

'Miss Elliot, I am sure you are tired. Please let us take you home.'

Anne started to refuse, but the Crofts would not listen. And without saying a word, Captain Wentworth helped her into the carriage.

Yes, he had done it. She was in the carriage and he had put her there. He had seen that she was tired and he had wanted her to rest. Anne now thought that she could see how Captain Wentworth felt about her. She understood him. He had not forgiven her, but he could still be kind. He was not interested in her anymore and was now becoming very close to another woman. But he still liked to help her and felt friendship for her. She could see that he still had a kind, warm heart. She was pleased about that, but she found it painful, too – and she could not decide which feeling was stronger.

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A Visit to Lyme

It was now nearly the end of Anne's stay at Uppercross. Soon she would move to Kellynch Lodge and stay with Lady Russell before going to live in Bath. But Anne's last days at Uppercross were not what she had expected.

A friend of Captain Wentworth's was staying in Lyme for the winter with his family, so Captain Wentworth went to visit them for two days. When he came back to Uppercross, he spoke about his visit very warmly. His friend, Captain Harville, had welcomed him very kindly, he said, and he had found the countryside around Lyme beautiful. He was so pleased with Lyme that the young people decided they wanted to see it themselves. Louisa wanted to go more than anyone

else and she decided that they should go at once. It was only seventeen miles away, and so a plan was made. They would go together – Charles, Mary, Anne, Henrietta, Louisa and Captain Wentworth. They would stay for one night at an inn⁵⁷ and they would come home the following day.

They left Uppercross early in the morning and arrived in Lyme at lunchtime. After finding an inn to stay in, the first thing they did was walk down to the sea. Because it was November, the town itself was very quiet. Charles, Mary, Anne and the Miss Musgroves walked along the seafront⁵⁸ while Captain Wentworth went to visit his friend, Captain Harville. He returned very soon with Captain and Mrs Harville, and Captain Benwick, who was following them. Captain Wentworth had already told his friends from Uppercross about Captain Benwick. He was an excellent young man and he had been engaged to Captain Harville's sister, Fanny. Sadly, Fanny had died in the summer while Captain Benwick was at sea, and he was now living with the Harvilles. He was a quiet, serious man, who liked reading and had strong feelings about things. He was deeply upset by Fanny's death. Anne could see at once that there was great sadness in him, and he did not easily join in the conversation.

The Harvilles were very friendly and welcoming. Captain Harville was a tall, dark man with a sensible face. He was a true gentleman and spoke warmly and politely. Mrs Harville's manners were not as perfect as her husband's, but she had the same good character. Any friends of Captain Wentworth were friends of theirs, too, they said. So after walking along the seafront, they all went to visit the Harvilles' small but comfortable house.

Captain Wentworth and his group then returned to the inn for dinner, but in the evening Captain Harville and Captain Benwick came to visit them. Anne sat next to Captain Benwick and they started to talk. He read a lot, and so they