

Sense and Sensibility

Jane Austen

How does Fanny change Mr. Dashwood's promise without ever directly telling him to break it?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Fanny talks three thousand pounds down to nothing
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter II
START	He did not stipulate for any particular sum, my dear Fanny; he only requested me, in general terms, to assist them
END	They will be much more able to give you something.
PASSAGE ID	sec-ssens-02

THE MOVE

Track persuasion through incremental reframing

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Fanny never orders her husband to break his promise. She reduces the amount, redefines what the Dashwood women need, and gradually turns generosity into the claim that they may even be better off without help.

MARK

Write the amount Mr. Dashwood first intends to give. Number each reduction or reframing Fanny introduces. Star the step where helping them becomes unnecessary rather than merely smaller.

NOTICE

- What does Fanny change first—the promise, the amount, or the definition of need?
- Why is gradual reframing more effective than directly saying 'give them nothing'?
- How does each small concession make the next one easier?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Fanny change Mr. Dashwood's promise without ever directly telling him to break it? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Fanny change Mr. Dashwood's promise without ever directly telling him to break it? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Fanny changes the promise by a sequence of small reframings: reduce the amount, redefine what the women need, reinterpret generosity, then make help seem unnecessary. No single step sounds like breaking the promise.
EVIDENCE	Track at least three stages in the reduction from the original promise toward nothing.
WATCH FOR	Do not skip directly from promise to betrayal. The lesson is about how incremental concessions change the moral decision.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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How does Fanny change Mr. Dashwood's promise without ever directly telling him to break it?

START ANCHOR	He did not stipulate for any particular sum, my dear Fanny; he only requested me, in general terms, to assist them
END ANCHOR	They will be much more able to give you something.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Write the amount Mr. Dashwood first intends to give. Number each reduction or reframing Fanny introduces. Star the step where helping them becomes unnecessary rather than merely smaller.
2. NOTICE - What does Fanny change first—the promise, the amount, or the definition of need? Why is gradual reframing more effective than directly saying 'give them nothing'? How does each small concession make the next one easier?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does Fanny change Mr. Dashwood's promise without ever directly telling him to break it?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.