

Audition Pieces Actor C

Character Played:

MISS MARIANNE DASHWOOD

18 turning 19. Passionate, beautiful, overly emotional, lacking in propriety where love is at stake, impetuous, musical, artistic.

Actor must be able to sing and if they can play the piano that would be an added plus. Please prepare a small song for the audition that showcases the voice and if able, piano playing.

Italicised segments are stage directions.

First Spoken Audition Piece – After meeting Mrs Jennings who tries to set her up with the ANCIENT Colonel Brandon.

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

Mrs Jennings is INSUFFERABLE. To marry Colonel Brandon?!? He is 35, old enough to be my father. It is too ridiculous. He talked of flannel waistcoats and rheumatism for pity's sake, a common ailment of a declining life.

MRS HENRY DASHWOOD

Declining! You must think it is a miracle that I have reached the decrepit age of forty.

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

Of course not Mama, but 35 has nothing to do with matrimony.

ELINOR DASHWOOD

To a woman of seven and twenty it might.

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

A woman of seven and twenty can never hope to inspire affection again. If desperate I suppose she might succumb to being a nursemaid to an elderly husband. But I can see no other reason. But enough of fossils, Elinor, do you not think Edward too must be struck down with an illness?

ELINOR DASHWOOD

I have no notion. Why do you ask?

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

Why else would he not have visited? We have now been here almost a fortnight and nothing. He must be teetering on death's door.... or Fanny has locked him in the meat safe.

ELINOR DASHWOOD

I cannot deny it would be pleasing to see him but he made no firm promise and I have no claims on his time. What, have you become Mrs Jennings' protegee in the art of matchmaking?

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

I have no need to strike a match where a passion already burns Elinor. *Clasps her hands, then pulls her to her,* You will be wrenched from my sisterly bosom soon I have no doubt, *snaps out of it* but no more of men, come Margaret, let us take the path to view Allenhurst Court. That house is almost as charming as Norland, and the rain has finally stopped.

Margaret runs to her very keen.

ELINOR DASHWOOD

Still, I do not like those clouds, I shall stay here with my sketchpad.

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

What nonsense, and we shall chase any clouds away as if they were geriatric suitors.

All laugh, grabs Margaret's hand and runs off.

Second Audition Piece – To be familiar with to read.

Marianne realises her love is lost. But still can't believe it. Slightly mad

MR JOHN WILLOUGHBY

With excessive manly politeness My dear madame, due to your erratic ball behaviour I now realise there has been a misunderstanding. And for that I am deeply deeply sorry. My esteem for your entire family is very sincere; but if I have given rise to a belief of romantic connection, I apologise. Especially as my affections have been long engaged elsewhere. And so I return your letters and the lock of hair, which you so kindly bestowed upon me. Your most obedient humble servant, John Willoughby.

Light blacks out on Willoughby. Marianne makes utterly wretched howling cries. Hands letter to Elinor who quickly scans it.

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

very agitated No! I know his heart, others must have poisoned him against me.

ELINOR DASHWOOD

He has wronged you grievously.

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

No...You cannot understand. Happy, happy Elinor. Edward loves you, and only you. You can have no grief.

ELINOR DASHWOOD

Happy? If you only knew! - And how can I be when you are so wretched! But much as you suffer now, think how much worse it would be if your engagement had extended for months and months.

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

There was no engagement.

ELINOR DASHWOOD

caught very off guard No... no engagement!?

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

No, he is not so unworthy as you believe him.

ELINOR DASHWOOD

stunned What? But.. but he told you he loved you.

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

Yes! Well--no--never absolutely. But it was every day implied. I felt myself engaged to him with my whole being.

ELINOR DASHWOOD

But you were not. He did not feel the same.

MARIANNE DASHWOOD

He did! For weeks and weeks he DID feel the same. He begged of this lock of hair, he begged.... *crying throughout* And who is this woman! Who is she, who can she be? *sobs*