truly interested. Emilia could tell that she was ambitious, but what made her like her was the fact that Nora seemed to be a tiny bit insecure about playing this important role in a prestigious production.

Beginning a conversation

Emilia gets to know everyone on set by talking to them. She breaks the ice by asking questions typical for initiating a conversation. Have a look at the answers and formulate questions Emilia could ask.

1. _____ – *I've known Nicholas for two years, but it's the first time that I have worked with the other actors.*

2. _____
   – *I met James at the premiere of the last film I played a part in.*

3. _____
   – *It is. I love this kind of autumn weather – cold, but sunny.*

4. _____ – *I've never been to the Yorkshire countryside, but last year I spent a few days in York.*

5. *My name is Emilia.* _____
   – *Oh, I did not introduce myself. I'm Leo Sandys.*

6. _____ – *It's really comfortable. I've got a big double bed in my room and my own bathroom.*

Another person Emilia got to know better, and became quite friendly with, was Kathy Cochrane. The second AD could always be seen with a clipboard[20] and a pen, making notes and ticking off[21] things on a list, or making

17 share: Anteil 18 genuine: wirklich 19 enchanting: bezaubernd 20 clipboard: Klemmbrett 21 to tick off: abhaken

phone calls on her mobile. "You have to ask Kathy," or "Kathy will tell you what to do," were sentences often heard. "She bosses us all around," James Riddell said. Mostly, this was done gently, but Kathy could become quite determined. "I am not your mother," she told Ivor, who had arrived late for a make-up call[22]. "I should very much hope not," Ivor replied in a decisive tone.

Kathy and Emilia often spent a few minutes together (until Kathy had to rush off), exchanging humorous remarks about what was going on. Kathy even found out that Emilia was a private investigator – the others hadn't bothered to ask and probably thought that she worked in Robert and Stella's gallery. Emilia, who was discreet about her job, saw no reason to enlighten[23] them that she was in another line of work altogether.

Kathy was discreet about the actors and her colleagues, but there were some details she let slip to Emilia. Jessica Sleightholme sometimes required special treatment, and Ivor Byrnes was obviously exasperating[24] Kathy by doing things and only telling her about it afterwards. "I am not in the business of reading his mind," she said. "Why can't the man communicate like anyone else?" Christopher Cox had bought quite a nice flat in London, and Alan Gibson had obviously gone through a hard time and was grateful for getting the role of Andrew Fitzwilliam. Nora Palliser, at the beginning of the filming, had felt a bit out of her depth[25] and had had a good cry on Kathy's shoulder. She was surer of herself now, Kathy was pleased to say.

Exercise 13

Talking about people

Find the phrases and idioms used for someone who is

1. a lively young man (with lots of girlfriends) – 2. boring – 3. emotionally supportive – 4. not very intelligent – 5. often not telling the truth – 6. very amusing – 7. very nice – 8. your friend for as long as you don't have any problems

a) a born entertainer – b) a compulsive liar – c) a crashing bore – d) a fair-weather friend – e) a shoulder to cry on – f) as nice as they come – g) not the sharpest tool in the box – h) quite a lad

22 make-up call: Termin für die Maske 23 to enlighten s.o.: jmd. aufklären 24 to exasperate: (ver)ärgern
25 out of one's depth: überfordert