

**The Nineteenth-Century Novel**  
**Prof. Divya A.**  
**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Indian Institute of Technology – Madras**

**Lecture - 08**  
**Austen's Persuasion, Chapter 7-12**

Hello and welcome back to this week's lecture on Persuasion. We are looking at the various courtships that are evolving in the village of Uppercross. For now, we are looking at Henrietta's courtship, and if you remember Henrietta is one of the Musgrove girls and she like her sister Louisa is caught by this fascinating new person, who is visiting the village of Uppercross and that is Captain Wentworth.

So we need to remember that Henrietta has a previous relationship, which is still ongoing and that is with her cousin Charles Hayter, but he is away now when Wentworth makes an entrance to Uppercross village. So she is slightly distracted by this charming, young, rich man Captain Wentworth. So this is what the third person narrator had to say about her feelings for Wentworth.

**(Refer Slide Time: 01:28)**

Henrietta's courtship Hayter  
Wentworth

- "even Henrietta had at best only a divided attention to give, and seemed to have forgotten all the former doubt and solicitude of the negotiation."

*Charles Hayter's affairs*

*Wentworth*

*fidelity in love*  
*"fickle"*

Even when Henrietta had at best only a divided attention to give and seemed to have forgotten all the former doubt and solicitude of the negotiation. Since Henrietta is attracted and fascinated and caught up by this charming Captain Wentworth, she can only give a divided attention to Charles Hayter, who has come back from his visit and he has gone to sort out all the problems that will

prevent him from working in the vicinity of Uppercross village, so that he could set up a home if they get married, if Charles Hayter and Henrietta get married. And you need to remember that Charles Hayter is a curate, a country curate, and he wants to live as close as possible to the Musgroves, so that all things will be normal and smooth. So the narrator says that even Henrietta had at best only a divided attention to give to the affairs of Charles Hayter, with whom she is apparently in love and everybody seems to know that and seemed to have forgotten all the former doubt and solicitude of the negotiation regarding Charles Hayter's affairs that would bring him back within the world of Uppercross.

So she does not seem to care too much because Wentworth is in the picture. Why is this excerpt interesting? Because we can see that while new courtships are being formed, while new figures come in and kind of provoke romantic feelings, older romantic feelings get broken up by these new entries into this world. So there is this issue of fidelity in love that is highlighted through this excerpt.

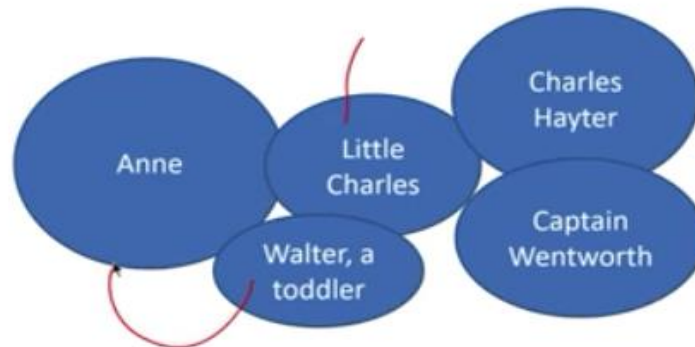
And we can clearly see that the Musgrove girls are somehow fickle. We will come to Louisa's courtship a bit later on because we do not have the evidence right away to kind of prove how fickle she is in terms of her feelings, romantic feelings towards a male, but we do have Henrietta's courtship that seems to be divided between Hayter and her fascination for Wentworth.

We can contrast this kind of romantic attention on the part of the Musgrove girls for Wentworth with Anne's involvement with Wentworth, and we have a proof in Anne's constancy. She has not given up on Wentworth. In other words, she has not married anybody, but you could argue that there is nobody suitable for Anne to marry, but then the truth is that she is still single just as Wentworth is.

**(Refer Slide Time: 04:55)**

---

## Anne



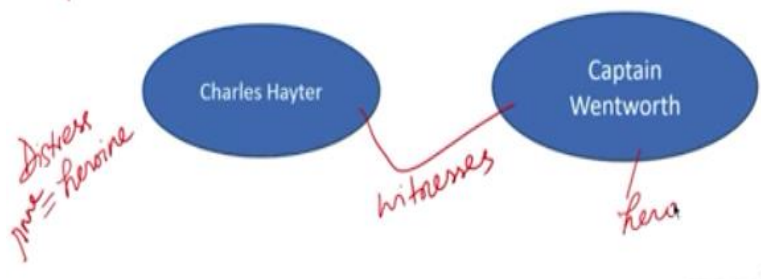
Now we are back within the home of Uppercross cottage and we need to remember that Anne is a guest, a long-term guest of Mary Musgrove, and she is managing the household while Anne Musgrove is doing some visiting and enjoying her time. So Anne is taking care of little Charles and if you remember, he has had a fall and he is recovering under the watch of his aunt Anne Elliot and we have Charles Hayter and Captain Wentworth in this particular scene.

And Anne is with this little boy, little Charles, and Walter a toddler is bothering his aunt, who is Anne Elliot. So this is the setup for a very interesting scene in which Captain Wentworth plays a role which can be termed as a rescue of the heroine in distress.

**(Refer Slide Time: 06:09)**

## Anne's trouble

- "She spoke to him, ordered, entreated, and insisted in vain. Once she did contrive to push him away, but the boy had the greater pleasure in getting upon her back again directly."



So this toddler Walter is trying to annoy Anne Elliot by getting on to her back while she is giving help to the boy little Charles, who is on the bed and she is trying to get this little one, the younger boy off her back. She spoke to him. She spoke to little Walter the toddler. She spoke to him, ordered him entreated and insisted in vain. Once she did contrive to push him away, but the boy had the greater pleasure in getting upon her back again directly.

So this is the distress of Anne, who is also the heroine of this story, as we know. So she is under distress. She is under distress and we have two men who are witnessing the scene, and Charles Hayter tries what Anne tries, that is talk to the little boy. He says “Do not bother your aunt, come back to me” and that is the kind of intervention that this country curate has to offer to protect Anne whereas let us look at what captain Wentworth does.

What he does is, he just simply goes to the boy, kind of very strongly picks him up from her back and puts him aside. So this is direct physical intervention on the part of Captain Wentworth, who is our hero. So this is some kind of assistance that he offers and that is quite beneficial to Anne, who is extremely relieved.

**(Refer Slide Time: 08:08)**

### Wentworth to the rescue!



So this is the illustration of that particular scene. We have little Charles here, and this is Walter, and as you can see this boy toddler has been named after his grandfather, Sir Walter Elliot, and we can see that the eldest son is named after his own father. The state of the 2 boys is very, very

interesting in terms of the symbolism that their names have. We already know that Sir Walter Elliot is known for his egoistic behavior that has broken up the engagement of Anne with Wentworth years ago.

And we have this toddler who was named after the grandfather once again bothering Anne. So there seems to be a symbolic continuity in the figures of people, be it an older figure or a small boy behaving in a manner that is detrimental to the happiness of Anne Elliott. And to come back to symbolism of the name Charles, we also know that Charles Musgrove the eldest son of the Musgrove family, though he is a harmless good man, he is also not very capable in managing the household at Uppercross cottage. We can see that he and Mary Musgrove are constantly bickering. There is a lack of unanimity of opinion in terms of how to run their home. So, you know, the dysfunctionality that is associated with that home is connected to the dysfunctionality also of Charles Musgrove, who does not seem to intervene in the domesticity of the Uppercross cottage.

So while the little Charles and his accident is symbolic of all that is wrong in that cottage, the name becomes to signify the lack of influence, the lack of power, the lack of intervention on the part of the head of the household. And in this set of circumstances, the figure of Wentworth becomes very interesting. So even though this is a very minor intervention that he offers, but it is a very proactive one, and it is very telling of the kind of character that he is - very active, very energetic and one who would not hesitate to play his own part in the domestic hearth.

So if we remember the words of Charles Musgrove when Mary wants him to stay at home to nurse little Charles, he says that nursing is a woman's job, how should I be part of that, I would not know what to do. But we can see that that kind of statement will not come from the mouths of Captain Wentworth, a man who would very proactively save the female from the harassment of a little kid.

**(Refer Slide Time: 11:44)**

---

## Captain Wentworth and Charles Hayter

- "His kindness in stepping forward to her relief, the manner, the silence in which it had passed..."
- Charles Hayter: "You ought to have minded me, Walter; I told you not to tease your aunt;" and could comprehend his regretting that Captain Wentworth should do what he ought to have done himself."

Regret Country Made Vs Captain Wentworth

So this is what Anne feels, his kindness in stepping forward to her relief, the manner, the silence in which it had passed tells her that he still wants to offer her comfort if that is possible, even though he may not have any more romantic feelings towards her. So his behavior is also very interesting because there is a lack of fuss in that. He does everything very quietly. He does not speak, he just acts. So it is his action that speaks louder than the words, which are impotent here.

And Charles Hayter is not very happy because he can see that it is Wentworth who gets the job done by removing that little boy from the back of Anne Elliot. So Charles Hayter tells the boy, he says you ought to have minded me, Walter, and the emphasis is in the original text, he says you ought to have listened to me, Walter, I told you not to tease your aunt and could comprehend his regretting that Captain Wentworth should do, what he ought to have done himself.

So Hayter realizes that he should have been the one who should have physically gone to the side of Anne and removed that, you know, troublesome boy from her. So there is a lot of regret on his part and he is also very resentful of Wentworth, because he knows that it is Wentworth, who is distracting the two Musgrove girls, especially Henrietta, and it is because of him that Henrietta is not paying attention to the affairs of him and affairs which would affect their future domesticity if the engagement, you know, is very successful.

So we can see also a difference between the country curate and this naval captain, and we can see that while the country curates are usually known to convince people through their speech, we also get to see that naval men convince the opponents through their action. So there is a kind of a relationship between the character of these 2 men to the nature of their professions that they are engaged in in the public space.

**(Refer Slide Time: 14:30)**

## Henrietta or Louisa?

- “as far as she might dare to judge from memory and experience, that Captain Wentworth was not in love with either. They were more in love with him; yet there it was not love. It was a little fever of admiration; but it might, probably must, end in love with some.”

So there are obviously two girls that Anne sees, and these two girls are apparently interested in Captain Wentworth, but is Captain Wentworth interested in them and this is what Anne Elliot feels. “As far as she might dare to judge from memory and experience, that Captain Wentworth was not in love with either. They were more in love with him, yet there it was not love. It was a little fever of admiration, but it might, probably must end in love with some.”

So very interesting understanding of the motivations of people in love and she assesses the character of these two girls as well as of Captain Wentworth and since she has known him from the past, she is capable of assessing whether his reactions are born out of love or otherwise. She does not think that either of them are in love with Captain Wentworth, what it is is a fever of admiration. They admire him. They are fascinated by him.

They are attracted to him because he is capable of that kind of magnetism, but if this continues, she thinks that it will end in love with one of the two girls. So Anne is being very, very sharp in

her assessment. She knows that Captain Wentworth is not capable of being in love with either of the two superficial girls, the Musgrove girls, but if this continues, this excitement, this enthusiasm of the girls for him continues, he will eventually be forced to choose one of the two.

So it is an interesting, you know, study of psychology that Anne does here, and the third person narrator kind of channels Anne's feelings in this excerpt.

**(Refer Slide Time: 16:32)**

## Wentworth and Hayter

- "He had probably, never heard, and never thought of any claims of Charles Hayter. He was only wrong in accepting the attentions (for accepting must be the word) of two young women at once."

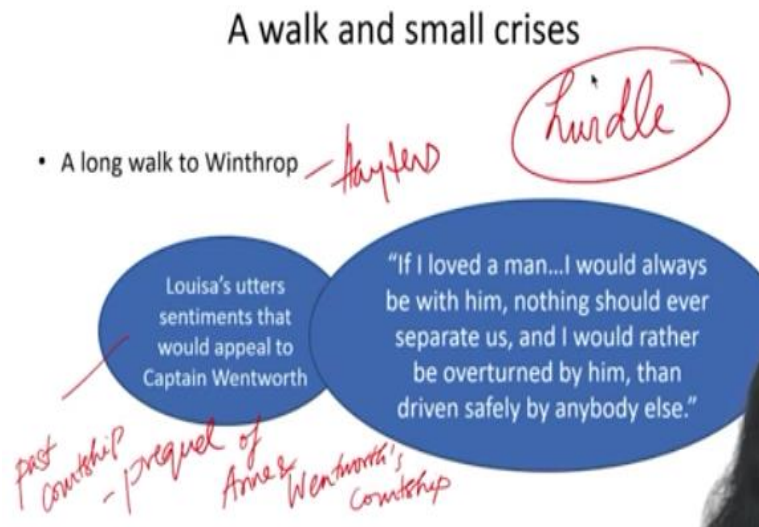


On the part of Wentworth, he is at a loss to see why Charles Hayter is not very happy with his presence, and the narrator says that he had probably never heard and never thought of any claims of Charles Hayter. He was only wrong in accepting the attentions, for accepting must be the word of two young women at once. Again, this excerpt also tells us that Captain Wentworth is not obviously in love with these two women, but he is accepting the attentions of the women who are around him, the two girls especially. And even though that is not terribly wrong, it is also not quite right too, because there are other people involved in this courtships. So Wentworth is innocent, but he cannot be acquitted either. So he also does not know that Charles Hayter has an understanding with Henrietta Musgrove and Charles Hayter, as a result of the influence of Wentworth, withdraws his attention from Henrietta Musgrove.



And again we can see how new figures complicate existing relationships and once again the question of what, on what basis does fidelity in love is formed. That question keeps coming up again and again.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:21)



There is a small project and that project is about a long walk to Winthrop, the girls, Musgrove girls Louisa and Henrietta come up with the idea of visiting their cousins the Hayters in Winthrop and Anne is invited and quite unsurprisingly Mary Musgrove also insists on joining this company of walkers to Winthrop. So on this way, there is a very interesting set of exchanges between Louisa and Captain Wentworth, which Anne is unfortunately forced to overhear.

And those sentiments of Louisa is expressed in such a way that it would appeal to a man who has been rejected by a wealthy upper class woman, and Anne clearly sees that Louisa is speaking the right words to appeal to Captain Wentworth whom she rejected. So Louisa's sentiments definitely would appeal to Wentworth and this is what she says, "If I loved a man, I would always be with him, nothing would ever separate us and I would rather be overturned by him than driven safely by anybody else."

The immediate context for this comment is Captain Wentworth's comment on his sister's relationship, his sister's marriage. His sister is Sophy Croft and she is the wife of Admiral Croft, whom Captain Wentworth is visiting in Kellynch Hall. So he talks about the nature of the

relationship and he says that his sister Sophy is constantly with her husband Admiral Croft and even though he might not drive his carriage very effectively, she would rather be with him in the carriage rather than be anywhere else.

So she would rather be overturned by him while driving rather than be safe at home. So provoked by a very clever understanding of the appreciation of Captain Wentworth for his sister's relationship, Louisa comes up with a statement that would apply to her persona, if she is in love with someone and that she really admires. So she says if I loved a man, I would always be with him rather than be somewhere safe, even though being with him would mean danger.

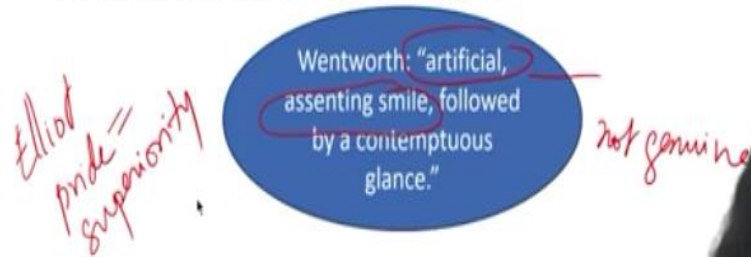
And this is commenting on the past courtship, the prequel of Anne and Wentworth courtship, because Anne does not decide to stick by Captain Wentworth, who was just a Wentworth then, he did not become a captain then, he had no money then, and he apparently had no prospects, he did not have very, very you know, influential relations. So on the advice of her friend Lady Russell, she decides to break that engagement, not only for her sake, but also for the sake of Wentworth, who could focus on his business instead of being burdened with the family at an early age. So that is the past. Nevertheless, this sentiment of Louisa has an impact, has an impact in the sense that it kind of evokes that memory, not only in Wentworth, but also in Anne Elliot and kind of throws a very bad light on Anne Elliot, because she does not stand by her man. So we can see that Louisa is playing a spoilsport here.

She is bringing up a set of sentiments that will remind Captain Wentworth about his resentment and unhappiness with Anne Elliot and it is introduced to unintentionally drive the two figures further and further away. So she is creating a hurdle in the relationship between Anne and Wentworth.

**(Refer Slide Time: 22:53)**

## Winthrop connections

- "It is very unpleasant, having such connexions! But I assure you, I have never been in the house above twice in my life."



This is Mary Elliott's comments about her relations in the Hayters. "It is very unpleasant, having such connections, but I assure you I have never been in the house above twice in my life." She says this to Captain Wentworth. She says that I have never been in the house more than twice in my life. She says that she stays away from the Hayters because they are unpleasant relatives. It is not very pleasant to have such connections or relations.

And she thinks that this comment would please Captain Wentworth; however, it has an opposite effect. He smiles you know contemptuously. This is the excerpt from that particular scene. "He gave an artificial, assenting smile followed by a contemptuous glance." This is Anne Elliott interpreting that smile for herself, and she knows that that smile is not genuine and how she could do that?

She still is able to read his features and his reactions very, very closely and correctly, and she sees that there is a lot of contempt on his part for Mary Musgrove. Why does that contempt arise? It arises because Mary Musgrove expresses that Elliott pride, the pride that is about their own superiority and high station in life and Wentworth has been badly bitten and hurt by that Elliott pride because he has been prevented from marrying Anne Elliott with whom he was very much in love years ago, and so he is very unhappy with that, you know, Elliott ego.

So he gives her a contemptuous glance, but Mary Musgrove of course does not notice it, and he turns away. We continuously get to see the class issues that are driving people further and further away. And what seems to drive people together, to bring people together in the context of the primary figures in this novel, who are Captain Wentworth and the women he is interested in is this notion of disregard for other superficial aspects of life, which includes both class and wealth instead of you know a desire for the right connections in the sense that people of good understanding intellect and people, who are full of genuine warmth and good nature.

(Refer Slide Time: 25:58)

## Anne "eavesdropping"

- Accidentally hears a private conversation between Wentworth and Louisa

• "No, I have no idea of being so easily persuaded. When I have made up my mind, I have made it; and Henrietta seemed entirely to have made up hers to call at Winthrop to-day; and she was as near giving it up, out of nonsensical complaisance!"

*Wentworth's  
desire*

*dramatic  
effect.*

This scene is very Shakespearean and Elizabethan in one sense, because there is a conversation happening and the relevant party is eavesdropping on that conversation. So it has a lot of dramatic effect. Anne is forced to stay with Mary and Louisa is giving company to Captain Wentworth, and Henrietta goes to the Hayters' house with her brother Charles Musgrove. So the party who was waiting near Winthrop divides into couples and Captain Wentworth and Louisa go the separate ways and Mary and Anne stayed together. While Mary is constantly moving position so that she could sit at a comfortable space on that hilltop, at one moment in that scene, Anne is left by herself and Anne is able to hear a private conversation between Wentworth and Louisa.

And this is what Louisa tells Wentworth, "No, I have no idea of being so easily persuaded. When I have made up my mind, I have made it; and Henrietta seemed entirely to have made up hers to

call at Winthrop today, and she was as near giving it up, out of nonsensical complaisance.” So if you remember the entire party has come to meet the Hayters, but then Mary Musgrove does not want to go because she is not interested in maintaining a relationship with the Hayters very closely because they are beneath her in terms of class, she decides to stay and then Anne is tired. She does not go either and Wentworth stays back, Louisa stays back and Henrietta and Charles go and Louisa tells Wentworth that Henrietta expressly wanted to meet the Hayters today and somehow, for some reason, she has decided to stay back out of pure complaisance you know, lack of energy, and, you know, for no logical reason.

And she persuades, Louisa persuades Henrietta to go, and she tells Wentworth that if I have made up my mind, I have made it. If I wanted to go to the Hayters, I would have gone, nobody could have stopped me and Henrietta was about to give up her plan and I forced her, I persuaded her to carry out her original plan. So the key words here are no idea of being easily persuaded. She says that “I won't be persuaded” and this is what Wentworth wants to hear, because he knows that Anne was easily persuaded, that is what he thinks, even though that decision was terribly difficult for Anne to make all those years ago. So all her comments, the comments of Louisa are making a comment on Anne's behavior, and Anne is coming off in a really bad light. So the past is brought up again in indirect ways through the courtship of Henrietta and at the comments that Louisa makes about Anne's personal, you know, relations of the past. So all these events are brought up freshly to talk about and analyze and, you know, and Louisa is trying to come out as the perfect person in whom Captain Wentworth can find a future wife.

**(Refer Slide Time: 29:53)**

## Anne and the “courting couple”



Elizabethan  
in nature

Anne

So this is the illustration by C. E. Brock about that particular scene. As I told you, it is very Elizabethan in nature, especially the way the scene is set up with an eavesdropper here. Anne is overhearing this couple, Wentworth and Louisa, and she is getting, you know, a blow by blow account of her own past, you know, through Louisa's commentary to Wentworth.

(Refer Slide Time: 30:40)

## The evils of being persuaded

- “It is the worst evil of too yielding and indecisive a character, that no influence over it can be depended on. You are never sure of a good impression being durable; everybody may sway it. Let those who would

be happy be firm.”

→ firmness

Lady Russell — Anne

And this is Captain Wentworth's reaction. He says that “It is the worst evil of too yielding and indecisive a character, that no influence over it can be dependent on. You are never sure of a good impression being durable, everybody may swear it. Let those who would be happy be firm.” Captain Wentworth takes all these human characteristics at face value, and that is a very interesting, you know, characteristic of Wentworth himself.

He thinks that, you know, a firm character is dependable, and the evil character is somebody who is too yielding and indecisive, one who easily gives in to outside influence. And he says that you cannot be sure of such a yielding and indecisive character because you cannot be sure that your good impression will be constant, will stay with that person forever, because others can easily influence that character.

He says that everybody may sway it, just as Anne was swayed by Lady Russell, and he says that let those who would be happy be firm. So he thinks that happiness is related to being unpersuadable, you know, somebody who will not give in, and that is his understanding of what is the right character, firmness. And he does not realize that the firmness is very, very closely connected to being stubborn as well.

Louisa is not firm, but stubborn, and other implications will be evident of such a character. So we need to remember that this conversation with Louisa is significant in the narrative for two things. One, it is constantly removing Anne from Captain's good books and it is also revealing the follies and falls of the hero. He has a very misguided opinion of what is an excellent character in a woman.

**(Refer Slide Time: 33:14)**

## Spin on Past Courtship

- Charles Musgrove refused because of Lady Russell's persuasion.
- "They think Charles might not be learned and bookish enough to please Lady Russell, and that therefore, she persuaded Anne to refuse him."

And as I said, Louisa is giving a list of the potential suitors that you know, Anne Elliot met with in her past and she also tells him, Captain Wentworth, that Charles Musgrove first made an offer of marriage to Anne Elliot, and because Anne refused, he married Mary Musgrove. And what is more interesting for Captain Wentworth here is that she has refused Charles Musgrove because Lady Russell was not very happy with that match.

If you read the novel closely that is not the case at all, but Louisa's misunderstanding of all these past affairs, you know, distorts the narrative of Anne in such a way that once again Anne comes off badly as a figure who is easily persuaded by the influence of Lady Russell. They think Charles might not be learned and bookish enough to please Lady Russell and that therefore she persuaded Anne to refuse him.

So this is Louisa's comment about the reasons as to why Charles Musgrove was refused. In fact, if you read the novel, you will understand that Lady Russell was keen on this marriage to come about, so that Anne will be in the vicinity, and Charles is a good-natured, you know, partner and who would be happy with Anne and good for Anne. Once again we see that half truths and, you know, misrepresentations are constantly formed about Anne, and Anne is powerless to kind of come forward and reject all these misrepresentations. She is, once again if you look back to that illustration, marginalized; even though she is central to the reader, she is marginal in the world of the novel for a greater part of the narrative. So Louisa's role is to misrepresent Anne Elliot and she performs a plot function here, and that plot function as I said is about driving the couple further and further away and diminishing the ego of Anne Elliot, telling Anne Elliot indirectly that she behaved badly and she did not behave in the right way, and, you know, that behavior will not be judged, you know, positively by Captain Wentworth, her lover from the past. And we need to remember that Louisa does not know that it was Wentworth who was in love with Anne Elliot all those years ago, but she inadvertently plays that role in this courtship narrative.

**(Refer Slide Time: 36:37)**



## Courtships and Consequences



The results of the walk to Winthrop are these: Henrietta and Hayter have made up. Their lover's quarrel is over and they come back together. They are walking back together and they meet the party who is waiting for them at the hill, and they have all decided to go back to Uppercross, and they walk back together. Charles Musgrove, unable to bear Mary's constant bickering just runs off chasing a creature in the woods and Wentworth and Louisa are walking together and Anne is left behind.

So once again, we see that the novel is kind of isolating her. It is a deliberate move on the part of Austen. So we have a couple here, we have a couple here, and Mary of course is unhappy, you know, with her husband, and she is forced to, you know, complain and keep walking towards her home.

**(Refer Slide Time: 37:42)**

## Wentworth to the rescue again!

- Captain Wentworth gets Anne a seat on her sister's gig.
  - "He could not forgive her , but he could not be unfeeling."
  - "a proof of his own warm and amiable heart"
- little Walter*

Anne's fatigue is not noticed by Charles Musgrove or by any of the others except for Wentworth. And how does he rescue her again? And this is the second time such a rescue is offered to Anne Elliot. What he does to, you know, give relief to Anne is to get Anne a seat on her sister's gig. Her sister and her husband are you know driving that way in their gig and Anne is given a space in the carriage and they all, you know, ride back together.

Anne has this to think about that gesture of Wentworth, Wentworth who kind of gives her that opportunity to ride, you know, the rest of the way back home. She thinks that he could not forgive her, but he could not be unfeeling. So this is the same statement that can be applied to the earlier incident with Walter, little Walter, who was bothering Anne. And in this case, Anne was extremely fatigued and he decides to give her a rest and give her the opportunity to travel with his own sister in her gig. And as we can see this is a proof of his own warm and amiable heart, but it is not a proof that he has forgiven her for Anne's behavior eight years ago when she rejected him and sent him away.

**(Refer Slide Time: 39:19)**

## Mrs Croft

- "But by coolly giving the reins a better direction herself they happily passed the danger; and by once afterwards judiciously putting out her hand they neither fell into a rut, nor ran foul of a dung-cart; and Anne, with some amusement at their style of driving, which she imagined no bad representation of the general guidance of their affairs, found herself safely deposited by them at the Cottage."

819  
Symbolic

While Anne is traveling with Mrs. Croft and Mr. Croft, she is you know taken aback or surprised or intrigued by the way the couple behave and deal with the affairs. And even while they are riding you know, Mrs. Croft gets to have her say and this excerpt, which is very famous in Persuasion is interesting.

She says "but coolly giving the reins a bit of direction herself they happily passed the danger; and by once afterwards judiciously putting out her hand, they neither fell into a rut, nor ran foul of a dung-cart; and Anne, with some amusement at their style of driving, which he imagined no bad representation of the general guidance of their affairs, found herself safely deposited by them at the cottage."

So there are several things that we can observe about this excerpt. One is that the novel leaves the rest of the party behind and travels, so to speak, with Anne Elliot. So the party who is returning from Winthrop is, you know, left behind. We no longer stay with Wentworth or Louisa or you know Mary Musgrove or Charles, because the narrative is not interested in them, the narrative is interested in Anne Elliot.

So when Anne Elliot moves away with Mr. and Mrs. Croft, the narrative also goes along with them and expresses through the third person narrator of the free indirect discourse the feelings of Anne Elliot. And Anne observes that Mr. Croft does not drive the gig very, very effectively. In

fact, he is about to drive the gig into a post, and what she does is she, Mrs. Croft, coolly gives the reins a better direction and she is not getting excited by the intervention that she is about to give or gives, she is just very casually managing the reins, you know, very unobtrusively, managing the reins, so that the gig gets a new direction, a better direction and they you know happily pass the danger, they are in no longer in danger. And afterwards, you know, when they were about to you know, meet with other dangers, once again Mrs. Croft steps in, and therefore they neither fell into a rut nor ran foul of a dung-cart. They do not hit a dung cart either, they do not fall into a ditch either.

So Mrs. Croft constantly intervenes and she does it in such a quiet manner just like her brother Wentworth. He does help and very quietly, silently, without talking about it and similarly Mrs. Croft you know when she intervenes in the way the husband drives the carriage, she does it very quietly. So we can see parallels between the sister and the brother here, and we can also see another very significant thing.

That is in this domesticity, the domesticity of the Crofts, the wife is allowed to have her say, be it in the driving of the gig or in the choice of a big house that they are about to rent, she has an equal say, and Anne realizes that this behavior of Mrs. Crofts, you know, her ability to give better direction to the gig is symbolic of the general guidance of their affairs, be it personal or public, and she finds that she is safely deposited by them at the cottage, at Uppercross cottage.

**(Refer Slide Time: 43:02)**

## Chapter 11: Anne's preoccupations

- Removal to Kellynch village, to Lady Russell's home
- Kellynch Hall: "those rooms had witnessed former meetings which would be brought too painfully before her; but she was yet more anxious for the possibility of Lady Russell and Captain Wentworth never meeting anywhere."

Now we have come to the stage when Anne is ready to visit other spaces, and you know, she realizes that Captain Wentworth and all the other figures are about to, you know, occupy the rooms, which had witnessed former meetings, and which would be too painful for her, but she was yet more anxious for the possibility of Lady Russell and Captain Wentworth never meeting anywhere.

So she does not want Captain Wentworth to meet Lady Russell because she knows that there is a lot of animosity between the two figures and that is why she does not want them to meet, and she also notices that the feelings could be mutual. Thank you for watching. I will continue in the next

s  
e  
s  
s  
i  
o