

***Northanger Abbey* – Isabella Thorpe**

Why is Isabella Thorpe a dangerous friend for Catherine? Characterise Isabella using some or parts of the following quotations to support your point:

Miss Thorpe, however, being four years older than Miss Morland, and at least four years better informed, had a very decided advantage in discussing such points; she could compare the balls of Bath with those of Tunbridge; its fashion with the fashions of London; could rectify the opinions of her new friend in many articles of tasteful attire; could discover a flirtation between any gentleman and lady who only smiled on each other; and point out a quiz through the thickness of a crowd. These powers received due admiration from Catherine, to whom they were entirely new. (32)

Here Catherine and Isabella, arm in arm, again tasted the sweets of friendship in an unreserved conversation; —they talked much, and with much enjoyment; (34)

The progress of the friendship between Catherine and Isabella was quick as its beginning had been warm, and they passed so rapidly through every gradation of increasing tenderness, that there was shortly no fresh proof of it, to be given to their friends or themselves. They called each other by their Christian name, were always arm in arm when they walked, pinned up each other's train for the dance, and were not to be divided in the set; and if a rainy morning deprived them of other enjoyments, they were still resolute in meeting in defiance of wet and dirt, and shut themselves up, to read novels together. (35-6)

They met by appointment; and as Isabella had arrived nearly five minutes before her friend, her first address naturally was— “My dearest creature, what can have made you so late [...] I am sure I have been here this half an hour.” (38)

“Do you know, I saw the prettiest hat you can imagine, in a shop window in Mil-som-street just now—very like yours, only with coquelicot ribbons instead of green; I quite longed for it.” (38)

“Dear creature! how much I am obliged to you; and when you have finished Udolpho, we will read the Italian together; and I have made out a list of ten or twelve more of the same kind for you.” (39)

“are you sure they are all horrid?” “Yes, quite sure; for a particular friend of mine, a Miss Andrews, a sweet girl, one of the sweetest creatures in the world, has read every one of them. [...] She is netting herself the sweetest cloak you can conceive. I think her as beautiful as an angel, and I am so vexed with the men for not admiring her!” (39)

“I have no notion of loving people by halves, it is not my nature. My attachments are always excessively strong. I told Capt. Hunt at one of our assemblies this winter, that if he was to tease me all night, I would not dance with him, unless he would allow Miss Andrews to be as beautiful as an angel.” (39)

“I know you very well; you have so much animation, which is exactly what Miss Andrews wants, for I must confess there is something amazingly insipid about her.” (40)

“Oh! I must tell you, that just after we parted yesterday, I saw a young man looking at you so earnestly—I am sure he is in love with you.” (40)

“Everything is so insipid, so uninteresting, that does not relate to the beloved subject! I can perfectly comprehend your feelings.” (40)

Catherine: “While I have Udolpho to read, I feel as if nobody could make me miserable. Oh! the dreadful black veil!” (40)

“[Mrs Morland] very often reads Sir Charles Grandison herself [...]” “Sir Charles Grandison! That is an amazing horrid book, is it not?—I remember Miss Andrews could not get through the first volume.” (40)

“But, my dearest Catherine, have you settled what to wear on your head tonight? I am determined at all events to be dressed exactly like you. The men take notice of that sometimes you know.” (40-1)

“I make it a rule never to mind what [men] say. They are very often amazingly impertinent if you do not treat them with spirit, and make them keep their distance. [...] They are the most conceited creatures in the world, and think themselves of so much importance!” (41)

“Well my taste is different. I prefer light eyes, and as to complexion—do you know—I like sallow better than any other. [...] I believe I have said too much. Let us drop the subject.” (41)

“For Heaven’s sake! let us move away from this end of the room. Do you know, there are two odious young men who have been staring at me this half hour. [...] Let us go and look at the arrivals. They will hardly follow us there. [...] Pray let me know if they are coming. I am determined I will not look up. [...] And which way are they gone?” said Isabella, turning hastily round. “One was a very good-looking young man.” (41-2)

“But if we only wait a few minutes, there will be no danger of our seeing them at all.” “I shall not pay them any such compliment, I assure you. I have no notion of treating men with such respect.” (42)

“Catherine [...] received her brother with the liveliest pleasure [...], while the bright eyes of Miss Thorpe were incessantly challenging [James’s] notice.” (44)

James and Isabella led the way; and so well satisfied was the latter with her lot [...], that, though they overtook and passed the two offending men in Milsom-street, she was so far from seeking to attract their notice, that she looked back at them only three times. (46)

“I assure you” said [Isabella to James], “I would not stand up without your dear sister for all the world; [...]” “My dear creature, I am afraid I must leave you, your brother is so amazingly impatient.” (51)