

# My Dearest Emma

Chelsea-Anne Salter  
Video Work - 2022

Dear Jane,

Walking through the halls of your literary sanctuary I was inspired by your writing. You never minced a single word, your confidence on the page is truly awe-inspiring. "My Dearest Emma" was born from the proposals of your novel "Emma". I am of a similar age to Emma, and like her, I have no intention of marrying yet. I simply do not feel I need a man to complete my goals, as it is my life to live with my own autonomy. I wonder if you felt a similar emotion in your life, your heroines often had traditionally happy ever afters in marriage, and you clearly knew of romance, yet you never said: "I do"? Typically, marriage and romance focus on the male, their desires, connections and ultimately his name ownership over the bride, although in Emma's case she and Mr Knightley's relationship is built on support. Her feminine empowerment comes from the fact she does not need to give up her position in society nor her wealth and importance in society. "My Dearest Emma" takes influences from the language you use, reappropriating it for a modern audience. By rereading the proposal I intend to bring life back to the words, as well changing the comprehension using voices, projection, and text. Read in a feminine voice, the proposal takes on new meaning, from a traditional gender role, as well as bringing the private moment public. The imagery swirls representing the failed and complicated proposal of Mr Elton as well as reflecting the emotions Emma goes through, not necessarily needing or wanting marriage until she is ready and ultimately falls in love.

Thank you for opening your home and work for us,

Sincerely, Chelsea-Anne Salter



## INSTAGRAM

pepps.fineart

## WEB

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