

At the ball, Henry danced several times with Fanny and watched jealously when other young men danced with her. Fanny looked so lovely, and she was so sweet and modest. She was quite different from the other women Henry had been attracted to. He began to realise he was actually falling in love with Fanny, and that it was no longer a game. His greatest wish was that she would return that love.



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The day after the ball, William's stay at Mansfield Park came to an end. The family was sorry to see him go, because everyone had enjoyed his pleasant personality and the exciting stories he told of his life at sea. Fanny missed him most of all and prayed for his happiness.

"I hope William will soon get the **promotion he deserves**," she said to her uncle.

"I'm sure he will," replied her uncle, and added kindly, "he's a fine young man and he must come and visit us again whenever he's in England." Fanny was grateful to her uncle. It made her less miserable about William's departure.

Edmund, too, was planning to leave Mansfield Park. He had been invited to the home of a good friend near London. Although Fanny would miss her cousin, she was relieved that there would be no danger of him seeing Mary Crawford for some time.

Before he left, Edmund confided in Fanny. "I'm so unhappy, Fanny," he said. "I love Mary, but I doubt now that I can marry her. Her views about life are too different from my own, and she wouldn't enjoy being a clergyman's wife."

Fanny comforted Edmund and told him how sorry she was, but secretly, she wasn't sorry at all. She only hoped that he would soon forget Mary Crawford.

Mary was also unhappy. She had learned to love and respect Edmund and believed that he shared those feelings. Unfortunately, she had lost Edmund's good opinion of herself when she criticised his plans for becoming a clergyman. She desperately wanted to speak to Edmund and try to make him love her again. It worried her that he might fall in love with someone else before she got the opportunity to talk to him. She decided to speak to Fanny. Knowing that Fanny and Edmund were good friends, she imagined that Edmund would have told Fanny all about the family he was planning to visit.