

(Name of Project)

(Genre)

by  
(Name of Writer)

Name  
Address  
Phone Number

Agency Information

CHARACTER NAME

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

AGE

GENDER

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY ABRIDGED

Drinking rules: Drink when you  
hear the following words or  
instructions:

Sense, Sensibility, CHEERS,  
love, Willoughby, Edward, Col.  
Brandon

Two actors and a trunk make their  
way center stage. They chat and  
drink with the audience.

They wear Regency costumes.

Props, hats, and additional items are both in the trunk and  
placed  
around the space.

Drinking Game rules are explained  
and left on the tables so they

are clear when the show begins.

NARRATOR 1

(taking center)

The family of Dashwood had long been settled in Sussex. A modest estate called Norland.

(NARRATOR 2 joins)

NARRATOR 2

But, as often happens, the old man - that's Mr. Dashwood...

NARRATOR 1

Well, the first one we meet anyway.

NARRATOR 2

It does get confusing...

(NARRATOR 2 looks around the audience for a hat or something they can grab for a quick moment)

NARRATOR 2

(grabbing the patron's prop and placing it on their head)

There. The old man died.

(a quick death, removes the prop and return to the patron)

Thank you. And as it was in the day, he left his estate to his son.

NARRATOR 1

Also Mr. Dashwood.

(grabs John Dashwood costume piece and becomes...)

Mr. John Dashwood. Married to

NARRATOR 2

(grabs Fanny's costume)

MRS.. Fanny Dashwood. And our son, Henry...

(grabs a doll)

Who is, honestly too young for this show.

(throws doll back)

NARRATOR 1

And living at the estate, that Mr. John Dashwood inherited are his three half sisters. Margaret, the youngest (hat change)

NARRATOR 2

Elinor and Marianne. (hat changes for each) Oh, and the original MRS.. Dashwood, their mother. (hat change)

NARRATOR 1

(moves up to a patron)

Keeping up? Me neither. Take a drink, it will help. Let's get into it!

FANNY

As mistress of Norland, John, darling, I must insist you not give money to you half family. Because what of ours?! To ruin our family and poor little Harry but just giving it away?!

(reaches for the doll, NARRATOR 1  
throws it, FANNY kisses it and  
throws it back)

JOHN DASHWOOD

But Father insisted in his will I give them \$3000 pounds a piece.

FANNY

Poppycock. To take that from your son.

(reaches for the doll,  
NARRATOR 1 throws it,  
FANNY kisses it and  
throws it back)

I propose half.

JOHN DASHWOOD.

But it was his last wish.

FANNY

They are only half your blood. 50 pounds a piece.

JOHN DASHWOOD.

Go on.

FANNY

Or, a nice small house, some gifts of fish and game every now and then. And we take their best china.

JOHN DASHWOOD.

As father would have wanted. Cheers, my darling.

(They raise their glasses with the audience in a rousing CHEERS)

NARRATOR 2

Now, we introduce Mr. Edward Ferrars.

(NARRATOR 1 becomes EDWARD with the help of NARRATOR 2)

The brother of MRS.. Fanny Dashwood.

(NARRATOR 2 moves to put on ELINOR costume piece as they speak)

He was not handsome.

EDWARD

Hey!

NARRATOR 2

(whispers) And his manner required intimacy to make them...pleasing. (full voice) BUT, when his natural shyness was overcome, his behavior gave every indication of an open affectionate (as ELINOR, arms around him from behind) heart.

EDWARD

And she fancies me.

ELINOR

Spoilers! You're quiet and unobtrusive and I like you for it.  
Period.

EDWARD

Fancies me.

ELINOR

You are unlike Fanny and that is enough. It implies  
everything amiable.

(EDWARD smiles at ELINOR and  
winks. Frustrated they move into  
NARRATOR 2 mode)

NARRATOR 2

While MRS.. Dashwood was sure of an impending marriage,  
Marianne, (puts on MARIANNE) was not to sure.

EDWARD

Why in heavens not?

MARIANNE

Edward is very amiable.

EDWARD

Thank you.

MARIANNE

But yet, there is something wanting. His figure is not  
striking, not the grace of a man that should attach himself  
to my sister. And, he has no real taste.

(EDWARD is shocked)

EDWARD

I shouldn't be hearing this.

(takes of EDWARD to become NARRATOR  
1 again.)

MARIANNE

I could not be happy with a man whose taste on every point did not coincide with my own. He must enter into all my feelings. The same books, the same music. Oh! How spiritless, how tame was his manner of reading to us last night. I felt for my sister.

(sits at a table and takes a drink,  
cheers to audience to do the same)

It would have broken my heart, if I loved him, to hear him read with such sensibility. The more I know of the world, the more I am convinced that I shall never see a man whom I can truly love.

NARRATOR 1

You require so much.

MARIANNE

I do not! I require only what any woman of taste should. A man who sings well, dresses admirably, rides bravely, reads with passion and whose tastes agree in every point with my own.

(NARRATOR 1 toasts the audience)

NARRATOR 1

To standards.

(drinks.)

Dinner party?

NARRATOR 2

Dinner party! This is going to get messy.

(NARRATORS take out some props and  
hand them to audience members)

NARRATOR 1

Just play along. We will take care of the dialogue.



(Handing out props/hats and naming characters)

NARRATOR 2

MRS.. Dashwood, Fanny, John, and Margaret.

(NARRATOR 1 puts on EDWARD.  
NARRATOR 2 moves to ELINOR and hands him a letter)

EDWARD

Devonshire!?

MRS.. DASHWOOD

My cousin Sir John Middleton has offered us a small cottage on his estate.

EDWARD

But you will not leave before summer?

ELINOR

We must leave as soon as possible.

MARGARET

Will you come and stay with us Edward?

(EDWARD looks at ELINOR)

EDWARD

I should like that very much.

FANNY

Edward has long been expected by our mother

(EDWARD moves to the side with ELINOR for a "private" conversation)

EDWARD

Miss Dashwood...Elinor. I must speak with you.

ELINOR

Yes, Mr. Ferrars?

EDWARD

There is something of great importance I must...I need to tell you....

(FANNY reenters - NARRATOR 2 runs to behind audience member wearing hat)

FANNY

Edward! Edward! You are needed in London this instant.

EDWARD

I am leaving this afternoon.

FANNY

That will not do. Now!

(NARRATOR 2 becomes ELINOR once again.)

EDWARD

Excuse me, Miss Dashwood.

(EDWARD takes her hand and gently kisses it. ELINOR lets out a frustrating UGH, and tears off her hat to move into the next scene.)

NARRATOR 2

No proposal, so a move to Devonshire it is.

(NARRATOR 1 takes off EDWARD and puts on JOHN MIDDLETON).

NARRATOR 1

And the characters that go with it. Sir John Middleton.

NARRATOR 2

And MRS.. Jennings, Sir John's Mother-in-law.

(NARRATOR 2 puts on MRS.. JENNINGS)

JOHN MIDDLETON

Here you are! Dear ladies, dear ladies, here you are!

MRS.. JENNINGS

Oh, I feel as if I know you already! Miss Elinor! A lovely specimen. And Miss Marianne.

(Puts MARIANNE'S hat on audience member)

MRS.. JENNINGS

I declare, you are the loveliest girl I ever did set eyes on. Huh!

(MRS.. JENNINGS clutches her pearls and looks at JOHN MIDDLETON)

MRS.. JENNINGS

Colonel Brandon!

JOHN MIDDLETON

Excellent fellow! We served together.

MRS.. JENNINGS

Just wait until he sees you...IF we can persuade him out to even meet you.

JOHN MIDDLETON

Reclusive fellow. (beat) Oh, but I can see you all are fatigued.

MRS.. JENNINGS

Of course they are fatigued.

JOHN MIDDLETON

Come Mother, we shall leave them to themselves.

(NARRATOR 2 spins into ELINOR and NARRATOR 1 in NARRATOR 1)

ELINOR

(sigh) A moment to breathe.

NARRATOR 1

Not quite!

(NARRATOR 1 takes MRS.. JENNINGS  
hat and takes on that role)

ELINOR

Oh. MRS.. Jennings. Back so soon?

MRS.. JENNINGS

Colonel Brandon is the most eligible bachelor in the county,  
he is bound to do for one of you...mind you, he is of better  
age for you, Miss Dashwood, but I daresay she left her heart  
in Sussex?

(ELINOR blushes)

MRS.. JENNINGS

Oh, I daresay I have hit upon a secret! Is he a curate of the  
parish? (beat) A handsome lieutenant? Mmmm? Is he in  
uniform?

(ELINOR whispers the line into an  
audience members ear for MARGARET)

MARGARET

He has no profession!

MRS.. JENNINGS

Oh, A gentleman then.

ELINOR

Margaret, you know very well, there is no such person.

(ELINOR give the line for audience  
or says it behind their head)

MARGARET

There is! And his name begins with F.!

ELINOR

Margaret!

MRS.. JENNINGS

A very promising letter indeed!

ELINOR

Sir John, might Marianne play your pianoforte?

(NARRATOR 2 moves into MARIANNE as  
she speaks)

NARRATOR 2

And, as to always oblige her sister, Marianne, happily  
agrees. But before the music can begin, another character  
enters our story.

NARRATOR 1

Colonel Brandon.