

Audition Pieces Actor B

Characters Played

MRS HENRY DASHWOOD

Aged 40. Bereft at loss of husband and injustice of losing home and wealth. Emotional, less practical than Elinor. Loving mother.

MRS CHARLOTTE PALMER

Mid 30's. Daughter of Mrs Jennings. Sister in law of Sir John. A mini me of her mother. Pregnant, a gossip, huge laugh, oblivious to her husband's snide jabs. Relentlessly positive. Also overbearing but with a good heart.

MR ROBERT FERRARS

Edward's Younger Brother. Mid 20's. Obsequious, smarmy, entitled, opportunistic.

FRIP

Harried Footman. Does his job as required but increasingly frustrated with constant talks given to him by Marianne. Loyal nonetheless.

MESSENGER

Formal, fast.

BUTLER

As per usual.

First Audition Piece – Mrs Henry Dashwood – To be memorised

Italicised segments are stage directions.

They hurry inside the doors of the cottage to reveal a sobbing Marianne who runs from the room crying violently. Willoughby is pacing and looking aggrieved. We hear Marianne's sobs throughout the ensuing dialogue. Elinor and Mrs Dashwood try to understand what has happened. Willoughby has just broken Marianne's heart and broken up with her.

MRS HENRY DASHWOOD
What on earth...is she ill?

MR JOHN WILLOUGHBY
No, it is I who suffer. Mrs Smith has this morning exercised the privilege of riches upon a poor dependent cousin, by sending me to London, today.

MRS HENRY DASHWOOD
Today! But not for long I hope?

MR JOHN WILLOUGHBY
I have no invite to return for at least a year.

MRS HENRY DASHWOOD
A year! But she is not your only friend here Willoughby. Barton Cottage invites you.

MR JOHN WILLOUGHBY
This precious perfect cottage...promise me you will not change a thing.... My engagements at present are of such a nature that I... I.... Oh my heart...I will not torment myself any longer.

Dashes out wretchedly. Margaret runs to the door as he leaves, then runs out crying. We hear her periodically.

ELINOR DASHWOOD
What, have they quarrelled?

MRS HENRY DASHWOOD
Why would you say that! *angrily* I'll wager his Mrs Smith disapproves of Marianne. So he dares not confess their engagement. Their affection is obvious.

ELINOR DASHWOOD
I want no proof of their affection Mama, but of their engagement I do.

MRS HENRY DASHWOOD
I am perfectly satisfied of both.

ELINOR DASHWOOD
Yet neither has uttered a syllable on the subject.

MRS HENRY DASHWOOD

What need for syllables where actions speak volumes. His behaviour has all but declared Marianne his future wife!

ELINOR DASHWOOD

But why conceal it? I am sure Willoughby loves Marianne, but... something feels wrong.

MRS HENRY DASHWOOD

If you were to see them at the altar, you would say he was there to steal the bible. Cold hearted Elinor! No! Willoughby is honourable and their love is pure. OH! If I was still mistress of Norland, none of you would be treated with such disrespect!

bursts into tears and runs from the room.

SECOND AUDITION PIECE – Charlotte Palmer – to be familiar with for reading and improvising with the character.

We hear hysterical laughing and shrieking. Then coming into view we have Sir John, Mrs Jennings and a pregnant Charlotte Palmer and Mr Palmer.

MRS JENNINGS

Hellooooo Miss Dashwood! How do you do, my dear? What! All alone! You will be glad of some company. I have brought my daughter Charlotte Palmer and her husband to see you. Yes, she is with child! My waddling ray of sunshine who smiles all the time.. except... when she laughs!

CHARLOTTE PALMER

laughs uproariously Oh I am so happy to finally meet you Miss Dashwood. And upon my life, what a delightful room this is! So charming! So improved! We would like such a house for ourselves! Would we not, Mr. Palmer?

MR PALMER

Certainly not.

CHARLOTTE PALMER

laughs Oh husband, you are so droll. And look at these drawings! So charming, so delightful. Do you not think Mr Palmer?

Mr Palmer sighs, gets out a paper and starts to read.

CHARLOTTE PALMER

constantly laughing Mr. Palmer does not hear me, he is such a jolly japester.

Marianne walks in

MRS JENNINGS

Welcome back Miss Marianne, gone for a walk to Allenham no doubt! *She and Charlotte laugh heartily, as if Charlotte knows all.* This is my daughter and her husband, the Palmers.

CHARLOTTE PALMER

Oh you are so right Sir John. A beauty, so delightful! SO charming!

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

Good day to both. And no, not at all Mrs Jennings.

CHARLOTTE PALMER

Oh, don't be sly, we know all about it, and I admire your taste, Willoughby is extremely handsome. We live by him in the country, not above ten miles, I dare say.

MR PALMER

Much nearer thirty

CHARLOTTE PALMER

Well! I have not seen it, but they say it is a sweet pretty place

MR PALMER

As vile a spot as I ever saw in my life.

CHARLOTTE PALMER

laughs Oh Mr Palmer! Do you not think the Dashwoods should come visit us at Cleveland husband? Would that not be a delight?

MR PALMER

sarcastic Certainly, I came into Devonshire with no other view.