

**PRIDE & PREJUDICE**  
**THE MUSICAL**

**BOOK, MUSIC and LYRICS by LAWRENCE RUSH**

**Adapted from the novel by Jane Austen**

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## CHARACTERS

**9 women/5 men/SATB chorus** (total cast size could be as small as 18)

**MRS. BENNET** - around 50 Mezzo-soprano - comically loud and annoying and rude without realizing it. Character belt

**MR. BENNET** - her husband. Early 50s Bass - dry sense of humor. Legit voice

**Their daughters - JANE** – 22 Legit Soprano - Beautiful, sweet disposition, modest and forgiving.

**ELIZABETH** – 20- Mezzo-soprano - pretty (especially her eyes), feisty, energetic, quick to judge, Strong belt/mix to High F

**MARY** – 18 – Soprano - bookish, likes to give speeches, legit voice, but can sing purposefully out of tune to high Bb

**KITTY** – 16 – Mezzo-soprano - follows Lydia around and copies her. Immature, whiney. Legit character voice

**LYDIA** – 14 - Mezzo-soprano - attractive, wild, hormonal, silly, big personality, legit to High F, belt to High D

**MR. BINGLEY** – 23 – Tenor - handsome, sweet, Legit voice

**CAROLINE BINGLEY** – his sister- 21- Mezzo-soprano - Mezzo-soprano - elegant, but snobbish and fake, when speaking to those beneath her, Legit character voice

**MR. DARCY** – his friend – 24- Baritone - handsome, introverted, brooding, seemingly judgemental but good-hearted, Rich, beautiful legit voice with mix to high G

**CHARLOTTE LUCAS** – Elizabeth’s friend -24- Mezzo-soprano - not beautiful, practical but warm. Rich legit voice with a mix on top.

**MR. COLLINS** – 27- Tenor- ridiculously pompous and flowery, legit character voice to High Bb

**GEORGE WICKHAM** – 22- Tenor - handsome, seemingly friendly, but a con artist, Legit/mix to High F#

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH** – 60 - speaking role rich, know-it-all, very controlling

### **SATB CHORUS**

**Non-solo singing roles out of chorus :**

**SIR WILLIAM LUCAS** – Charlotte’s father- 50

**LADY LUCAS** – his wife- late 40s

**MR. DENNY** – 20

**MRS. REYNOLDS** – 60s

**GEORGIANA** - 18

**MR. GARDINER** – 40

**MRS. GARDINER** – 35

**ANNE DE BOURGH** – 23

**FOOTMAN** – any age

**SERVANT** – female, any age

**ACT 2 SERVANT** – male, 50’s or older

**CHAMBERMAID** – any age

**STEWARD** - male, 50s or older

**The time – the year 1800**

**The place - England**

**ACT 1**

**SCENE 1**

*(Lights up. The Bennet's house rolls on. We hear LYDIA and KITTY giggling and squealing offstage. ELIZABETH walks in, holding a book, irritated and searching for quiet. SHE sits. MR. BENNET walks in holding a book as well. THEY have a moment of shared irritation. HE sits and reads. JANE enters. THEY all smile. SHE sits. MARY enters with music and goes to the piano and starts to play badly. ELIZABETH and MR. BENNET put down their books and exhale in irritation again. LYDIA and KITTY run in and chase each other around the room. EVERYONE is irritated. LYDIA and KITTY collapse on the sofa.)*

**ELIZABETH**

Must you be quite so loud?

**LYDIA**

La! Oh, I wonder which dress I should wear for the ball next week! Oh, I can hardly wait!

**KITTY**

Me, too!

**LYDIA**

It's been so dull around here lately.

**ELIZABETH**

That is because you have not learned how to amuse yourself without annoying others.

*(LYDIA playfully slaps Elizabeth's arm)*

**MRS. BENNET**

*(rushing in)*

Mr. Bennet, Mr. Bennet, have you heard? Netherfield is let at last!

*(no response as MARY stops playing, ELIZABETH puts down her book and LYDIA and KITTY stop)*

Do you not want to know who has taken it?

**MR. BENNET**

*(who keeps reading his book)*

I am sure you will tell me, whether I want to know or not.

**MRS. BENNET**

Mrs. Long says that it is taken by a young man of large fortune from the north. His name is Mr. Bingley and he's single! Oh, what a fine thing for our girls!

**MR. BENNET**

How so?

**MRS. BENNET**

Mr. Bennet, you must know I am thinking of his marrying one of them.

**MR. BENNET**

Does HE know this is why he has moved into the neighborhood?

**MRS. BENNET**

He must know! And that is why you must visit him as soon as he comes.

**MR. BENNET**

You and the girls may go.

**MRS. BENNET**

But it is only proper that you visit him first.

**MR. BENNET**

I'll send a few words by you to assure him of my hearty consent to his marrying whichever girl he chooses, though I must throw in a good word for my Lizzy.

**MRS. BENNET**

You will do no such thing. Oh, how you take delight in vexing me. You have no compassion on my poor nerves.

**MR. BENNET**

I have a high respect for your nerves. They are my old friends.

**LYDIA**

Will Mr. Bingley be at the ball?

**MRS. BENNET**

I believe he will.

*(KITTY, LYDIA squeal with delight.)*

**MR. BENNET**

Then Mrs. Long may introduce him for she surely will have met him by then.

**MRS. BENNET**

I do not believe she will do any such thing. She is a selfish, hypocritical woman, and I have no opinion of her.

**MR. BENNET**

Well, what are we to do then about Mr. Bingley?

**MRS. BENNET**

Oh, I don't care anymore. Do what you like. None of you listen to me.

**MR. BENNET**

I'm sorry to hear that. If I had known that this morning I would not have called on him.

**MRS. BENNET**

What? Is it true? Oh, how good of you, my dear. And that you went this morning and never said a word about it till now. Oh, if I can see but one of my daughters happily settled at Netherfield, and all the others equally well married, I shall have nothing to wish for.

TIME TO PREPARE, THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE  
EACH OF MY GIRLS MUST LOOK THEIR BEST

*(to MARY)* DON'T SLOUCH SO!

FIX UP YOUR HAIR, PICK OUT YOUR LOVELIEST SHOES  
BINGLEY IS BOUND TO BE IMPRESSED

YOU MUST WALK LIKE LADIES

SMILE AND CURTSEY EVERY CHANCE YOU GET

AND MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT TALK EXCESSIVELY

**MR. BENNET**

That's the best advice you've given yet

**MRS. BENNET**

Mr. Bennet!

COLOR YOUR LIPS AND WEAR YOUR PRETTIEST HATS  
AND SOON YOU'LL BE DINING ON MORELS  
HARK! I THINK I'M HEARING WEDDING BELLS

**ELIZABETH**

Another ball. Perhaps I'll be ill that day.

**MRS. BENNET**

Oh, Lizzy, you are always being contrary.

**ELIZABETH**

*(putting down the book)*

Twice a year there is a ball and they are always the same. We gossip and stand around until we are forced to dance with a pimply young boy who has nothing interesting whatsoever to say.

**MRS. BENNET**

Well you cannot be so picky at your age. When your father and I die, there will be no one to care for you. And your cousin, Mr. Collins will have this house, as none of you are boys. So, I have no choice but to find you suitable husbands. And time is of the essence. No one will have you once you are twenty-five.

**ELIZABETH**

Charlotte Lucas is twenty-seven. Are you saying that she is doomed to live out her years alone and never touched?

**MRS. BENNETT**

Yes. If she hasn't found a husband by now, I highly doubt she ever will. Her beauty is... well, she hasn't any.

SELDOM IT IS, A MAN SO NOBLE OF BIRTH,  
SINGLE AND NEARLY TWENTY-THREE COMES HERE, SO  
THINK OF YOUR FUTURE AND HOW MUCH YOU'LL BE WORTH  
OH, HOW MY DEAR FRIENDS WILL ENVY ME!

*(LYDIA and KITTY giggle)*

YOU MUST NOT ACT SILLY  
MARY, YOU MUST PROMISE NOT TO SING!  
LIZZY, YOU MUST KEEP YOUR COMMENTS TO YOURSELF,  
AND JANE, YOU ARE PERFECT AS YOU ARE  
DON'T CHANGE A THING!

**JANE**

Mother!

**MRS. BENNET**

TAKE A RICH MAN AND ADD A BEAUTIFUL GIRL  
SURELY YOU ALL KNOW WHAT THAT SPELLS  
HARK! I THINK I'M HEARING WEDDING BELLS!

Now come with me. I want to pick out our dresses! I pray you haven't blossomed too much!

(MRS. BENNET, MARY, ELIZABETH AND JANE exit.)

**LYDIA**

Father.

**MR. BENNET**

Hmm?

**LYDIA**

About Mr. Bingley  
IS HE HANDSOME?

**MR. BENNET**

Couldn't say.

**KITTY**

IS HE TALL?

**MR. BENNET**

Average, really.

**LYDIA**

DOES HE LIKE TO DANCE WITH YOUNGER GIRLS?

**KITTY**

...OR DOES HE DANCE AT ALL?

**LYDIA**

IS HE SLENDER?

**MR. BENNET**

More than I.

**KITTY**

LOVELY HAIR?

**MR. BENNET**

He has hair.

**LYDIA**

I PREFER IT STRAIGHT

**KITTY**

NO, CURLY

**LYDIA/KITTY**

OH, HE'S RICH, WHAT DO WE CARE  
IS HE LIVELY AND ATHLETIC?  
DID HE CLIMB THE PYRENEES?

**MR. BENNET**

Yes, yes.

**LYDIA/KITTY**

WHEN HE SPOKE, WAS IT POETIC?

**LYDIA**

"DARLING LYDIA, MY FLOWER"

**KITTY**

"PRETTY KITTY-DOVE"

**LYDIA**

OH, PLEASE

**LYDIA/KITTY**

DOES HE SPARKLE? DID HE LAUGH?  
WILL HIS SMILE MAKE US SWOON?  
DID HE ACT LIKE A BUFFOON?  
WHAT DID HE SAY?

*(MRS. BENNET enters carrying two dresses. The OTHERS follow, carrying dresses.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Girls! Leave your father in peace. Here.

*(SHE hands them the dresses and walks over to MR. BENNET. LYDIA and KITTY join the others.)*

IS HE HANDSOME?

**MR. BENNET**

This is madness.

**MRS. BENNET**

IS HE TALL?

**MR. BENNET**

Save me, Lord.

**MRS. BENNET**

WERE HIS FURNISHINGS EXPENSIVE?  
DID HE SAY HE'D PAY A CALL?



DID HE FEED YOU?

**MR. BENNET**

No.

**MRS. BENNET**

OFFER TEA?

**MR. BENNET**

Of course.

**MRS. BENNET**

OH, HIS MANNERS THEN, ARE CIVIL

**MR. BENNET**

Are you finished with your drivel?

**ELIZABETH**

HE'LL BE SULKY, STERN AND RUTHLESS

**JANE**

MAYBE THOUGHTFUL, KIND AND SWEET

**ELIZABETH**

HE'LL BE THOUGHTFUL, YES, AND TOOTHLESS

**JANE**

WELL, TEETH DON'T MAKE A MAN COMPLETE

**ELIZABETH**

BUT THEY ARE USEFUL IF YOU EAT!

**MR. BENNET**

Now, now. Let me assure you all you will find Mr. Bingley perfect in every way.

**MRS. BENNET**

HEAR THAT GIRLS, LET'S GET THAT MAN!

**LYDIA/KITTY**

OH, HE'S HANDSOME  
AND HE'S TALL  
HE'LL BE AT THE BALL  
THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE  
HERE IS ROSE WATER  
FOR YOUR FACE  
NOT TOO MUCH!

**MRS. BENNET**

TIME TO PREPARE  
MUST YOU MAKE  
SUCH A FUSS?

**ELIZABETH/JANE**

THIS IS SILLY  
REALLY, MOTHER  
MUST YOU MAKE  
SUCH A FUSS?

**MR. BENNET**

HE IS SLENDER WE MUST TAKE CARE

WHAT A RACKET!

LOVELY HAIR WHO KNOWS WHICH ONE HE MAY CHOOSE SILLY GIRLS  
HE'S A MAN YOU'LL PUT THE OTHERS GIVE ME SOME PEACE  
DON'T CARE IN THEIR PLACE! SOME BLESSED PEACE

**ELIZABETH/JANE**

YOU MUST ALL BE CHARMING OH, DEAR  
WE'LL BE COY AND CHARMING CHARMING  
MARY, YOU WON'T CATCH A MAN WITH BOOKS!  
AND QUITE FLIRTATIOUS!  
SHOW THOSE MEN HOW WELL I'VE TAUGHT YOU ALL TO  
DANCE AND SOON YOU'LL BE HIRING YOUR OWN  
BUTLERS, MAIDS AND COOKS

**MRS. BENNET**

HERE IS OUR CHANCE TO MEET THE  
CRÈME DE LA CRÈME  
SOON WE'LL BE SAYING OUR FAREWELLS  
HARK!  
I THINK I'M HEARING - WAIT!  
I THINK I'M HEARING - YES!  
I'M SURE I'M HEARING  
WEDDING BELLS!

**OTHERS**

AH  
OUR FOND FARE-  
WHAT?  
WHY?  
OH  
SHE'S ALWAYS HEARING  
WEDDING BELLS

**MR. BENNET**

I'm going to find somewhere quiet to read...and if I die  
trying, so much the better.

*(MR. BENNET exits.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

These won't do at all. Come Lydia and Kitty. Let us look  
through your dresses. I know we'll find the perfect one!

*(MRS. BENNET, LYDIA and KITTY exit. MARY sits at the  
piano and tries to play again, but makes mistakes.)*

**MARY**

*(upset, grabbing her music and standing)*  
How is one ever to excel at the pianoforte with these  
constant interruptions?

*(MARY storms out)*

**ELIZABETH**

How did we end up with such relations?

**JANE**

They're only excited about the ball...and our prospects.

**ELIZABETH**

Dear Jane; always thinking the best of people. You must teach me how to do that.

**JANE**

Well I am excited as well, and a bit curious about Mr. Bingley.

**ELIZABETH**

...and his large fortune.

**JANE**

You say it as if it were a curse.

**ELIZABETH**

Well it isn't the most important thing to recommend a man.

**JANE**

True, though I wouldn't mind it. But I do hope the man I marry may be kind, lively and handsome as well. And I would prefer him to have teeth.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes, one can only hope.

**JANE**

And mother is right, you know. What will happen to us if we don't find ourselves well situated?

**ELIZABETH**

Is that all we are to strive for? To be well situated, at any cost?

CHOOSING A MAN FOR HIS WEALTH OR CONNECTION  
SELLING MY SOUL FOR A HILLTOP ESTATE  
LIVING A LIFE WITHOUT LOVE OR AFFECTION  
YOU MAY HAVE IT IF YOU WISH IT  
I CAN WAIT  
SAYING "I DO" JUST BECAUSE IT'S EXPECTED  
SHARING A HOME WITH A MAN THAT I HATE  
THROWING AWAY ALL THE DREAMS I'VE COLLECTED  
OTHERS MAY DISPOSE OF THEIR DREAMS  
I CAN WAIT  
I CAN WAIT FOR DINNERS IN SILENCE  
WISHING FOR SOMEWHERE TO HIDE

I WON'T BE CHAINED TO A PLAN PRE-ORDAINED  
I'VE TOO MUCH PRIDE  
KEEPING THE PEACE WITH A DAILY CONCESSION  
FORCING A SMILE WHILE I SUFFOCATE  
FINDING I'M NOTHING BUT SOME MAN'S POSSESSION  
HE CAN HAVE YOU IF HE WANTS YOU  
I CAN WAIT

**JANE**

And what of mother? If you decide to marry someone she does not approve of, she may never speak to you again.

**ELIZABETH**

Mother, not speak?

LET HER PLAN, CONTINUE HER SCHEMING  
I'LL NOT AGREE TO AN ILL-SUITED MATE  
I'M NOT CONTENT TO BE WHO I'M NOT MEANT TO BE  
THAT WILL NOT BE MY FATE  
GIVE ME A MAN WHO HAS WIT AND INTELLIGENCE  
SOMEONE WHO'LL TREAT ME AS EQUAL, NO LESS  
LOVE THAT IS PURE, LOVE THAT IS STRONG  
ANYTHING ELSE WOULD BE TERRIBLY WRONG  
SIMPLE, PERHAPS, BUT GREAT! FOR THAT, I CAN WAIT!

*(Blackout)*

**SCENE 2**

*(A simple ballroom. The CHORUS, including CHARLOTTE LUCAS dances. Others, including LADY LUCAS and SIR WILLIAM watch. Young men in regimentals and others dance and mill about. A string quartet plays off to one side.)*

**ALL**

MUSIC AND DANCING  
SPIRITS AND FOOD  
FLIRTING, ROMANCING  
WHO WILL BE WOODED?  
GOOD CONVERSATION  
TALES TO ENTHRALL  
THIS IS WHAT ONE EXPECTS AT A BALL

**WOMEN**

GOSSIP AND SLANDER

**MEN**

DRESSED IN ONE'S BEST

**WOMEN**

WHAT COULD BE GRANDER?

**WOMAN (solo)**

*(exhausted from dancing)*

I NEED TO REST

**ALL**

FRIENDS AND NEW FACES

RARELY A BRAWL

THIS IS WHAT ONE EXPECTS AT A GOOD COUNTRY BALL!

*(MRS. BENNET and her DAUGHTERS enter.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Now girls, one of you better be snatched up by Mr. Bingley tonight.

*(seeing Lady Lucas and crossing to her)*

Lady Lucas! Have they arrived yet?

**LADY LUCAS**

Not yet, my dear.

**ELIZABETH**

Charlotte!

*(ELIZABETH runs to CHARLOTTE)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Your Charlotte looks lovely enough.

**LADY LUCAS**

Lovely enough for what?

**MRS. BENNET**

Enough to gain the attention of some of these plain young men.

**LYDIA**

Kitty, look! Officers! Who needs Mr. Bingley!

*(LYDIA, KITTY join the officers. The music stops as MR. BINGLEY, MR. DARCY and CAROLINE, who is elegantly dressed, enter. SHE and DARCY look disappointed.)*

*BINGLEY smiles. EVERYONE stops and stares at them.)*

**FOOTMAN**

*(announcing)*

Mr. Bingley. Miss Caroline Bingley. Mr. Darcy.

**SIR WILLIAM**

Mr. Bingley! Welcome.

**BINGLEY**

Thank you, Sir William. May I introduce my sister, Caroline and my friend, Mr. Darcy.

**SIR WILLIAM**

Very glad to meet you both. Well, please enjoy yourselves.

*(LADY LUCAS drags CHARLOTTE over.)*

Ah! May I present my daughter, Charlotte.

*(LADY LUCAS loudly clears her throat)*

And my wife, Lady Lucas.

**LADY LUCAS**

So glad you could come.

**CAROLINE**

*(forced, with some sarcasm)*

What a lovely room you have here.

**LADY LUCAS**

Why, thank you, ma'am.

**BINGLEY**

Miss Lucas, may I have the honor of the next dance?

**LADY LUCAS**

Ah!

*(CHARLOTTE curtsies and THEY walk together to the dance floor. DARCY and CAROLINE dance)*

**MRS. BENNET**

*(angrily to MARY)*

I cannot believe he asked Charlotte Lucas for his first dance! Well, she was practically thrown at him. Oh, he is handsome and his sister looks terribly elegant. I just heard that his friend, Mr. Darcy has ten thousand a year! He is even more handsome than Mr. Bingley! Mary, smile!

**CAROLINE**

Smile, Darcy. It will all be over soon.

**DARCY**

Not soon enough.

**JANE**

*(with ELIZABETH)*

They seem very pleasant.

**ELIZABETH**

Mr. Bingley looks pleasant enough, and he is rather handsome. But the others look terribly unhappy.

**JANE**

I suppose they are used to more elegant gatherings than this. His friend is rather handsome as well, don't you think?

**ELIZABETH**

I suppose...if a frowning, sour face is your sort of thing.

**MRS. BENNET**

Mary, stay here.

*(going up to ELIZABETH and JANE)*

Girls, come with me! I want to introduce you to Mr. Bingley as soon as this dance is over.

*(to LYDIA and KITTY who are dancing)*

Lydia! Kitty! When you're done with your foolishness I want to see you!

*(to herself)*

Oh, this exhausting business!

*(The dance ends.)*

It's over! Girls!

*(THEY walk to MR. BINGLEY, who is with DARCY and*

*CAROLINE. MRS. BENNET pushes CHARLOTTE out of the way)*

Mr. Bingley! Mr. Bingley! I am Mrs. Bennet. I believe you've met my husband.

**BINGLEY**

Yes ma'am. Is he here this evening?

**MRS. BENNET**

No, he doesn't go in much for dancing.

**BINGLEY**

These must be your daughters. I've heard much of their beauty and charm.

**MRS. BENNET**

Oh! You have?! Well, let me introduce them. This is...

*(quickly)*

Kitty, Lydia, Mary, Lizzy...

*(slowly)*

...and this is my eldest and most beautiful daughter, Jane.

**JANE**

Mother!

**BINGLEY**

What a pleasure it is to meet you all.

*(music starts)*

I do not like to miss a single dance! Miss Jane, if I may have the honor?

**JANE**

Yes.

*(JANE takes BINGLEY'S offered hand and they go to the dance floor.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

I knew he would pick Jane! Oh, what a lovely couple they make!

HANDSOME AND WEALTHY BACHELORS TO SNATCH  
GIRLS, YOUNG AND HEALTHY, NEED A GOOD CATCH  
I THINK THERE'S ONE WHO'LL SOON COME TO CALL  
EVERYTHING GOOD BEGINS AT A BALL

**BINGLEY**

BEAUTIFUL GIRLS, SO LIGHT ON THEIR FEET  
LONG FLOWING CURLS AND MANNERS SO SWEET  
ONE ABOVE OTHERS LIGHTS UP THE HALL  
LOVELY, THE JEWELS ONE FINDS AT A BALL

**DARCY**

HALF-WITTED FOOLS ALL BOUNCING ABOUT  
NO THOUGHT OF RULES, THEY CACKLE AND SHOUT  
SUCH A DISPLAY CAN ONLY APPALL  
THIS IS ALL ONE CAN EXPECT AT A COMMONER'S BALL



**ELIZABETH**

*(watching Jane and Bingley dancing)*  
LOOK AT HER SMILE, SHE'S FLOATING ON AIR  
I MUST ADMIT, THEY MAKE QUITE A PAIR  
THIS BALL SURPASSES ALL OTHERS TO DATE  
I WONDER WHAT OTHER SURPRISES AWAIT

**LYDIA/KITTY**

HOW WE ADMIRE BOYS ALL IN RED

**LYDIA**

SOLDIERS ATTIRE GOES TO MY HEAD

**KITTY**

LOOK AT HIS DIMPLES

**LYDIA**

HE'S GOOD AND TALL

**LYDIA/KITTY**

OH, HOW MUCH FUN WE HAVE WHEN THE OFFICERS COME  
TO A BALL!

*(A new dance begins. BINGLEY crosses to DARCY.  
ELIZABETH sits nearby and listens.)*

**BINGLEY**

Come Darcy, I hate to see you standing about in this stupid  
manner. I must have you dance.

**DARCY**

You know how I detest it unless I am acquainted with my  
partner. Your sister is occupied at the moment, and there  
is not another woman here whom it would not be a punishment  
to dance with.

**BINGLEY**

Upon my honor, I never met so many pleasant girls in my  
life! And there are several of them uncommonly pretty.

**DARCY**

You are dancing with the only handsome girl in the room.

**BINGLEY**

She's the most beautiful creature I ever beheld!  
*(noticing Elizabeth)*

There is one of her sisters who is very pretty and, I dare say very agreeable.

**DARCY**

*(glances at Elizabeth, who turns away.)*

She's tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt me, and I am in no humor to give consequence to young ladies who are slighted by other men.

*(ELIZABETH hears this. BINGLEY leaves. ELIZABETH stands and looks straight at DARCY, who also looks at her. SHE goes to leave as SIR WILLIAM approaches.)*

**SIR WILLIAM**

Miss Eliza, why are you not dancing? Mr. Darcy, may I present this young lady to you as a very desirable partner.

**DARCY**

*(uncomfortably as ELIZABETH looks at him)*

Uh...Umm.

**ELIZABETH**

Indeed, I have not the least intention of dancing; especially with a man of such discerning taste. I beg you to excuse me. Charlotte!

*(ELIZABETH leaves)*

**SIR WILLIAM**

Well!

*(During the next chorus, beginning with ELIZABETH and CHARLOTTE and ending with MRS. BENNET, those not dancing, whisper (gossip) from one side of the stage to the other. The others, including BINGLEY, JANE, LYDIA, KITTY dance.)*

**ALL WOMEN (except CAROLINE)**

MUSIC AND DANCING

**ALL MEN (except DARCY)**

GOSSIP AND SLANDER

**WOMEN**

FLIRTING, ROMANCING

**MEN**

WHAT COULD BE GRANDER?

**WOMEN**

GOBBLING

**WOMEN**

WOBBLING

**WOMEN**

MINU-

**WOMEN**

PIROU-

**WOMEN**

JIGGING

**MEN**

GUZZLING

**MEN**

NUZZLING

**MEN**

-ETING

**MEN**

-ETING

**MEN**

SWEATING

**ALL**

FIDDLES KEEP SINGING YOUR LIGHT-HEARTED AIRS  
HOW THEY ENCHANT AND DELIGHT  
OH, WHAT A JOY TO FORGET ALL OUR CARES  
WE COULD KEEP DANCING ALL NIGHT!

**MRS. BENNET**

*(after hearing the last gossip)*

Oh, I saw the moment he arrived, what a proud, disagreeable man he was. And to have slighted my poor Lizzy!

*(suddenly happy)*

Oh, but just look at my dear Jane!

*(DARCY dances with CAROLINE, BINGLEY with JANE, ELIZABETH, LYDIA, KITTY, MARY and CHARLOTTE with ENSEMBLE members and SIR WILLIAM with LADY LUCAS.)*

**ALL (except DARCY, CAROLINE)**

MUSIC AND DANCING, LAUGHTER AND SMILES  
PASSION, ROMANCING, ALL THAT BEGUILES  
WHAT AN AMUSEMENT, SUITED FOR ALL

**WOMEN**

THIS IS WHAT ONE EXPECTS...

**MEN**

ONLY A FOOL OBJECTS...

**ALL**

TO A GOOD, HONEST

**WOMEN**

WONDERFUL

**MEN**

MARVELOUS

**WOMEN**

EXCELLENT

**MEN**

FABULOUS

**WOMEN**

LIVELY

**MEN**

FESTIVE

**WOMEN**

MERRY

**ALL**

COUNTRY BALL!

*(Blackout)*

**SCENE 3**

*(Jane's room. JANE sits, brushing her hair in the mirror. ELIZABETH enters.)*

**ELIZABETH**

You've hardly said a word tonight. You like this Mr. Bingley?

**JANE**

I was flattered he asked me to dance a second time.

**ELIZABETH**

Because he could see you were five times as pretty as every other woman in the room.

**JANE**

Stop!

**ELIZABETH**

Well he is...surprisingly... very agreeable, and I give you leave to like him. You've liked many a stupider person.

**JANE**

Lizzy! Now not another word about Mr. Bingley! You were not terribly hurt by what his friend, Mr. Darcy said, I hope?

**ELIZABETH**

Not in the least. The man is arrogance personified. Anyway, I doubt I'll ever see him again. However, if you are going to be seeing more of Mr. Bingley...

*(teasing her)*

Mr. Bingley...Mr. Bingley...

**JANE**

Enough!

**ELIZABETH**

No, not nearly enough. You think you are hiding your thoughts but you forget I know you better than anyone.

**JANE**

Well... he is handsome.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes, he is that. And...

**JANE**

And good humored. And, well I never saw such happy manners!

**ELIZABETH**

And rich, don't forget.

**JANE**

Lizzy!

**ELIZABETH**

So, which of his countless good qualities was the one that caught your fancy the most?

**JANE**

You'll think me silly.

**ELIZABETH**

I think you many things, but never silly.

**JANE**

IT'S NOT HIS WEALTH OR HOW HE DANCES  
THOUGH HE IS LIVELY ON HIS FEET  
I DIDN'T SWOON OR COUNT THE GLANCES  
THOUGH I CONFESS I FOUND THEM SWEET  
IT WASN'T ANYTHING HE SAID, HE HARDLY SPOKE  
NO, IT WAS SOMETHING ELSE INSTEAD  
THAT WOKE MY HEART  
THE WAY HE HELD MY HAND  
SO KIND AND GENTLE, SO AT EASE  
SO STRONG AND YET AS LIGHT AS AIR  
AS IF SILENTLY SAYING "PLEASE"  
THE WAY HE HELD MY HAND  
I FELT MY POOR HEART SKIP A BEAT  
SO SAFE WITHIN THIS STRANGER'S CARE  
THAT WHILE DANCING I QUITE FORGOT MY FEET  
WORDS CAN BE MISLEADING  
EYES DON'T ALWAYS SEE  
IN ONE UNEXPECTED MOMENT  
HIS TOUCH REVEALED HIS HEART TO ME  
AND THOUGH WE ONLY MET  
HE SEEMED A MAN THAT I COULD TRUST  
AND I FELT THAT I COULD MAYBE EVEN LOVE HIM  
JUST FROM THE WAY HE HELD MY HAND

*(Blackout)*

**SCENE 4**

*(The Bennet's parlor. ELIZABETH and CHARLOTTE are seated and talking.)*

**CHARLOTTE**

Really? Mr. Bingley and Jane?

**ELIZABETH**

She's quite fond of him. They have seen each other several times since the ball. You seem surprised.

**CHARLOTTE**

One would never know it to look at her. If a woman conceals her affection from the object of it, she may lose the opportunity of fixing him.

**ELIZABETH**

Fixing him?

**CHARLOTTE**

Yes. I'm sure Bingley likes your sister, but that may be all if she does not help him on. When she secures him, there will be time for falling in love.

*(MR. BENNET enters, holding a letter, followed by LYDIA and KITTY.)*

**LYDIA**

...and auntie said the regiment arrived yesterday and Meryton will be their headquarters...

**KITTY**

...and they'll stay the whole winter!

**LYDIA**

She said she'll visit them all...

**KITTY**

...and find out their names...

*(THEY giggle)*

**MR. BENNET**

You must be two of the silliest girls in the country.

**CHARLOTTE**

Speaking of Jane, where is she?

**ELIZABETH**

Mr. Bingley's sister invited her to dine at Netherfield yesterday evening. Mother sent her on horseback knowing a storm was approaching and that they wouldn't have Jane ride back in the rain.

*(MRS. BENNET and MARY enter)*

**MRS. BENNET**

We're back. Oh, it is so refreshing to take a walk, though it was rather muddy from the storm.

**MR. BENNET**

I received a letter while you were out. It is from my cousin, Mr. Collins.

**MRS. BENNET**

Oh, I cannot bear to hear the name of that odious man. To think he will inherit this house when you die.

**MR. BENNET**

It is a most iniquitous affair but, apparently he wants to pay us a visit.

**MRS. BENNET**

A visit?

**MR. BENNET**

He says he's a recently ordained rector under the patronage of Lady Catherine de Bourgh, and seeks to make amends.

**MRS. BENNET**

Lady Catherine de Bourgh?! Oh! She is the wealthiest woman within one hundred miles of here and has the grandest estate, or so I've heard. Well, I promise to be civil to him, which is more than he deserves. No word from Jane?

**ELIZABETH**

Not yet.

**MRS. BENNET**

See what a lucky idea it was to send her on horseback!  
YES, I'M CERTAIN I HEAR WEDDING..

*(The SERVANT enters with a note.)*

**SERVANT**

A note for Miss Elizabeth.

*(ELIZABETH stands and takes the letter from her.)*

**ELIZABETH**

Thank you.

*(reading as the SERVANT exits.)*

"My dearest Lizzy. I find myself unwell this morning which may be due to my getting wet yesterday. My kind friends will not hear of my returning home till I am better."

**MR. BENNET**

Well my dear, if your daughter should die, it would be a comfort to know that it was all in pursuit of Mr. Bingley.



**MRS. BENNET**

People do not die of colds. As long as she stays there she'll be taken good care of. I would go and see her if I could have the carriage.

**MR. BENNET**

The carriage is currently not to be had. You may go on horseback, like your daughter.

**ELIZABETH**

I will go to see Jane.

**MRS. BENNET**

On horseback?

**ELIZABETH**

I'll walk.

**MRS. BENNET**

In all this dirt! You will not be fit to be seen.

**ELIZABETH**

I'll be fit to see Jane. It's only three miles. I shall be back by dinner.

**CHARLOTTE**

I'll go with you as far as Meryton.

**LYDIA/KITTY**

We will, too!

*(ELIZABETH, CHARLOTTE, LYDIA and KITTY exit. Blackout)*

**SCENE 5**

*(Netherfield's sitting room. CAROLINE plays cards. DARCY looks out a window.)*

**CAROLINE**

I have an excessive regard for Jane, and I wish with all my heart she were well settled, but with those parents and such low connections...

*(BINGLEY enters, sits on the sofa, picks up a book he had been reading)*

How is the dear?

**BINGLEY**

Not well. She's resting.

**CAROLINE**

Poor thing.

*(gets up and goes to Darcy)*

Darcy, you've been awfully quiet since that dreadful ball. Do you wish to return home to Pemberley?

**DARCY**

No. My mind is more agreeably engaged. I have been meditating on the great pleasure which a pair of fine eyes in the face of a pretty woman can bestow.

**CAROLINE**

Really? And who, may I ask, has the credit of inspiring such reflections?

*(The FOOTMAN enters)*

**FOOTMAN**

Miss Elizabeth Bennet.

*(ELIZABETH enters, muddy, disheveled and limping. The FOOTMAN exits)*

**CAROLINE**

Oh, my...

**BINGLEY**

Miss Bennet! Welcome. May I...

**ELIZABETH**

I am sorry to intrude but I have come to see Jane. I learned this morning that she was ill.

**CAROLINE**

Did you fall off your horse?

**ELIZABETH**

No, I walked.

**CAROLINE**

Walked?

**BINGLEY**

You must be a rare and loving sister to come all this way.

**ELIZABETH**

I thank you. May I see her?

**CAROLINE**

Of course.

*(to the FOOTMAN)*

Please take Miss Bennet to Jane's room.

*(whispering in his ear as HE crosses to ELIZABETH)*

And please keep her away from the furniture.

*(The FOOTMAN gestures for ELIZABETH to exit. SHE limps)*

**FOOTMAN**

Are you alright ma'am?

**ELIZABETH**

It's nothing, thank you. Only a blister.

*(THEY exit)*

**CAROLINE**

*(to herself)*

A blister!

*(to Bingley and Darcy, laughing)*

Did you see that?

**DARCY**

Hmm?

**BINGLEY**

What?

**CAROLINE**

Surely you got a glimpse of Miss Elizabeth Bennet?

WALKING ALONE COVERED IN DIRT

SIX INCHES OF MUD I OBSERVED ON HER PETTICOAT SKIRT

WHAT DOES SHE MEAN BY SCAMPERING ABOUT?

THAT BENNET GIRL'S A LOU!

**BINGLEY**

Really, Caroline.

**CAROLINE**

YOU SAW HER HAIR, BLOWZY AND WILD

NO SENSE OF DECORUM

**BINGLEY**

You're mad!

**CAROLINE**

WELL, SHE ACTS LIKE A CHILD  
AND I DID NOT LIKE HER TONE IN THE LEAST  
THAT BENNET GIRL'S A BEAST!  
NO TASTE, NO STYLE

**BINGLEY**

I THINK SHE'S LOVELY

**CAROLINE**

IMPERTINENT

**DARCY**

SINGULAR

**CAROLINE**

VILE

**BINGLEY**

QUITE SWEET

**CAROLINE**

QUITE LOW  
ACQUIRING A BLISTER CHASING HER SISTER  
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA  
MAKING A SCENE IN SUCH A GUISE  
I HARDLY COULD KEEP FROM GUFFAWING

**DARCY**

THEN JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES

**CAROLINE**

ALL OF THIS DRAMA OVER A COLD  
THAT BENNET GIRL IS...

**BINGLEY**

Bold. And I find it quite admirable. And as to her  
appearance, I thought Miss Elizabeth looked splendid when  
she arrived.

**CAROLINE**

Well you observed her Mr. Darcy, and I'm inclined to think  
you would not wish to see your sister exhibited so.

**DARCY**

Certainly not, though I must say Miss Bennet's eyes were  
brightened by the exercise.

**CAROLINE**

BUT SHE HAS NO FINESSE, NOT AN INKLING OF CHARM  
I'D VENTURE TO GUESS SHE WAS RAISED ON A FARM  
SHE'S GRACELESS AND CRUDE  
AND SHE SPEAKS WITH A SQUAWK  
ALL SHE DOES WELL IS WALK!  
TRUDGING ALONE SO VERY FAR  
SHOWS NOT ONLY BRASH INDEPENDENCE  
IT'S TRULY BIZARRE  
THINK WHAT YOU LIKE, I DO NOT APPROVE  
QUITE UNREFINED

**BINGLEY/DARCY**

RATHER A PEARL

*(ELIZABETH enters)*

**ELIZABETH**

I beg your pardon, but Jane has asked that I stay with her  
till she improves. I don't want to be a bother to you but...

**BINGLEY**

Nonsense. We'd be delighted.

**CAROLINE**

*(horrified, but faking a smile)*

Yes...uh...nonsense. You must stay. I'll send a servant to  
your home to bring back a supply of clean clothes.

**ELIZABETH**

I thank you.

*(ELIZABETH exits)*

**CAROLINE/BINGLEY/DARCY**

THAT BENNET GIRL!

*(Blackout)*

**SCENE 6**

*(Same as Scene 5. DARCY sits at a desk,  
writing a letter. BINGLEY and CAROLINE  
play cards.)*

**CAROLINE**

Darcy, you must join us. I cannot bear to have my brother  
win again.

**DARCY**

I am writing my sister. I'm sure Elizabeth will be happy to join you.

**CAROLINE**

Oh I do hope they don't stay long.

*(ELIZABETH enters in clean clothes)*

Elizabeth! Oh, now does it not feel infinitely better to be in clean clothes? How is your darling sister?

**ELIZABETH**

She's still very poorly.

**CAROLINE**

Poor dear. You must join us for a game.

**ELIZABETH**

No, thank you. I will amuse myself with a book.

*(ELIZABETH chooses a book from a bookcase.)*

**CAROLINE**

A book! Ha! Miss Eliza Bennet despises cards. She is a great reader and has no pleasure in anything else.

**ELIZABETH**

I am not a great reader and I have pleasure in many things.

**BINGLEY**

In nursing your sister I am sure you have pleasure, and I hope it will soon be increased by seeing her quite well.

**ELIZABETH**

You are very kind, Mr. Bingley.

*(ELIZABETH sits and reads, but is gradually more interested in the conversation.)*

**CAROLINE**

Oh, how is your sister? Is she much grown since last year?

**DARCY**

She is now about Miss Elizabeth Bennet's height.

**CAROLINE**

I never met anybody who delighted me so much as Georgiana Darcy; and so accomplished for her age.

**BINGLEY**

How young ladies can have patience to be so accomplished as they are. They paint tables, cover screens, net purses.

**DARCY**

I do not know more than half a dozen that are truly accomplished.

**ELIZABETH**

Then you must comprehend a great deal in your idea of an accomplished woman.

**DARCY**

I do.

**CAROLINE**

A woman must have a thorough knowledge of music, drawing, dancing and the modern languages to be really esteemed accomplished; and she must possess a certain something in her air and manner of walking, the tone of her voice...

**DARCY**

...and the improvement of her mind by extensive reading.

**ELIZABETH**

With such requirements, I rather wonder at your knowing any accomplished women.

*(DARCY looks at ELIZABETH)*

**CAROLINE**

*(flirtingly crosses to DARCY who ignores her)*  
Do send your sister my love.

**DARCY**

I have already told her so once.

**CAROLINE**

Such a long letter! One who writes a long letter with ease cannot write ill. Charles writes in the most careless way.

**BINGLEY**

My ideas flow so rapidly that my letters sometimes convey no ideas at all.

**ELIZABETH**

Mr. Bingley, you are too humble.

**DARCY**

Nothing is more deceitful than the appearance of humility.

**CAROLINE**

Oh, shocking! He should be punished for such an insult. How shall we do it Elizabeth?

**ELIZABETH**

Tease him. Laugh at him.

**DARCY**

It has been the study of my life to avoid those weaknesses which expose one to ridicule.

**ELIZABETH**

Such as vanity and pride?

**DARCY**

Vanity is a weakness indeed, but pride, where there is real superiority of mind, will be always under good regulation.

**ELIZABETH**

How astonishing to meet with someone devoid of defect.

**DARCY**

No, I have faults enough. My temper is too little yielding. I can't forget the follies and vices of others so soon as I ought nor their offences against myself. My good opinion, once lost, is lost forever.

**ELIZABETH**

That is a failing indeed!

**DARCY**

There are natural defects in all of us which not even the best education can overcome.

**ELIZABETH**

And yours is a propensity to hate everybody.

**DARCY**

And yours is willfully to misunderstand them.

**BINGLEY**

I think this is the perfect time to check on Jane. I will see you all later.



*(DARCY smiles at Bingley, who exits)*

**ELIZABETH**

And Mr. Darcy had much better finish his letter.

*(DARCY awkwardly smiles at Elizabeth, then writes.)*

**CAROLINE**

Oh, I am so restless. Perhaps I shall play a little.

*(CAROLINE plays. DARCY stands and walks to Elizabeth.)*

**DARCY**

Do you not feel a great inclination Miss Bennet, to seize this opportunity of dancing a reel?

*(no response)*

Miss Bennet, would you like to dance?

**ELIZABETH**

Oh I heard you, but I could not immediately determine how to reply. I know you want me to say "yes" that you might have the pleasure of despising my taste, but I delight in cheating a person of their premeditated contempt.

Therefore, I do not want to dance a reel at all, and now despise me if you dare.

**DARCY**

Indeed, I do not dare.

**CAROLINE**

*(banging on the piano keys)*

I think we've had enough music.

*(DARCY returns to his book. CAROLINE grabs a book.)*

I think I'll read a book! There is no enjoyment like reading!

*(SHE yawns and throws the book aside, then stands)*

I am going to go out and stroll among the shrubbery.

Elizabeth, why don't you join me.

*(CAROLINE starts to go. ELIZABETH stands for a moment, unsure of what to do.)*

Come, Elizabeth.

*(CAROLINE and ELIZABETH exit. DARCY stands, looking after them.)*

**DARCY**

FROM THE CORNER OF MY EYE, I WATCHED YOU

JUST AS SUBTLE AS I COULD BE  
HOW STRANGE, SUCH A CHANGE HAS COME OVER ME  
AND TO THINK, AT FIRST I HARDLY NOTICED YOU  
BUT THEN THOSE EYES, THOSE EYES  
YES, THOSE EYES ARE FULL OF LOVELINESS  
IN THOSE EYES I SEE A DIFFERENT WORLD  
THERE IS INTELLIGENCE, WIT AND WISDOM  
SOMETHING PROFOUND, HOW THEY ASTOUND  
IN THOSE EYES I SEE MATURITY  
NOT A GIRL, A WOMAN ALL HER OWN  
I COULD FORGET MYSELF, LOSE MY FOOTING  
YES, DANGER LIES WITHIN THOSE EYES  
IN THOSE EYES I SEE NO RANK OF CLASS  
THEY FAR SURPASS SUCH BOUNDARIES  
AND WHEN I LOOK AT HER NOW,  
I SEE SOMEONE NOT PLAIN AT ALL  
BUT BEAUTIFUL, UNCOMMONLY BEAUTIFUL  
IN THOSE EYES, SOMETHING UNKNOWN TO ME  
DRAWS ME IN AGAINST MY WILL  
IT'S QUITE REMARKABLE HOW ONE FEATURE  
CAN ALTER THE WHOLE  
QUITE A SURPRISE, THE LIZZY I SEE IN THOSE...

What am I thinking? I cannot forget where she comes from,  
her family, her station.

WHAT WAS I THINKING?  
WITH HER, I'D BE THE SUBJECT OF  
CONTEMPT AND CONDEMNATION  
I WILL IGNORE HER, KEEP MY EYES DOWN, NEVER SPEAK  
AT LEAST BE GLAD SHE WON'T BE HERE ANOTHER WEEK  
SHE WILL BE GONE SOON

Mistress of Pemberley! I should think not.

*(CAROLINE and ELIZABETH enter quickly)*

**CAROLINE**

*(to Darcy)*

Oh, it has started to rain, wouldn't you know. We must get  
out of these wet clothes.

*(CAROLINE waits for a reaction from Darcy, but  
doesn't get one)*

Come, Elizabeth.

*(CAROLINE and ELIZABETH exit)*

**DARCY**

*(looking after Elizabeth)*

YES, IT'S REMARKABLE HOW ONE FEATURE

CAN ALTER THE WHOLE  
QUITE A SURPRISE, THE LIZZY I SEE  
IN THOSE EYES

*(Blackout)*

**SCENE 7**

*(Same as Scene 6. DARCY looks nervously  
out the window. CAROLINE enters.)*

**CAROLINE**

Oh, I am glad it will be only a matter of minutes...  
*(ELIZABETH enters with a piece of luggage. Darcy  
nervously sits and grabs a book and reads.)*  
Elizabeth! We can surely have our footman carry that.

**ELIZABETH**

Thank you, but it is really nothing. I wanted to give Mr.  
Bingley and Jane a moment together before we left.

**CAROLINE**

How terrible that you must leave, just as we were all  
becoming such friends. I should go and check if your  
carriage is ready! Excuse me.

*(CAROLINE leaves. ELIZABETH sits. DARCY doesn't look  
at her. THEY sit in silence for a while.)*

**ELIZABETH**

I hope we haven't been too much of an imposition.  
*(Darcy does not respond. After a pause)*  
That must be a very good book.

**DARCY**

It is.  
*(more silence. DARCY's emotions begin to stir.)*  
Elizabeth.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes?

**DARCY**

I wonder if I might...that is to say...I, well, during this  
past week...

*(HE is interrupted by CAROLINE, who enters)*

**CAROLINE**

*(cheerfully)*

The carriage is coming 'round the front.

*(calling offstage)*

Jane!

*(JANE and BINGLEY, who carries a suitcase, enter.  
DARCY turns away. ELIZABETH joins Jane.)*

**BINGLEY**

Are you sure you are well enough to leave?

**CAROLINE**

Of course she's well enough to leave. See how the color has returned to those lovely cheeks of hers?

**JANE**

I am so grateful for the kind attention you've shown me but I couldn't possibly tread on your kindness a moment longer.

**CAROLINE**

You see?

*(SHE rings a bell. The FOOTMAN enters, picks up the suitcases, and exits.)*

Jane, it would give me great pleasure to see you again very, very soon.

*(CAROLINE embraces Jane)*

**JANE**

Thank you. I would be most pleased as well.

**CAROLINE**

Elizabeth. All the best to you.

*(CAROLINE shakes hands with Elizabeth)*

**BINGLEY**

I am sure we will see you both very soon.

**CAROLINE**

Alright! Enough chitter-chatter. Your carriage awaits!

*(CAROLINE leads JANE and BINGLEY out)*

**ELIZABETH**

Goodbye, Mr. Darcy.

**DARCY**

*(mumbled and turned away)*

Goodbye, Miss Bennet.

*(ELIZABETH exits. DARCY goes to the window and looks out as the lights fade to blackout)*

**SCENE 8**

*(The Bennet's sitting room. LYDIA and KITTY run around. MARY reads. MRS. BENNET, MR. BENNET, ELIZABETH and JANE sit and talk.)*

**MR. BENNET**

It is good to have you both back. I've heard only talk of officers since you left.

**MRS. BENNET**

I think you came much too soon. I am sure you could have spent another week or two there.

**ELIZABETH**

It is good to see you too, mother. I believe I, at least, had overstayed my welcome. Mr. Darcy was quite determined to be silent around me these last couple days.

**MRS. BENNET**

I am sure the man has nothing pleasant to say anyway. He is ate up with pride.

**MARY**

Pride is a very common failing, and human nature is particularly prone to it. Vanity and pride are different things, though the words are often used synonymously. Pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves; vanity to what we would have others think of us.

**MR. BENNET**

Thank you, Mary.

*(SERVANT enters with luggage.)*

**SERVANT**

*(announces)*

Mr. Collins.

*(MR. COLLINS enters. The SERVANT exits.)*

**MR. BENNET**

Mr. Collins.

**MR. COLLINS**

Mr. Bennet. It is a pleasure to finally make your acquaintance. And this must be Mrs. Bennet.

**MRS. BENNET**

Yes, sir.

**MR. COLLINS**

A delight, madam. Oh, and these must be your daughters. I have heard much of their beauty but in this instance, fame has fallen short of the truth.

**MRS. BENNET**

Well, this is Kitty, Lydia, Mary, Elizabeth and my eldest, Jane.

**MR. COLLINS**

Charming! I have no doubt of seeing them all well disposed of in marriage.

**MRS. BENNET**

I wish with all my heart it may prove so for they will be destitute enough.

**MR. COLLINS**

I am sensible of the hardship our delicate situation poses to my fair cousins, but I can assure the ladies that I come prepared to admire them.

**ELIZABETH**

Oh dear...

**MR. COLLINS**

*(walking, looking around the room)*

What a lovely house, though even the grandest estate pales in comparison to Rosings Park, where lives my patroness, the Lady Catherine de Bourgh.

**MRS. BENNET**

Oh, you must tell us all about Lady Catherine!

**MR. BENNET**

From your letter, you appear very fortunate in your patronage.

**MR. COLLINS**

Oh, I am, and extremely grateful as well to be the recipient of my Ladyship's kindness. I have never in my life beheld such behavior in a person of rank, such affability, such condescension!

SHE TENDS TO ME JUST LIKE A MOTHER  
A WOMAN UNLIKE ANY OTHER  
OH DEAR, I FEAR I'M OVERCOME!  
CATHERINE, LADY CATHERINE  
HOW BLESSED AM I TO SING THY PRAISE  
FOR ALL THE BOUNTY YOU BESTOW  
I'LL VENERATE YOU ALL MY DAYS  
CATHERINE, LADY CATHERINE  
THE NAME ALONE DEMANDS RESPECT  
THOUGH SOME MAY CALL HER PROUD  
I'LL CONTRADICT THEM LOUDLY  
THERE'S NO NOBLER A CHIN  
THAN THAT OF LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH

**MRS. BENNET**

How wonderful! And does she live near you sir?

**MR. COLLINS**

My humble abode is separated by a lane from Rosings Park, where I have had the honor to have twice dined. And Lady Catherine even once paid me a visit where she approved all the alterations I had made and even suggested the addition of some shelves in the upstairs closets.

CATHERINE, LADY CATHERINE  
YOU'RE ONE OF BRITIAN'S BRIGHTEST LIGHTS  
SUCH TOLERANCE, SUCH CHARITY!  
YOU SPEAK, OH HOW MY SOUL IGNITES  
THE SIGHT OF LADY CATHERINE  
WOULD SURELY BE REWARD ENOUGH  
HOW FORTUNATE AM I  
WITHOUT HER, I'D SURELY DIE  
FOR THERE IS NONE MORE VOID OF SIN  
NOT A SMILE MORE GENUINE  
SURELY THERE'S NO ONE AKIN  
TO THE LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH

**LYDIA/KITTY**

WHO COULD ENDURE THIS?  
WHEN IS HE LEAVING?

**MRS. BENNET/JANE/MARY**

HE'S QUITE DIFFERENT

**ELIZABETH/MR. BENNET**

WHAT A FOOLISH...

**MR. COLLINS**

CATHERINE, LADY CA...

**MR. BENNET**

You paint quite a charming portrait of her.

*(ELIZABETH giggles, then pretends to cough as her SISTERS giggle. The SERVANT enters)*

**SERVANT**

Dinner is served.

*(The DAUGHTERS, MR. BENNET and the SERVANT exit quickly. MRS. BENNET goes to follow.)*

**MR. COLLINS**

Mrs. Bennet, a word with you, if I may.

*(MRS. BENNET stops.)*

As an act of reconciliation for my unfortunate position regarding this estate, you must know that I am prepared to marry one of your daughters.

**MRS. BENNET**

Oh! Well, Mr. Collins, I...

**MR. COLLINS**

Mrs. Bennet, your eldest daughter is a lovely creature.

**MRS. BENNET**

Oh, she is, but my Jane may be very soon engaged.

**MR. COLLINS**

Ah...and the second eldest?

**MRS. BENNET**

Elizabeth? Well, though she's presently unattached, she can be a bit feisty. She prefers to do things her own way.

**MR. COLLINS**

Oh, but Lady Catherine always speaks her mind and I find it most admirable.

**MRS. BENNET**

Well then, you have my permission! Come, Mr. Collins!

**MR. COLLINS**

Elizabeth!



*(Blackout)*

**SCENE 9**

*(A road. LYDIA and KITTY walk quickly followed by ELIZABETH, JANE and MR. COLLINS. MR. DENNY and MR. WICKHAM talk on the other side of the stage.)*

**MR. COLLINS**

*(in mid-conversation with ELIZABETH)*  
...and in the garden, there are over twenty species of roses as well as irises in six colors!

*(KITTY and LYDIA see the two men.)*

**LYDIA**

Look! It's Mr. Denny.

**ELIZABETH**

Who is the gentleman with him?

**LYDIA**

I don't know. Mr. Denny!

*(MR. DENNY and MR. WICKHAM walk up to them.)*

**MR. DENNY**

*(bowing)*

Ladies.

**LYDIA**

You know our sisters, and this is our cousin, Mr. Collins.

**MR. DENNY**

Very pleased to meet you. May I introduce Mr. Wickham. He's just accepted a commission in our corps.

*(LYDIA and KITTY squeal)*

**MR. COLLINS**

Your service and dedication make England proud.

**WICKHAM**

Why, thank you. This is such a lovely part of the country.

**ELIZABETH**

I hope you will find enough to do to keep yourself entertained. It can get quite dull here, really.

**WICKHAM**

I am sure I will never want for enjoyment.

*(BINGLEY and DARCY enter.)*

**LYDIA**

Look! It's Mr. Bingley!

**KITTY**

And his friend.

*(WICKHAM turns away as they approach)*

**BINGLEY**

Good afternoon ladies, gentlemen. Jane, you are well?

**JANE**

Yes, thank you. We were just on our way to visit our Aunt.

**BINGLEY**

And I was on my way to Longbourn to personally invite you and your family to a ball at Netherfield next Tuesday.

*(LYDIA and KITTY squeal)*

**JANE**

We will be delighted to attend. Oh, I must introduce you to Mr. Collins, our cousin. This is Mr. Bingley and Mr. Darcy.

**MR. COLLINS**

Very happy to meet you both.

**BINGLEY**

Likewise, sir. I hope you will attend as well.

**MR. COLLINS**

Oh, I'd be most delighted! There are few activities I enjoy more than dancing.

**BINGLEY**

The invitation is extended to the regiment, of course.

*(LYDIA and KITTY squeal again)*

**MR. DENNY**

Thank you, sir.

**BINGLEY**

Well, we will be off then. Jane. Good day, everyone.

**ALL, except WICKHAM**

Good day.

**DARCY**

*(with a slight bow, as the OTHERS turn to each other, and BINGLEY begins to leave.)*

Miss Elizabeth.

*(At hearing this, WICKHAM turns, DARCY sees him and there is a very tense moment.)*

Mr. Wickham!

**WICKHAM**

*(angrily)*

Mr. Darcy.

*(There is a tense moment)*

**BINGLEY**

Come, Darcy.

*(BINGLEY and DARCY exit)*

**LYDIA**

A ball at Netherfield! Let us go tell Auntie.

**KITTY**

*(to DENNY and WICKHAM)*

You must come!

**MR. DENNY**

Wickham?

**WICKHAM**

Lead the way.

*(LYDIA, KITTY, MR. DENNY and JANE exit, leaving ELIZABETH, who is looking in the direction of Darcy's exit, with COLLINS and WICKHAM.)*

**MR. COLLINS**

Miss Elizabeth?

**JANE**

*(from offstage)*

Come, Mr. Collins!

**ELIZABETH**

We'll be right behind you.

*(COLLINS gives up and reluctantly exits)*

**WICKHAM**

How far is Netherfield from Meryton?

**ELIZABETH**

About five miles.

**WICKHAM**

And how long has Mr. Darcy been staying there?

**ELIZABETH**

About a month. I gather you know him.

**WICKHAM**

Yes. Are you much acquainted with Mr. Darcy?

**ELIZABETH**

As much as I ever wish to be. I find him very disagreeable.

**WICKHAM**

We're not on friendly terms either, and it always gives me pain to see him.

**ELIZABETH**

You must forgive me for asking, but what did Mr. Darcy do to cause you such pain?

**WICKHAM**

Darcy and I grew up together. Our fathers were great friends, my father giving up the law profession to care for Pemberley, Mr. Darcy's estate. Darcy's father promised him that I would always be provided for, as he loved me like a son. But when he died, Darcy disregarded his wishes. He turned me out, locked the door. I wished for a profession in the church, but due to the vicious lies Darcy had spread about me, and his withholding the means to help me achieve my goal, I had no choice but to go into the military.

**ELIZABETH**

But, what could have induced him to behave so cruelly?

**WICKHAM**

Jealousy, perhaps.

**ELIZABETH**

This is shocking! He deserves to be publicly disgraced!

**WICKHAM**

Someday he will be. But come, let us not dwell on the past.

*(looking around)*

It really is lovely here. Lovely hills, lovely towns...

*(looking at Elizabeth)*

Lovely people.

**ELIZABETH**

*(nervously)*

Oh...well, yes, there are some very nice people here.

**WICKHAM**

And I just happen to be speaking to one very lovely person at this very moment.

**ELIZABETH**

Lovely!? Well, thank you, I...

**WICKHAM**

THE SKY WAS CLOUDY WHEN I AWOKE THIS MORNING

**ELIZABETH**

Yes, it was quite cloudy this morning.

**WICKHAM**

A DREARY MIST PAINTED EVERYTHING IN GREY

**ELIZABETH**

I'm truly infuriated by what Mr. Darcy did to you!

**WICKHAM**

BUT LOOK, A BLUE SKY ABOVE US,  
AND I THINK I KNOW WHY

**ELIZABETH**

Why?

**WICKHAM**

LOVELY YOU CAME AND BLEW THE CLOUDS AWAY

**ELIZABETH**

I did?

**WICKHAM**

NO BIRDS WERE SINGING THEIR SONGS  
UP IN THE TREETOPS

**ELIZABETH**

Really? I hadn't noticed.

**WICKHAM**

NO CHILDREN'S LAUGHTER WAS HEARD WITHIN A MILE

**ELIZABETH**

You were obviously not around my younger sisters this morning.

**WICKHAM**

NOW, I HEAR SYMPHONIES PLAYING,  
AND IT ALL BEGAN WHEN  
LOVELY YOU SAID "HELLO" AND MADE ME SMILE

**ELIZABETH**

Have you always been such a charmer?

**WICKHAM**

If I am, it is only because of you.

**ELIZABETH**

Me?

**WICKHAM**

YOU, AND THE SUN SHINES BRIGHTER  
AND MY STEP IS LIGHTER  
AND I SEEM MORE ERUDITER  
YOU, AND I CAN'T STOP GRINNING  
AND I FEEL LIKE SPINNING  
COULD IT BE THAT LIFE IS JUST BEGINNING?

**WICKHAM/ELIZABETH**

DAY FOLLOWS DAY, THEY ALL SEEM LIKE ONE ANOTHER  
NO SIGN OF CHANGE, NO SURPRISES, NOTHING NEW  
BUT OH, TODAY IS AS DIFFERENT AS A DAY COULD BE

**WICKHAM**

FOR BIRDS ARE SINGING SO SWEETLY  
CHILDREN LAUGH INDISCREETLY  
AND I FEEL COMPLETELY NEW  
AND IT'S ALL DUE TO LOVELY YOU

**JANE**

*(from offstage)*

Lizzy!

**ELIZABETH**

We're coming!

*(THEY exit.)*

**SCENE 10**

*(Netherfield's ballroom. MR. BINGLEY, DARCY, CAROLINE, SIR WILLIAM, LADY LUCAS, CHARLOTTE and the CHORUS are there. Some dance. Others mingle or watch the dancers.)*

**CHORUS WOMEN (except CAROLINE)**

WHIRLING AND TWIRLING

**CHORUS MEN (except BINGLEY and DARCY)**

THE FUN'S JUST BEGINNING

**ALL (except same)**

OH RARELY HAVE WE SEEN A BALL LIKE THIS

**WOMEN**

'ROUND AND AROUND

**MEN**

HOW THE MUSIC INSPIRES US

**ALL**

OH, THIS IS A BALL THAT WE JUST COULDN'T MISS

**WOMEN**

HOW ELEGANT

**MEN**

HOW WELL-PREPARED

**ALL**  
SUCH A GRACIOUS HOST  
AND SUCH A LARGE WELL-APPOINTED ROOM

*(THE BENNETS enter. MR. and MRS. BENNET, MARY join WILLIAM, LADY LUCAS and CHARLOTTE. MR. COLLINS mingles SIR. MR.BINGLEY sees JANE.)*

**BINGLEY**

Jane!

*(BINGLEY and JANE go off. ELIZABETH looks around.)*

**ALL**  
WHIRLING AND TWIRLING  
THE NIGHT'S JUST BEGINNING  
OH RARELY HAVE WE SEEN A BALL LIKE THIS  
'ROUND AND AROUND HOW THE MUSIC INSPIRES US  
WHAT A FUN BALL  
THIS IS ONE BALL WE COULDN'T MISS.  
*(LYDIA and KITTY run up to ELIZABETH)*

**KITTY**

We looked for Mr. Wickham, but I don't think he's here.

**ELIZABETH**

*(disappointed)*

Oh.

**LYDIA**

It's simply rude of him not to be here!

**KITTY**

Look, Lydia, it's Captain Carter!

**LYDIA**

Let's go and say "Hello".

*(LYDIA and KITTY leave. DARCY approaches ELIZABETH.)*

**DARCY**

Miss Elizabeth.

**ELIZABETH**

*(coldly)*

Mr. Darcy.



**DARCY**

I hope you are well.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes. Quite fine.

*(MR. COLLINS approaches. DARCY leaves.)*

**MR. COLLINS**

Miss Elizabeth, may I take this opportunity of soliciting your hand for the first dance?

**ELIZABETH**

Well...yes...of course. I'd...in a moment.

*(SHE sees CHARLOTTE and runs to her.)*

Charlotte!

**CHARLOTTE**

Who is that gentleman you were speaking to?

**ELIZABETH**

My cousin, Mr. Collins. He is staying with us for a week, and is the silliest man I've ever met. Oh Charlotte, I must tell you, I've heard some shocking news about Mr. Darcy.

*(MR. COLLINS approaches)*

**MR. COLLINS**

Miss Elizabeth, I believe a dance is about to begin. You will pardon me for this delicate reminder of your promise.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes.

**MR. COLLINS**

*(to CHARLOTTE)*

I beg your pardon. I do not believe we have met.

**ELIZABETH**

This is my dearest friend, Charlotte Lucas. This is our cousin, Mr. Collins.

**MR. COLLINS**

A pleasure, Miss Lucas.

*(music starts)*

Ah, the music begins. Miss Elizabeth?

*(ELIZABETH begrudgingly takes MR. COLLINS' offered arm. As THEY go to dance, ELIZABETH sees Jane.)*

**ELIZABETH**

*(to Mr. Collins)*

One moment.

*(SHE runs to Jane)*

Jane! You must find out what you can about Mr. Wickham. I believe he's trustworthy, or very convincing, but I...

**MR. COLLINS**

Elizabeth!

**ELIZABETH**

*(returning to Mr. Collins)*

I'm so sorry. I needed to...

**MR. COLLINS**

You are most certainly forgiven.

*(THEY dance, MR. COLLINS, clumsily, while ELIZABETH, tries to keep her composure. The dance ends.)*

**ELIZABETH**

*(curtseying)*

Thank you Mr. Collins.

*(ELIZABETH runs to CHARLOTTE)*

That was mortifying.

*(DARCY approaches ELIZABETH.)*

**DARCY**

Excuse me. Miss Elizabeth, may I have the honor of your hand for the next dance?

**ELIZABETH**

*(flustered)*

Uh...yes...I mean...yes.

*(DARCY leaves)*

Charlotte, did I just agree to dance with Mr. Darcy?

**CHARLOTTE**

I believe you did. Perhaps this time you will find him agreeable.

**ELIZABETH**

To find a man agreeable whom one is determined to hate! Oh, but to my story. I met a Mr. Wickham in Meryton and we've seen each other twice since. He's just joined the corps...

**CHARLOTTE**

*(interrupting)*

Lizzy, I suggest you don't allow your fancy for this Mr. Wickham to ruin your chances with a man ten times his consequence.

**CAROLINE**

Mr. Darcy, a dance is...

**DARCY**

*(cutting her off)*

Excuse me.

*(DARCY crosses to ELIZABETH)*

Miss Elizabeth?

*(ELIZABETH and DARCY take their places. The dance begins. After a few moments...)*

**ELIZABETH**

The dance is not terribly lively, is it?

**DARCY**

It is not.

**ELIZABETH**

*(after a moment of silence)*

It is your turn to say something. I talked about the dance.

**DARCY**

Do you talk by rule then, while you are dancing?

**ELIZABETH**

Sometimes.

**CHORUS**

WHAT A LOVELY DANCE

**ELIZABETH**

If you like, we can say as little as possible.

**DARCY**

Are you consulting your own feelings or do you imagine that you are gratifying mine?

**ELIZABETH**

Both.

**DARCY**

Do you and your sisters often walk to Meryton?

**ELIZABETH**

Yes. When you met us there the other day, we had just been forming a new acquaintance.

**CHORUS**

STEP AND BOW

**DARCY**

Mr. Wickham is blessed with the ability to make friends. Whether he is capable of retaining them is less certain.

**ELIZABETH**

He has been so unlucky as to lose your friendship, and in a manner which he is likely to suffer from all his life.

**SIR WILLIAM**

Lovely! Such superior dancing is not often seen. I hope to have this pleasure often repeated, especially when a certain desirable event shall take place!

*(SIR WILLIAM leaves. DARCY looks worriedly at BINGLEY and JANE, then back to ELIZABETH.)*

**DARCY**

I have forgotten what we were speaking of.

**ELIZABETH**

Nothing, I'm afraid. We've tried several subjects without success and what we are to talk of next I cannot imagine.

**DARCY**

What think you of books?

**CHORUS**

'ROUND AND 'ROUND AND 'ROUND, etc...

**ELIZABETH**

I remember you saying that your resentment, once created, was unappeasable. Are you very cautious as to its being created?

**DARCY**

I am.

**ELIZABETH**

And never allow yourself to be blinded by prejudice?

**DARCY**

I hope not.

**ELIZABETH**

Those who never change their opinion must be secure of judging properly.

**DARCY**

May I ask to what these questions tend?

**ELIZABETH**

To the illustration of your character. I am trying to make it out.

**DARCY**

I wish, Miss Bennet, that you would not sketch my character at this moment as I fear the performance would reflect no credit on either of us. You will excuse me.

*(DARCY, slightly angry, bows and leaves. JANE approaches ELIZABETH)*

**JANE**

Lizzy, I inquired about Mr. Wickham. Mr. Bingley does not completely know the circumstances, but by his and his sister's account, he is by no means a respectable man.

**ELIZABETH**

I couldn't care a bit about her account, but Mr. Bingley, he does not know Mr. Wickham himself?

**JANE**

No.

**ELIZABETH**

Then he's received this account from Mr. Darcy. But no more of this. I want to hear about you and Mr. Bingley.

**JANE**

Oh Lizzy, I am quite sure of his regard for me.

**ELIZABETH**

Well of course! And is he sure of your regard for him?

**JANE**

I don't know. I do hope so.

*(BINGLEY interrupts)*

**BINGLEY**

I beg your pardon. Jane, may I have this next dance?

**JANE**

Of course.

*(JANE and BINGLEY leave. MR. COLLINS approaches ELIZABETH who crosses away near to MRS. BENNET and LADY LUCAS, to whom DARCY is also near.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

I expect that soon my Jane will be married to Mr. Bingley.

**LADY LUCAS**

Really!

**MRS. BENNET**

Oh, yes! And how advantageous a match it will be! And such a promising thing for my other daughters, as Jane's marrying so greatly must throw them in the way of other rich men.

**ELIZABETH**

Mother, I beg you to whisper. I fear you are being overheard by Mr. Darcy.

**MRS. BENNET**

What is Mr. Darcy to me that I should be afraid of him?

**ELIZABETH**

For heaven's sake, speak lower. You'll never recommend yourself to his friend if you offend him.

**MRS. BENNET**

What could be offensive in my desire of a happy event? Oh Lady Lucas, I wish you might soon be equally fortunate.

*(DARCY walks away)*

**BINGLEY**

*(announcing)*

Pardon me. Would any of the young ladies care to oblige us with an air?

**MARY**

I will!

*(MARY runs to the piano)*

**ELIZABETH**

All is over.

*(MARY plays an "F" and begins singing terribly off-key. As each character/group sings, they turn from watching Mary and sing facing front.)*

**MARY**

ON THE WINGS OF A SPARROW A MELODY FLOATS GENTLY BY  
ITS SOUND IS SWEET AND ITS TONE IS PURE  
IT SOOTHES MY BREAST AH, HEAV'NLY CURE

*(Other voices gradually enter, overlapping)*

OH MUSIC, VOICE OF THE ANGELS!  
SING ON, SING ON WITH ALL YOUR CHARM!  
DELIGHT MY EAR WITH YOUR GOLDEN SOUNDS  
OH, WHAT RAPTURE! YOU BANISH HARM  
THE MELODY BECKONS AS IF A DISTANT HORN  
THEN RISING HIGHER LIKE SUN UPON THE MORN  
AH, MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC!  
CARRY ME, CARRY ME AWAY, AWAY!  
AND LET ME DIE!

**DARCY**

I MUST NOT LET MY FRIEND  
MAKE SUCH A TERRIBLE MISTAKE  
THOUGH JANE IS LOVELY,  
SHE SEEMS UNMOVED  
AND THE MOTHER IS A FOOL!  
AND THEN ELIZABETH...etc

**ELIZABETH**

I'VE ALWAYS HAD PRIDE IN MY ABILITY  
TO READ ONE'S CHARACTER  
BUT WITH MISTER DARCY,  
I AM AT A LOSS  
I'VE LEARNED NOTHING MORE OF MISTER WICKHAM  
THAN I HAD KNOWN BEFORE

**MR. COLLINS**

IF I WERE SO FORTUNATE  
AS TO BE ABLE TO SING  
I SHOULD HAVE GREAT PLEASURE  
IN OBLIGING THE COMP'NY WITH AN AIR  
AH...etc.

NOTHING MORE...etc.

**MRS. BENNET**

SOON I WILL REJOICE  
IN THE UNIONS OF TWO DAUGHTERS  
JANE AND MR. BINGLEY, LIZZY AND MR. COLLINS  
HOW PLEASED I AM...etc.

**JANE**

HOW SWEET IT IS TO BE IN LOVE!  
I DO BELIEVE HE FEELS THE SAME  
HE FEELS THE SAME...etc.

**BINGLEY**

HOW SWEET IT IS TO BE IN LOVE!  
BUT DOES SHE ALSO FEEL FOR ME?  
DOES SHE FEEL FOR ME? etc..

**CHORUS (plus KITTY, LYDIA,  
CHARLOTTE, LADY  
LUCAS, SIR WILLIAM)**  
WHAT AN AWFUL, AWFUL NOISE,  
WHAT A NOISE...etc.

**MR. BENNET**

OH, IF I COULD ONLY SHUT MY MARY UP  
I WOULD SPARE US ALL THE  
EMBARRASSMENT  
WHAT A NOISE...etc.

**ALL (except Mary)**

WHAT A NOISE

*(The CAST applauds lightly.)*

**MARY**

I would now like to sing..

**MR. BENNET**

That will do, child. You have delighted us long enough.

**MR. COLLINS**

I have gathered my nerve and am prepared to sing an air.

*(The FOOTMAN enters and rings a bell.)*

**FOOTMAN**

Dinner is served.

**DARCY**

*(to Bingley as the OTHERS quickly exit)*  
Bingley, I must speak to you after dinner.

*(DARCY exits, followed by BINGLEY, leaving MR. COLLINS  
alone. HE finally follows the others. Blackout)*



**SCENE 11**

*(MRS. BENNET, KITTY and ELIZABETH sit in their parlor. ELIZABETH is reading.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

No, Kitty. You may not walk to Meryton alone. I'm sure Lydia will accompany you. She is always running to Meryton.

*(MR. COLLINS enters.)*

Mr. Collins! My, but you slept like a log!

**MR. COLLINS**

I have not been used to so much excitement, such physical exertion, as I experienced at the ball last night.

**MRS. BENNET**

I hope you enjoyed yourself.

**MR. COLLINS**

I had a most wonderful time; and Elizabeth was as fair a partner as I ever could have hoped for.

**MRS. BENNET**

Oh, why hear that, Lizzy?

**MR. COLLINS**

Madam, may I solicit for the honor of a private audience with your daughter, Elizabeth?

**MRS. BENNET**

Oh dear, yes, certainly! Come Kitty, I want you upstairs.

**KITTY**

But mother...

**ELIZABETH**

Don't go! Mr. Collins can have nothing to say to me that anybody need not hear. In fact, I'm going away myself.

**MRS. BENNET**

Nonsense, Lizzy, I insist upon your staying and hearing Mr. Collins.

*(MRS. BENNET and KITTY exit.)*

**MR. COLLINS**

May I begin?

**ELIZABETH**

Yes, of course.

**MR. COLLINS**

PERMIT ME TO DECLARE IN PHRASES ELOQUENT AND RARE  
THAT YOUR HUMILITY QUITE ADDS TO YOUR PERFECTIONS.  
I ASSURE YOU I'VE PERMISSION FOR THIS MOMENT OF PETITION  
AS YOUR MOTHER GAVE CONSENT WITHOUT OBJECTIONS.  
I VOCALIZED MY WISHES AS THE COOK WAS CLEARING DISHES  
AND THE ROOM STILL SMELLED OF PEPPERMINT AND BACON.  
I NOW ASSUME YOUR COMPREHENSION,  
AS MY BURGEONING ATTENTION  
HAS BEEN MUCH TOO OBVIOUS TO BE MISTAKEN.  
ALMOST AS SOON AS I ARRIVED,  
I SAW I COULD NOT BE DEPRIVED  
OF YOUR COMPANIONSHIP FOR ALL MY DAYS ETERNAL,

*(ELIZABETH tries to interrupt)*

SO LEST I LECTURE TO EXCESS,  
LET ME MOST HEARTILY EXPRESS MY GROUNDS FOR MARRYING,  
WHICH I'VE WRITTEN IN THIS JOURNAL.

*(He shows ELIZABETH a large book)*

FIRST, IT'S OFTEN SAID THAT EVERY CLERGYMAN SHOULD WED  
AS AN EXAMPLE TO THE PEOPLE IN HIS PARISH.  
AND SECOND, I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL HELP ME TO ACHIEVE  
THE SORT OF HAPPINESS THAT EVEN LAYMEN CHERISH.  
AND THIRD, I WAS SURPRISED WHEN I WAS EXPERTLY ADVISED  
TO TAKE A WIFE BY MY MOST GRACIOUS, NOBLE PATRONESS,  
THE LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH!

**ELIZABETH**

Really, Mr. Collins!

**MR. COLLINS**

My dear, if you'll allow me to continue?

**ELIZABETH**

Yes.

**MR. COLLINS**

SHE SAID THE OTHER DAY, BETWIXT HER EFFORTS AT CROQUET,  
"IT'S MY OPINION, MISTER COLLINS, YOU SHOULD MARRY.  
LET HER BE USEFUL TO A MAN, FRUGAL AND ACTIVE IF SHE CAN  
NOT BROUGHT UP HIGH. BRING HER TO ME AND DO NOT TARRY"  
SHE WILL SURELY FIND YOU PLEASANT.  
SHE MAY DEIGN TO SERVE YOU PHEASANT  
IF YOU SHOW RESPECT AND TRY YOUR BEST TO FLATTER.  
OH, SHE DOES ENJOY SOME BRIGHTNESS

IF IT'S TEMPERED WITH POLITENESS,  
AND FOR NOW, THAT'S ALL I'LL SAY UPON THAT MATTER.  
AS TO WHY I VENTURED HERE  
TO GAIN A WIFE SHOULD BE QUITE CLEAR,  
SINCE YOU'RE AWARE THAT THIS ESTATE I'M TO INHERIT  
WHEN YOUR DEAR FATHER DIES, ALTHOUGH  
HE MAY LIVE MANY YEARS I KNOW,  
AND SO BY CHOOSING FROM HIS DAUGHTERS, WE MAY SHARE IT.  
AS TO FORTUNE, I CARE NOT,  
AND I'M ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR LOT  
SO THEN TO THINK YOU'D MAKE ME RICH  
WOULD BE SHORT-SIGHTED,  
SO, ON THAT SUBJECT I'LL BE MUTE  
FOR WE'LL NOT BE QUITE DESTITUTE  
AND NOT ONE WORD SHALL PASS THESE LIPS WHEN WE'RE UNITED  
AND SO I'VE STATED WELL MY CASE  
AND ANY DOUBTS YOU MAY ERASE  
FOR NOW YOU KNOW MY MOTIVES  
THROUGH THESE BOLD REFLECTIONS,  
AND SO SINCE WE ARE HERE ALONE, I WILL, IN ANIMATED TONE  
ASSURE YOU OF THE VIOLENCE OF MY AFFEC...

**ELIZABETH**

*(interrupting him)*

Mr. Collins, you forget that I've made no answer. Accept my thanks for this compliment. I am very sensible of the honor of your proposal, but I'm afraid I must decline it.

**MR. COLLINS**

I have heard that young ladies often reject the addresses of the man whom they secretly mean to accept. I am, therefore, not discouraged by your reply.

**ELIZABETH**

Sir, I'm perfectly serious. You could not make me happy and I'm convinced that I'm the last woman in the world who would make you so.

**MR. COLLINS**

When I do myself the honor of speaking to you next on the subject, I shall hope to receive a more favorable answer.

**ELIZABETH**

Really, Mr. Collins, how may I express my refusal so that it may convince you of its being one?

**MR. COLLINS**

My dear, you must allow me to flatter myself for my hand is not unworthy your acceptance. Therefore, I must conclude that you are not serious in your rejection, and shall attribute it to your wish of increasing my love by suspense.

**ELIZABETH**

Sir, I take no delight in tormenting a respectable man. I thank you again and again for the honor you have done me but to accept your proposal is absolutely impossible. My feelings in every respect forbid it. Can I speak plainer?

**MR. COLLINS**

You have now only further encouraged my suit

**ELIZABETH**

MISTER COLLINS, YOU PERPLEX ME  
AND YOU'RE STARTING NOW TO VEX ME  
IS IT ME, OR DO YOUR EARS NEED A GOOD CLEANING?  
DO I REALLY HAVE TO SHOUT SO THAT THERE ISN'T ANY DOUBT  
AS TO MY ANSWER'S QUITE UNQUESTIONABLE MEANING?  
IT IS "NO!"

**MR. COLLINS**

Oh!  
My..  
Dear!  
You are charming!

**ELIZABETH**

NO!  
NO!  
NO!  
AH!

*(ELIZABETH runs out of the room. MRS. BENNET pokes her head in.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

So, then it went well?

**MR. COLLINS**

I am quite satisfied. Though she steadfastly refused me, I believe it to be a result of her bashful modesty.

**MRS. BENNET**

Bashful modesty? Oh, dear. Mr. Bennet!

*(MRS. BENNET goes to look for Mr. Bennet. MR. COLLINS exits. MR. BENNET enters.)*

Oh, Mr. Bennet, you must make Lizzy marry Mr. Collins for she vows she'll not have him, and if you do not make haste, he may change his mind and not have her!

**MR. BENNET**

And what am I to do? It seems a hopeless business.

**MRS. BENNET**

Speak to her. Insist upon her marrying him.

**MR. BENNET**

Very well.

**MRS. BENNET**

Lizzy! Come here this instant!

*(ELIZABETH enters)*

Your father would like to speak to you.

**MR. BENNET**

Come here, child.

*(ELIZABETH goes to MR. BENNET)*

I understand that Mr. Collins has made you an offer of marriage.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes.

**MR. BENNET**

And you have refused?

**ELIZABETH**

I have.

**MR. BENNET**

Your mother however, insists upon your accepting it.

**MRS. BENNET**

Or I will never see her again.

**MR. BENNET**

An unhappy alternative is before you. From this day you must be a stranger to one of your parents. Your mother will never see you again if you do not marry Mr. Collins, and I will never see you again if you do.

**ELIZABETH**

*(smiling, hugs her father)*

Thank you, father

*(ELIZABETH exits)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Mr. Bennet! You promised!

*(MRS. BENNET crosses to the foyer just as ELIZABETH enters)*

There she goes looking as unconcerned as may be. But I tell you what, Miss Lizzy; if you go on refusing every offer of marriage in this way you will never get a husband, and I don't know who is to maintain you when your father is dead.

*(MR. COLLINS enters and goes to the front door)*

Oh Mr. Collins, you're not leaving?

**MR. COLLINS**

I believe I am in need of some fresh air.

*(He opens the door and goes to step out just as CHARLOTTE walks up to the house)*

Ah, Miss Lucas!

**MRS. BENNET**

Oh, now we've driven him from the house!

**CHARLOTTE**

Oh dear! I think I've come at a bad time.

**MR. COLLINS**

I believe I may have been the cause of a small family scuffle. Would you care to join me for a little promenade along the river?

**CHARLOTTE**

That sounds lovely.

*(calling into the house)*

Lizzy, I'll call on you later!

*(MRS. BENNET watches them walk off together through the window)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Ah!

*(Blackout)*

**SCENE 12**

*(The next day. ELIZABETH and WICKHAM walk in the garden behind the Bennets' home)*

**ELIZABETH**

You did not miss much: dancing, gossip. The usual ball.

**WICKHAM**

As the day drew near, I found that being in the same room with Darcy might be more than I could bear.

**ELIZABETH**

I am sure you made the right decision.

**WICKHAM**

I chanced upon your sister, Lydia in Meryton the other day. She's quite lively. She inquired about us.

**ELIZABETH**

Wild would be a truer description. What did you tell her?

**WICKHAM**

That we were friends. We are, are we not?

**ELIZABETH**

Yes, of course.

**WICKHAM**

*(after a moment of awkwardness)*

Your cousin, Mr. Collins, is an interesting fellow. Where does he live?

**ELIZABETH**

In Hunsford. He's under the patronage of Lady Catherine de Bourgh.

**WICKHAM**

You know of course, that she is Darcy's aunt.

**ELIZABETH**

No, I did not.

**WICKHAM**

Her daughter will have a very large fortune, and it's believed that she and Darcy will unite the two estates.

**ELIZABETH**

*(smiling to herself)*

Poor Caroline.

**WICKHAM**

I'm sorry?

**ELIZABETH**

Oh, nothing. Funny you should bring up Mr. Collins. He actually proposed to me just yesterday.

**WICKHAM**

Truly?

**ELIZABETH**

Oh, yes. It was mortifying. How he could have ever thought I would marry him...and he would not take no for an answer.

**WICKHAM**

I am sure you made the right decision. I hope, though, that you did not refuse him because you had any hopes of...well, how should I say this?

**ELIZABETH**

Are you trying to say that you hope I am not wishing for a union between us?

**WICKHAM**

Yes, that is what I'm trying to say. As I said, we are only friends, though very good friends, yes?

**ELIZABETH**

*(flustered and a bit disappointed)*

Of course.

**WICKHAM**

And besides, I am getting married.

**ELIZABETH**

Married? To whom?

**WICKHAM**

To Miss Mary King. We met only a week ago, but we get on very well. Do you know her?

**ELIZABETH**

We have met once or twice.

**MRS. BENNET**

*(from offstage)*

Lizzy! Come say goodbye to Mr. Collins. He's leaving.



**ELIZABETH**

I'm afraid I must go.

**WICKHAM**

I do hope you are happy for me.

**ELIZABETH**

I am. Of course.

**WICKHAM**

Oh, and the regiment will be leaving for Brighton in three days so we must say goodbye, I'm afraid. I will write. I've enjoyed our talks very much.

**MRS. BENNET**

*(from offstage)*

Lizzy!

**ELIZABETH**

I must go. I'm sorry.

*(SHE goes to leave, then turns back)*

Good luck, then.

*(ELIZABETH joins the FAMILY and MR. COLLINS in front of the BENNET'S home as WICKHAM exits.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Mr. Collins, we'll be happy to see you at Longbourn again.

**MR. COLLINS**

My dear Madam, you may be certain I shall avail myself of this invitation as soon as possible.

*(ALL look horrified)*

**MR. BENNET**

Better neglect your family than run the risk of offending your patroness. I assure you, we shall take no offence.

**MRS. BENNET**

And I am very sorry things did not work out as you planned during your stay, though I did my very best to assist you.

**MR. COLLINS**

You must not be sorry, Mrs. Bennet. In truth, I am leaving a happy man, for only a few hours ago, I received the warmest acceptance of my offer of marriage by a fine woman.

**MRS. BENNET**

Oh? Whoever could it be?

**MR. COLLINS**

Why, it is Elizabeth's dearest friend, Charlotte Lucas.

*(THEY gasp)*

**MRS. BENNET**

What!? I...I mean, congratulations.

**MR. COLLINS**

Thank you, Mrs. Bennet. But now I must be off! Many thanks for your kindness. I wish you all health and happiness, not excepting my cousin Elizabeth. My coach awaits! I bid you adieu!

*(MR. COLLINS exits. The OTHERS wimply wave.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Charlotte Lucas?! I cannot believe it! Miss Lizzy, if you had only...oh, I cannot speak!

*(MRS. BENNET exits into the house, followed by the OTHERS, except ELIZABETH, who paces nervously. CHARLOTTE enters.)*

**CHARLOTTE**

Lizzy?

**ELIZABETH**

Charlotte! Engaged to Mr. Collins?

**CHARLOTTE**

Oh dear. I wanted to tell you myself.

**ELIZABETH**

Really, Charlotte, are you joking?

**CHARLOTTE**

Why? Do you think it impossible he could obtain any woman's good opinion just because he did not succeed with you?

**ELIZABETH**

But do you love him? Do you truly believe you'll be happy?

**CHARLOTTE**

Happiness in marriage is a matter of chance, and I believe my chance with him is as fair as most people can boast.

**ELIZABETH**

But must you marry now? Why not wait?

**CHARLOTTE**

I'm twenty-seven years old! I'm not like you, willing to wait a lifetime for a perfect man.

**ELIZABETH**

But Charlotte...

**CHARLOTTE**

Lizzy, I see what you are feeling. I must go...

*(CHARLOTTE, on the verge of tears, turns to go)*

**ELIZABETH**

Charlotte, I'm sorry. It's just that you are my dearest friend. I could not bear to see you unhappy.

**CHARLOTTE**

You won't. I promise. I hope you will visit us in Hunsford.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes, of course. I would like that.

*(CHARLOTTE exits)*

Is she mad? Mr. Collins? Are we all then to marry the first man who asks us? No! Not me!

I CAN WAIT FOR DINNERS IN SILENCE  
SITTING ACROSS FROM SOME MAN THAT I HATE  
I'M NOT CONTENT TO BE WHO I'M NOT MEANT TO BE  
THAT WILL NOT BE MY FATE!  
THAT WILL NOT BE MY FATE!

*(sadly)*

Oh, Mr. Wickham.

*(JANE enters)*

**JANE**

There you are!

**ELIZABETH**

I have to say, the more I see of the world, the more I'm dissatisfied with it, and every day confirms my belief of the inconsistency of all humans.

**JANE**

You are upset about Charlotte and Mr. Collins?

**ELIZABETH**

It's unaccountable! To think that my best friend will be forever attached to...to that!

**JANE**

You don't allow for difference of situation and temper.

**ELIZABETH**

I almost wish I had said "yes" to him to spare her the humiliation.

**JANE**

Well, you still have Mr. Wickham.

**ELIZABETH**

No, I don't. He just informed me he is to marry Miss King.

**JANE**

Mary King? Who's grandfather recently passed away and left her ten thousand pounds?

**ELIZABETH**

Really! Ha! I hadn't heard that. Well, I suppose we all must do what we must. He has nothing after all.

**FOOTMAN**

*(entering with a letter)*

Miss Jane, a letter for you.

**JANE**

Thank you.

*(The FOOTMAN hands Jane the letter and exits. JANE opens the letter, reads, growing anxious.)*

**ELIZABETH**

What is it? Oh, not more bad news, I hope.

**JANE**

It is from Caroline Bingley. She says they have all left Netherfield for London. *(reading)* "Mr. Darcy is impatient to see his sister and we are also eager to see her again. Miss Darcy has no equal for beauty, elegance and accomplishments and, as my brother admires her greatly, he'll have frequent opportunity now of seeing her on the most intimate footing." Well, it is perfectly clear. Caroline does not wish me to be her sister.

**ELIZABETH**

How can you say that? Can she not see how much you love each other?

**JANE**

I don't know. We never spoke of it. Perhaps he never loved me after all.

**ELIZABETH**

No. You have it all wrong. She sees that he's in love with you and since we're not rich or grand enough for them wants him to marry Miss Darcy and tries to persuade you that he doesn't care about you. And I suspect she is doing the same to him. I must say I'm disappointed in Mr. Bingley. If he could be so easily persuaded as this...

**JANE**

Oh, what does it matter?

*(JANE runs into the house, crying.)*

**ELIZABETH**

Jane! Oh, I cannot believe this! I wish the lot of you would just go away forever! But then, you have, haven't you? Well, good!

MR. WICKHAM, WITH YOUR CHARMING WAYS AND SWEET WORDS WHICH TURN TO NAUGHT WHEN MONEY CALLS!  
MR. COLLINS, WITH YOUR FOOLISH BEHAVIOR, ANNOYING VOICE, NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT YOU LURED MY BEST FRIEND INTO A MISERABLE LIFE!  
MR. BINGLEY, WITH YOUR LIKEABLE DISPOSITION BUT COMPLETE LACK OF BACKBONE, WHO LEFT MY SWEET SISTER IN TEARS!  
MR. DARCY, WITH YOUR ARROGANT, KNOW-IT-ALL, CONDESCENDING, MEAN SPIRITED WAYS!  
GOODBYE!GOOD DAY!  
GOOD RIDDANCE!

PACK YOUR BAGS, ON YOUR WAY  
WE SHALL NOT MEET AGAIN, I PRAY  
AND IF YOU THINK OF US ONE DAY, TRY TO FORGET  
WE EVER MET  
GOOD RIDDANCE!  
I WON'T SIGH, SHED A TEAR  
KNOWING YOU WILL NOT BE NEAR  
WE SHALL RETURN TO NORMAL HERE  
THAT, YOU CAN BET! OH, YOU CAN BET!  
YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE ALREADY  
YOU'VE CAUSED ENOUGH ANGER AND PAIN  
WE ALL NEED SOME TIME TO FEEL STEADY AGAIN  
SO TAKE YOUR ANTICS SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY, LIKE  
I DON'T KNOW, SPAIN!

*(DARCY enters)*

**DARCY**

My friend, you are not the only one who needed to leave  
that place.

YES, THOSE EYES...

*(DARCY exits)*

**ELIZABETH**

GOOD RIDDANCE!  
NOW THAT YOU'RE ALL OUT OF SIGHT  
PLEASE DON'T FEEL YOU HAVE TO WRITE  
I DON'T SAY THIS OUT OF SPITE, ALRIGHT, I LIED  
GOOD NIGHT! GOOD DAY! GOOD RIDDANCE!  
IF A WOMAN'S ONLY AIM IS A HUSBAND  
AND THIS IS ALL THAT WE HAVE GOT TO PICK FROM  
THEN I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN  
I WOULD RATHER BE ALONE  
FOR JUST THE THOUGHT OF A LIFE  
WITH MEN LIKE THESE IS ENOUGH TO GET SICK FROM!  
GOOD RIDDANCE!  
FROM THIS DAY ON, I SWEAR  
I'LL REMAIN SINGLE, I DON'T CARE  
LET MY SISTERS GRIN AND BEAR THEIR AWFUL LOT  
MOTHER DEAR, I CANNOT BE WHAT I AM NOT  
AND IF LOVE IS SOMETHING I SHALL NEVER FIND  
WELL, I'D RATHER THAT, THAN LOSE MY MIND  
SO TO LOVE AND MEN AND MARRIAGE, AGAIN I SAY  
GOOD DAY! GOOD DAY!

*(DARCY, WICKHAM, COLLINS and BINGLEY enter and sing,*

*overlapping.)*

**BINGLEY**

LOVELY, THE JEWELS ONE FINDS AT A BALL, etc..

**DARCY**

THE LIZZY I SEE, etc..

**WICKHAM**

LOVELY YOU SAID HELLO AND MADE ME, etc.. .

**MR. COLLINS**

SHE WILL SURELY FIND YOU PLEASANT

SHE MAY DEIGN TO SERVE YOU PHEASANT, etc..

**ELIZABETH**

GOOD RIDDANCE!

*(BINGLEY, COLLINS and WICKHAM exit. DARCY circles around Elizabeth, then goes to exit. Before he leaves, HE and ELIZABETH turn and look at each other. Blackout.)*

**END OF ACT I**

**ACT II**

**SCENE 1**

*(Lights up. The CHORUS enters, gossiping)*

**CHORUS WOMAN 1**

POOR JANE AND MR. BINGLEY

**CHORUS MAN 1**

HE VANISHED SO QUICKLY

**CHORUS WOMAN 2**

I'M SURE IT WAS THE MOTHER  
JANE'S AS SWEET AS SHE COULD BE

**CHORUS WOMEN**

THEN LIZZY SNUBBING COLLINS

**CHORUS MAN 2**

WHO'S SNATCHED UP BY CHARLOTTE

**CHORUS WOMAN 1**

WHO THOUGHT SHE'D EVER MARRY

**ALL**

AS FOR LIZZY, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE

*(The Bennet's house rolls on as the CHORUS exits.  
ELIZABETH enters)*

**ELIZABETH**

IF A WOMAN'S ONLY AIM IS A HUSBAND  
AND THIS IS ALL THAT WE HAVE GOT TO PICK FROM  
THEN I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN  
I WOULD RATHER BE ALONE

*(JANE enters)*

Dear Jane, how are you feeling?

**JANE**

I am fine, Lizzy. You must stop asking me.

*(MR. BENNET enters, followed by MRS. BENNET.)*



**MRS. BENNET**

Oh, I cannot bear the sight of Lady Lucas. All she does is talk of Charlotte and her marriage. To think that I should see that woman take my place as mistress of this house!

**MR. BENNET**

My dear, do not give way to such gloomy thoughts. Let us hope that I may be the survivor.

**MRS. BENNET**

And now Mr. Bingley is gone forever! Oh, what a cruel man to have duped our poor Jane so!

**LYDIA**

*(running in with a letter, followed by  
KITTY and MARY)*

A letter just came from Mrs. Forster and the Colonel asking me to accompany them to Brighton for the summer!

**MRS. BENNET**

How delightful!

**MARY**

The regiment will be encamped there, will they not?

**LYDIA**

*(shushing her)*

Mary!

**KITTY**

*(snatching the letter from her and looking it over)*  
Why does she not invite me as well?

**LYDIA**

You're not her friend!

**KITTY**

It's not fair! Lydia gets to go to Brighton, Lizzy gets to go to Hunsford and I don't get to go anywhere!

**MR. BENNET**

Don't fret, my dear. You'll have Mary to keep you company.

*(KITTY angrily stomps off. LYDIA follows)*

**MRS. BENNET**

*(following LYDIA)*

Girls!

**ELIZABETH**

Father, you mustn't let her go to Brighton.

**JANE**

Think of her wild behavior.

**ELIZABETH**

How it will affect our respectability, what little we have.

**MR. BENNET**

You are right.

**ELIZABETH**

Well, I'd better begin packing. Two weeks with Charlotte and Mr. Collins. Pray for me.

*(ELIZABETH and JANE exit. LYDIA enters.)*

**LYDIA**

Oh papa, please can I go to Brighton?

**MR. BENNET**

Absolutely not.

**LYDIA**

But why?

**MR. BENNET**

Because I said so.

**LYDIA**

But it would make me so happy!

WHAT CAN COMPARE TO LOVELY BRIGHTON?  
FRESH SALTY AIR, THE BLUEST SEA  
NO OTHER PLACE BUT DREAMY BRIGHTON  
HAS OCEAN WATER SO PURE THAT

*(MR. BENNET coughs)*

IT CAN CURE THAT NASTY MALADY  
STROLLING THE LAINES OF CHARMING BRIGHTON  
MEN WITH THEIR CANES, JUST OFF TO TEA  
I'LL VISIT THE SHOPS. BONNETS FROM BRIGHTON!  
AND THEN THOSE BEACHES FOR MILES  
FOR ANGLOPHILES JUST LIKE ME!

**MR. BENNET**

Yes, but it's the regiment I'm worried about.

**LYDIA**

Oh they'll be fine.

**MR. BENNET**

No, I mean you and the regiment.

**LYDIA**

Oh, you can trust me around all...those...boys.

*(A CHORUS of MEN and WICKHAM enter in regimentals. The staging gets more risqué as the song progresses.)*

THERE MAY BE YOUNG MEN EVERYWHERE  
BUT I'LL SHOW THEM THAT I DON'T CARE  
THEY'LL TRY TO FLIRT, BUT I'LL BE STRONG  
I'LL TELL THEM "SOLDIER, RUN ALONG"  
AND IF BY CHANCE, MY EYES SHOULD BAT  
IT'S NOT A CUE TO COME AND CHAT  
OH TRUST ME, PAPA, I'LL BE GOOD  
JUST LIKE A LADY SHOULD

*(DANCE)*

**LYDIA**

PLEASE, LET ME GO  
TO PRETTY BRIGHTON!  
IF YOU SAY "NO", I'LL ONLY SCREAM!  
I FIND A TRIP TENDS TO ENLIGHTEN  
IT WOULD HELP OUT MISSUS FORSTER  
AND THE COLONEL  
AND MY SELF-ESTEEM  
MY FONDEST WISH  
A TRIP TO BRIGHTON  
WHERE THE MILITIA JUST HAPPEN TO BE  
I WON'T SAY A WORD TO THAT YOUNG TITAN  
IN BED BY SEVEN O'CLOCK  
CONTENT UNDER LOCK AND KEY

**MALE CHORUS**

LET HER GO!  
LET HER GO TO BRIGHTON!  
*(scream-like) AH! etc..*  
  
YOUR WISH  
BRIGHTON, AH, etc..  
THAT'S WHERE WE'LL BE!  
AH

**MR. BENNET**

I don't know...

**LYDIA**

Just think how healthy I'll look being in the sun everyday.

*(The MALE CHORUS strips to bathing clothes.)*

**MR. BENNET**

I thought you were under lock and key!

**LYDIA**

Well I'll need to get out once in a while.

*(DANCE, as LYDIA also reveals bathing clothes.)*

**LYDIA**

LA, LA, LA...HMM..

PLEASE LET ME GO  
TO PRETTY BRIGHTON

IF YOU SAY "NO"  
I'LL ONLY SCREAM

I WANT TO SEE  
THE STREETS OF BRIGHTON!  
LET ME GO! ETC..

**MALE CHORUS**

WE'LL SHOW YOU JUST HOW MEN WILL PLAY  
WHEN ON A BRIGHTON HOLIDAY

YES, YOU WILL BE OUR FAVORITE TOY  
FOR LOVE'S A GAME TO EVERY BOY

SO, WHEN THE MOON IS SHINING BRIGHT  
WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO BE POLITE  
LET HER GO! ETC...

**MR. BENNET**

Alright! You'll be less of a bother to me there than you  
will be here if I don't let you go so...go to Brighton!

*(MR. BENNET exits, LYDIA squeals)*

**LYDIA**

PACK ALL MY CLOTHES!  
ORDER A COACH!  
ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET  
UNCORK THE WINE!  
'CAUSE BRIGHTON  
YOU'RE MINE! etc.. YOU'RE...  
*(Blackout)*

**MALE CHORUS**

PACK ALL HER CLOTHES!  
ORDER A COACH!  
UNCORK THE WINE!  
BRIGHTON!, etc...  
YOU'RE MINE! Etc...

**SCENE 2**

*(ELIZABETH, holding a suitcase,  
CHARLOTTE and MR. COLLINS walk into the  
parlor of the Collins' house.)*

**MR. COLLINS**

Here is the parlor. Every room is in good proportion.  
*(gesturing to Elizabeth to look out a window)*  
And, here is the view par excellence. Rosings Park!  
*(the sound of bells and horses is heard)*  
What is that?

*(MR. COLLINS exits)*

**ELIZABETH**

It is a lovely home, Charlotte.

**CHARLOTTE**

Thank you, Lizzy. I'm so glad you came.

**ELIZABETH**

I couldn't bear not knowing how you were. Are you happy? Is he everything you ever wanted?

**CHARLOTTE**

Oh, Lizzy...

I DON'T NEED A HANDSOME PRINCE  
OR A MAN TO SWEEP ME OFF MY FEET  
TRUST AND KINDNESS, THESE HAVE WORTH INDEED  
JUST A SIMPLE MAN, THAT'S ALL I NEED  
I DON'T ASK FOR GOLD OR JEWELS  
OR A LIFE WHERE GREAT ADVENTURES LIE  
I DON'T DREAM, FOR DREAMS AREN'T GUARANTEED  
HOME AND COMFORT, THESE ARE ALL I NEED  
ROMANCE IS JUST A FOOLISH GAME  
IT LASTS A MOMENT, THEN IT DISAPPEARS  
GIVE ME SOMETHING SURE AND PRACTICAL  
TO GET ME THROUGH THE YEARS  
AND IF LOVE SHOULD FIND OUR HOME,  
I WOULD WELCOME IT WITH OPEN ARMS  
AND IF NOT, MY HEART IS STRONG, IT CANNOT BLEED  
I'LL BE HIS AND BE CONTENT  
I'LL DO MY BEST. LIFE WILL PROCEED  
HE MAY NOT BE A HANDSOME PRINCE  
BUT HE'S ALL I NEED  
BE HAPPY FOR ME, LIZZY, AND I'LL HAVE ALL I NEED

*(MR. COLLINS returns)*

**MR. COLLINS**

That was Miss De Bourgh! I had informed Lady Catherine of your arrival and now we have all been asked to dine at Rosings tonight!

**ELIZABETH**

Oh!

**MR. COLLINS**

My dear cousin, do not make yourself uneasy. She will not think the worse of you for being simply dressed. She likes to have the distinction of rank preserved.

*(COLLINS exits)*

**CHARLOTTE**

HE MAY BE A BIT...UNIQUE  
AND HIS SOCIAL GRACES FAR FROM FINE  
WHEN ANNOYED, I SIMPLY SHUT THE DOOR AND READ  
YET I'M SMILING FOR HE'S ALL I NEED

**SCENE 3**

*(Rosings. A SERVANT enters, followed by MR. COLLINS, CHARLOTTE and ELIZABETH, who looks self-consciously at herself. The SERVANT leads them into a room where LADY CATHERINE and ANNE sit in large, ornate chairs.)*

**SERVANT**

Mr. and Mrs. Collins.

*(The SERVANT exits)*

**LADY CATHERINE**

Welcome.

**CHARLOTTE**

Your Ladyship, may I introduce my dear friend, Miss Elizabeth Bennet.

**ELIZABETH**

*(curtseying)*

Your Ladyship.

**LADY CATHERINE**

My, but you are a genteel, pretty kind of girl. You sit right here, next to me. I must get to know you better.

*(THEY sit)*

So Miss Bennet, have you any siblings?

**ELIZABETH**

I have four sisters.

**LADY CATHERINE**

What a pity. Are any of them likely to be married soon?

**ELIZABETH**

Not soon, I'm afraid.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Do you play and sing?

**ELIZABETH**

A little.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Then some time or other we shall be happy to hear you. Our instrument is a capital one. Do you draw?

**ELIZABETH**

No, not at all.

**LADY CATHERINE**

That is very strange. Has your governess left you?

**ELIZABETH**

We never had a governess.

**LADY CATHERINE**

I never heard of such a thing. Then who taught you? Who attended you? Without a governess, you must have been neglected.

**ELIZABETH**

Perhaps, but those who wished to learn never wanted the means.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Hmm. Are any of your younger sisters in society?

**ELIZABETH**

Yes, ma'am. All.

**LADY CATHERINE**

All? The younger ones out before the elder are married?

**ELIZABETH**

It would be very hard upon the younger sisters to not have their share of society because the elder may not have the means or inclination to marry early.

**LADY CATHERINE**

You give your opinion very decidedly for so young a person. Pray what is your age?

**ELIZABETH**

With three younger sisters grown up, your Ladyship can hardly expect me to tell it.

*(The SERVANT enters.)*

**SERVANT**

Mr. Darcy.

*(DARCY enters. ELIZABETH reacts. SERVANT exits)*

**LADY CATHERINE**

Ah, Darcy!

**DARCY**

Aunt Catherine.

*(to ANNE)*

Cousin.

**LADY CATHERINE**

You know Mr. and Mrs. Collins.

**DARCY**

Of course.

**MR. COLLINS**

An honor, sir, to again make your acquaintance.

*(to Elizabeth)*

Imagine my shock to learn that Mr. Darcy was Lady Catherine's nephew.

**LADY CATHERINE**

And this is..

**DARCY**

Miss Elizabeth.

**LADY CATHERINE**

You have met before? I would have thought it unlikely.

**DARCY**

Yes, during my stay at Netherfield.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Miss Bennet has promised to play the pianoforte for us. Perhaps now would be a good time.

*(ELIZABETH curtsies and goes to piano)*



**MR. COLLINS**

That reminds me. Lady Catherine, I must ask for your opinion regarding the hymns for services this week.

*(ELIZABETH begins to play)*

**LADY CATHERINE**

Of course. I know every hymn worth knowing.

*(DARCY walks over to the piano. LADY CATHERINE and COLLINS continue silently. DARCY stands nervously)*

**ELIZABETH**

*(after a pause)*

You mean to frighten me Mr. Darcy, but my courage always rises with every attempt to intimidate me.

**DARCY**

You could not really believe that I would try to alarm you. But I know you find great enjoyment in professing opinions which are not your own.

**ELIZABETH**

Only to witness the effect they have on others. *(pause)* Why do you not leave? It wasn't long ago you wouldn't dance with me and now I cannot rid myself of you.

**DARCY**

I had not, at that time, the honor of knowing any lady in the assembly beyond my own party, and I am ill qualified to recommend myself to strangers.

**ELIZABETH**

Why is that?

**DARCY**

I haven't the talent of conversing easily with those I have never met before.

**ELIZABETH**

My fingers do not move over this instrument in the masterly manner which I see others do, but then I could only blame myself because I would not take the trouble of practicing.

**DARCY**

You are perfectly right, though no one admitted to the privilege of hearing you could think anything wanting.

**LADY CATHERINE**

What are telling Miss Bennet, Darcy?

**DARCY**

We are speaking of music.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Then, pray, speak aloud! There are few people who enjoy music more than myself, or have a better natural taste. Anne would have been a great proficient if her health had allowed her to apply. Darcy, you have hardly said a word to your cousin.

**DARCY**

I beg your pardon. How is your health dear cousin?

**ANNE**

*(in a grating, nasal voice)*

I am well.

*(ANNE violently coughs)*

**LADY CATHERINE**

I often tell young ladies that no excellence in music is to be acquired without constant practice. Miss Bennet's playing is a bit...

*(SHE bangs on the piano. ELIZABETH stops.)*

noisy, but I am sure she would not play at all amiss if she practiced more.

**SERVANT**

Dinner is served.

*(The SERVANT exits. MR. COLLINS, CHARLOTTE exit. DARCY, ELIZABETH begin to exit together. LADY CATHERINE stops DARCY, gives him ANNE'S hand and motions them to exit together. THEY exit.)*

**LADY CATHERINE**

Miss Bennet, I am quite surprised you and my nephew had known each other before today, and rather well it seems.

**ELIZABETH**

I wouldn't say we know each other well.

**LADY CATHERINE**

And what do you think of him?

**ELIZABETH**

He is a complicated man.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Complicated! Yes, I suppose he is. He is a good man, Miss Bennet, and extremely good to his friends. In fact, I recently learned that he saved a very close friend, Mr. Bingley, from a most imprudent marriage. It is a comfort to know that Darcy is so perceptive and clear-headed.

*(ELIZABETH reacts as if hit by a truck)*

Miss Bennet, are you alright?

**ELIZABETH**

I'm sorry. I'm suddenly not feeling well. I must return to the house. Please forgive me.

*(ELIZABETH quickly exits. DARCY enters.)*

**DARCY**

Where is Miss Bennet?

**LADY CATHERINE**

She fell ill, poor thing. It must have been the long journey today. Come, Darcy.

*(THEY exit into the dining room)*

**SCENE 4**

*(A room in the Collins' home. ELIZABETH is upset and nervously paces.)*

**ELIZABETH**

I cannot believe it. Oh, Jane! Oh, that man! I never want to see him again!

*(A knock)*

Come in.

*(DARCY enters. HE shuts the door.)*

Mr. Darcy!

**DARCY**

*(nervously)*

I'm sorry to bother you. I came to enquire as to how you were feeling.

**ELIZABETH**

*(coldly)*

I am fine. *(after a pause)* Would you like to sit?

**DARCY**

Thank you.

*(DARCY sits, then nervously paces.)*

No, it will not do.

IN VAIN HAVE I STRUGGLED  
IT'S ALL FOR NAUGHT  
MY FEELINGS CANNOT BE REPRESSED  
AGAINST MY WILL, AGAINST MY REASON  
ALL I ONCE THOUGHT  
MY LOVE FOR YOU MUST NOW BE CONFESSED  
I HAVE ADMIRERD AND LOVED YOU  
ALMOST FROM THE MOMENT WE MET  
WHEN I SAW YOUR BEAUTIFUL EYES  
YOU WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO FORGET  
YES, I ADMIRE AND LOVE YOU  
THOUGH MY BETTER JUDGEMENT SHOULD BE OPPOSED  
YOUR INFERIORITY DOES NOT MATTER  
YOUR LOW CONNECTIONS, I DO NOT CARE  
TO THE WIND MY FORMER DREAMS I SCATTER  
THOUGH I MAY LOSE EVERYTHING, WHATE'ER!  
LET MY CHARACTER BE DAMNED!  
FOR I ADMIRE AND LOVE YOU  
YES, THIS ATTACHMENT IS SO STRONG  
IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO CONQUER  
I HAVE TRIED TO FOR SO VERY LONG  
SO I OPEN MY HEART TO YOU  
SO THAT YOU'LL UNDERSTAND  
PLEASE, LET IT BE REWARDED  
BY YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF MY HAND  
MARRY ME, ELIZABETH!  
MARRY ME AGAINST MY REASON  
THOUGH FOLLY IT MAY BE  
MARRY ME, MARRY ME, MARRY ME

**ELIZABETH**

If I could feel any gratitude for these avowed sentiments, I'd thank you. But I cannot. I've never desired your good opinion and you have bestowed it most unwillingly. If I have caused you pain it has been unconsciously done and I hope will be of short duration.

**DARCY**

And this is your reply! Perhaps I might be informed why, with so little endeavor at civility, I am thus rejected.

**ELIZABETH**

Perhaps you might inform me why, with so evident a design of insulting me, you chose to say that you liked me against your will, your reason and even your character? Was not this some excuse for incivility? But I have other reasons. Do you think I could accept the man who has ruined a beloved sister's happiness?

**DARCY**

I do not deny that I did everything in my power to separate my friend from your sister. Towards him I have been kinder than towards myself.

**ELIZABETH**

And what of Mr. Wickham?

**DARCY**

You take an eager interest in his concerns.

**ELIZABETH**

Who can help feeling an interest in him?

**DARCY**

*(contemptuously)*

Yes, his misfortunes have been great indeed.

**ELIZABETH**

And of your infliction!

**DARCY**

And this is your opinion of me! My faults, by this calculation, are heavy indeed, but perhaps they might have been overlooked had your pride not been hurt by my honesty. Could you really expect me to rejoice in the inferiority of your connections, not to mention your mother's total lack of propriety?

**ELIZABETH**

You are mistaken. You could not have made your offer in any possible way that would have tempted me to accept it. From the moment I met you, your arrogance and selfish disdain of others made it perfectly clear that you were the last man in the world whom I could ever be prevailed on to marry.

**DARCY**

You have said quite enough, madam. I perfectly comprehend your feelings and have now only to be ashamed of my own. Forgive me for having taken up so much of your time.

*(DARCY goes to exit, then stops and turns back)*

No. Two offences you have laid to my charge and I will not go without having defended myself. As to your sister, she appeared cheerful enough in Bingley's presence, but I did not witness the kind of love in her which I believe my friend deserves. So it was my assurance of her indifference that convinced him to stay in London. If I have wounded your sister's feelings, it was unknowingly done. With regard to your beloved Mr. Wickham...

*(WICKHAM enters)*

My father supported him at school, hoping the church would be his profession. But the viciousness and want of principle which he guarded from my father did not escape my notice. In my father's will, I was to promote Mr. Wickham's advancement in his career, and he was left one thousand pounds. Soon after his own father passed...

**WICKHAM**

Darcy, I've decided the church is not my calling after all. I think I rather might enjoy studying law but I'll need three thousand pounds, and soon.

*(DARCY hands WICKHAM money)*

**DARCY**

But his studying law was a pretense, and his life became one of idleness and dissipation. Three years later, destitute, he applied to me again.

**WICKHAM**

Darcy, my friend, I'm in a terrible state. If you would present me, I am resolved on being ordained.

**DARCY**

Given his behavior, you will hardly blame me for refusing. Then, about a year ago, my sister, only fifteen, went supervised to Ramsgate on holiday and there also went by design, Mr. Wickham.

*(GEORGIANA enters)*

**WICKHAM**

You do love me, Georgiana, don't you?

**GEORGIANA**

Yes.

**WICKHAM**

Then elope with me tomorrow!

*(GEORGIANA embraces WICKHAM. During the following, GEORGIANA runs to DARCY. WICKHAM angrily exits. GEORGIANA exits in the other direction.)*

**DARCY**

I joined them unexpectedly, confronted Mr. Wickham and he left the place immediately. His chief object, besides revenge, was unquestionably my sister's fortune, thirty thousand pounds. There, now you have the truth.

*(after a pause)*

Well, speechless, for once.

*(DARCY goes to exit then stops)*

Accept my best wishes for your health and happiness.

*(Darcy exits)*

**ELIZABETH**

How did I not see Mr. Wickham's treachery? Oh, this is terrible! And Jane! Have I been wrong about everything?

I DON'T KNOW MY HEART

I DON'T SEE WHAT'S RIGHT BEFORE ME

I HAVE ACTED SHAMEFULLY

MY CRUELTY A CRIME

I DON'T KNOW MY MIND

I, WHO PRIDE MYSELF ON INSTINCT

I'VE BEEN BLIND TO ALL THE SIGNS

MISREAD THE LINES EACH TIME

I THOUGHT I WAS SO SMART

BUT I DON'T KNOW MY HEART

AND NOW I'VE HURT THIS MAN UNFAIRLY

I CURSED HIS NAME BUT I WAS WRONG

THINGS AREN'T AS THEY APPEAR

NOW EVERYTHING IS CLEAR

I HEARD WHAT I CHOSE TO HEAR ALL ALONG

I DON'T KNOW MYSELF

WHAT A SHALLOW FOOL I'VE BEEN

FOOLED MYSELF RIGHT FROM THE START

I DON'T KNOW MY HEART

IF I HAVE CAUSE TO STILL ACCUSE HIM

ON JUST ONE CHARGE IS HE TO BLAME

AN IMPULSE TO DERIDE

A VICTIM OF HIS PRIDE  
AND I AM GUILTY OF THE SAME!  
GOOD OR EVIL, TRUTH OR LIES  
I CANNOT SEEM TO TELL THEM APART  
I DON'T KNOW MY HEART  
I DON'T KNOW MY HEART

*(Blackout)*

**SCENE 5**

*(ELIZABETH and JANE in their parlor.  
ELIZABETH goes through some mail.)*

**JANE**

Mr. Wickham this evil!

**ELIZABETH**

Should we make his character known to others?

**JANE**

I see no occasion for exposing him so dreadfully.

**ELIZABETH**

I agree. At present, let us say nothing. But you do not blame me for refusing Mr. Darcy?

**JANE**

Of course not!

**ELIZABETH**

*(as SHE opens a letter)*

I meant to be uncommonly clever in taking such a dislike to him. I did enjoy abusing him.

**JANE**

Lizzy!

**ELIZABETH**

*(looking at the letter)*

Oh! Our Aunt and Uncle ask me to accompany them on a tour of Derbyshire! I must write her immediately.

*(ELIZABETH goes to exit, but is stopped by the  
entrance of KITTY and MRS. BENNET)*



**KITTY**

Oh, but tell us about your visit. I hoped you would have got a husband before you came back.

**MRS. BENNET**

That's enough, Kitty. There are apparently no weddings to be had in this house.

**ELIZABETH**

Have you heard any news from Lydia?

**KITTY**

News? What do you mean?

**ELIZABETH**

I would have thought she would have written you.

**KITTY**

Oh, she has. Everything is fine. She's having a wonderful time...without me.

**ELIZABETH**

Well, I only hope she doesn't do anything foolish.

*(Lights up on LYDIA and WICKHAM.)*

**WICKHAM**

AND IT'S ALL DUE TO LOVELY YOU!  
You do love me Lydia, don't you?

**LYDIA**

Of course I do, Wicky!

**WICKHAM**

Then come away with me...tonight!

**LYDIA**

Yes! But what about Mary King?

**WICKHAM**

How could I care for that nasty little freckled thing when I have you?

**LYDIA**

But where shall we go?

**WICKHAM**

I have friends in London. Let us be off at once, my love!

**LYDIA**

WHAT CAN COMPARE TO LOVELY LONDON?!

*(LYDIA and WICKHAM exit. Blackout)*

**SCENE 6**

*(ELIZABETH and MR and MRS. GARDINER in the foyer of Pemberley.)*

**ELIZABETH**

It's very... large. Maybe we should leave.

**MRS. GARDINER**

But this is Pemberley, my dear. Would you not like to visit a place you've heard so much about?

**MR. GARDINER**

And the woman at the inn said Mr. Darcy was in London for the summer, so we won't be a bother to anyone.

**ELIZABETH**

Well, alright. I admit I am a bit curious.

*(ELIZABETH stands apart from the others.)*

HOW STRANGE THAT I'M HERE  
AFTER ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED  
AFTER ALL THAT I SAID  
WHY AM I SO ANXIOUS?  
SHE SAID THAT HE'S IN LONDON  
AND I'M SURE THAT HE'S IN LONDON  
OH, HE'D BETTER BE IN LONDON  
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF

*(MRS. REYNOLDS enters. ELIZABETH joins them.)*

**MRS. REYNOLDS**

Good morning and welcome to Pemberley. I am Mrs. Reynolds, the housekeeper. Please follow me into the dining parlor.

*(THEY follow MRS. REYNOLDS into a large, sumptuous dining room.)*

**ELIZABETH**

THIS IS AMAZING!  
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL HOME!

AND TO THINK I COULD HAVE...

**MR. GARDINER**

Your master is away, then?

**MRS. REYNOLDS**

Yes, but we expect him tomorrow with a large party of friends. This way.

*(THEY walk into a room with many drawings and paintings on the walls including one of Wickham and one of Darcy.)*

This room was my late master's favorite, and these portraits are just as they used to be then.

**MRS. GARDINER**

*(standing in front of the painting of Wickham.)*  
Elizabeth, look!

**ELIZABETH**

Oh, my!

**MRS. REYNOLDS**

That is the son of my late master's steward. He has gone into the army but I am afraid he has turned out very wild.

*(pointing out the picture of Darcy)*  
And that is my master, and very like him.

**MRS. GARDINER**

Lizzy, you can tell us if it his likeness or not.

**MRS. REYNOLDS**

Does the young lady know Mr. Darcy?

**ELIZABETH**

A little.

**MRS. REYNOLDS**

And do you not think him very handsome?

**ELIZABETH**

*(embarrassed)*

Yes.

**MR. GARDINER**

Is your master much at Pemberley?

**MRS. REYNOLDS**

Not so much as I could wish.

**MR. GARDINER**

If your master would marry, you might see more of him.

**MRS. REYNOLDS**

Yes, but I do not know who is good enough for him. He is the sweetest-tempered, most generous-hearted boy in the world. I have never had a cross word from him in my life and I have known him since he was four years old.

**ELIZABETH**

CAN THIS BE MISTER DARCY?

**MRS. REYNOLDS**

Some people call him proud but I'm sure I never saw anything of it. This way.

*(ALL exit except ELIZABETH, who continues to look at Darcy's portrait.)*

**ELIZABETH**

HER PRAISES FLOW WITHOUT RESTRAINT  
SHE GOES ON AS IF HE WERE A SAINT  
WHAT AN AMIABLE PICTURE DOES SHE PAINT OF THIS MAN  
OF THIS...

*(DARCY enters, a bit unkempt)*

Mr. Darcy!

**DARCY**

Miss Elizabeth! You are ...well?

**ELIZABETH**

I...believe so.

**DARCY**

And...your family...they are well?

**ELIZABETH**

My family...yes...thank you.

**DARCY**

So...you are visiting Derbyshire?

**ELIZABETH**

Yes.

**DARCY**

And when did you leave Longbourn?

**ELIZABETH**

Four days ago.

**DARCY**

And...you are visiting Derbyshire.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes...four days ago...we left.

**DARCY**

*(an awkward moment of silence)*

Excuse me.

*(DARCY exits.)*

**ELIZABETH**

HOW MORTIFYING!

I KNEW THIS WOULD BE A MISTAKE

WHAT MUST HE BE THINKING?

*(ELIZABETH runs and exits the house, joining the others.)*

**MRS. REYNOLDS**

I will leave you to wander at your leisure.

*(MRS. REYNOLDS exits into the house which rolls off.  
The OTHERS continue walking. DARCY enters, tidied up.)*

**DARCY**

I hope you are enjoying your walk.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes. It is delightful here.

**DARCY**

Would you do me the honor of introducing me to your friends?

**ELIZABETH**

Yes, of course. May I introduce Mr. Darcy. This is my mother's brother, Mr. Gardiner and my aunt, Mrs. Gardiner.

**DARCY**

It is a pleasure to meet you both.

**MR. GARDINER**

Likewise, Mr. Darcy.

**MRS. GARDINER**

A pleasure.

**DARCY**

May I walk with you? I would like to show you the grounds.

**MRS. GARDINER**

That would be delightful.

*(THEY walk, ELIZABETH slightly behind)*

**ELIZABETH**

SO CHARMING, SO KIND, SO CHANGED  
HOW GENTLE HIS TONE  
A SOUND I'VE NEVER KNOWN  
NO HINT OF HIS CRITICAL DRONE,  
BUT FRIENDLY. AMAZING.

**MRS. GARDINER**

Your home is simply beautiful.

**DARCY**

My father is responsible for most of the furnishings but I thank you just the same.

**ELIZABETH**

SO CHEERFUL, SO CALM, SO CHANGED  
ATTENTIVE, POLITE,  
HIS SMILE, WARM AND BRIGHT.  
I MUST SAY IT IS QUITE A SIGHT.

**DARCY**

*(to MR. GARDINER)*

Do you enjoy fishing?

**MR. GARDINER**

I do, indeed.

**DARCY**

Then you may fish as often as you like while you are here. I will be happy to supply the fishing tackle as well.

**MR. GARDINER**

Splendid! You are most kind.

**ELIZABETH**

IS IT FOR ME THAT HE HAS ALTERED HIMSELF?  
OH LIZZY, HOW SELFISH,  
THOUGH IT WOULD BE SUBLIME!  
BUT, HAS HE REALLY ALTERED HIMSELF  
OR AM I SEEING THIS MAN FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME?

*(MRS. GARDINER leans a bit on MR. GARDINER as THEY slowly walk. ELIZABETH and DARCY walk ahead of them.)*

**ELIZABETH**

I know how strange this must appear. My aunt and uncle wanted to see Pemberly and we were told that you would not be here till tomorrow.

**DARCY**

I'm sorry if I alarmed you. A party arrives tomorrow and business required my coming early. Mr. Bingley and his sister will be among them, as well as my sister Georgiana. May I introduce her to you during your stay?

**ELIZABETH**

Yes. I would be delighted to meet her.

**DARCY**

I have been trying to decide whether or not I should put an arbor over there near the window. What do you think?

**ELIZABETH**

I...think that would be lovely. You can't have too many arbors I always say.

**DARCY**

Then I shall do it.

**MR. GARDINER**

Lizzy, I believe the Missus is a bit tired and would like to return to the inn. Is that alright?

**ELIZABETH**

Yes, of course.

**MRS. GARDINER**

We thank you ever so much for your kindness, Mr. Darcy.

**DARCY**

It was my pleasure. I hope you will join us tomorrow for dinner.

**MRS. GARDINER**

Yes! That would be lovely.

**MR. GARDINER**

I thank you, sir.

**MRS. GARDINER**

*(whispering to MR. Gardiner as SHE and MR. GARDINER exit)*

And she told us he was so disagreeable.

**DARCY**

Until tomorrow.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes...thank you.

*(ELIZABETH starts to exit, then stops)*

SO GRACIOUS, SO GOOD, SO CHANGED

HE ASKS MY ADVICE, HE'S, DARE I SAY, NICE

SO PLEASANT, SO PLEASING, SO CHANGED

*(DARCY waves to Elizabeth. ELIZABETH waves and exits. Blackout)*

**SCENE 7**

*(A room at an inn. ELIZABETH sits at a desk writing a letter.)*

**ELIZABETH**

Jane, you wouldn't believe the change in Mr. Darcy. I hardly believe it myself.

*(A knock. SHE opens the door. A CHAMBERMAID holds a letter.)*

**CHAMBERMAID**

I have a letter for Miss Bennet.

**ELIZABETH**

Thank you.

*(ELIZABETH takes the letter. The CHAMBERMAID exits.)*

*ELIZABETH sits, reads, growing increasingly anxious.)*

Oh no! Oh Lydia, how could you be so foolish!



*(SHE stands and paces)*

I must get home at once! Oh, where is my uncle?

*(SHE runs to the door, opens it and sees DARCY.)*

Mr. Darcy! I beg your pardon, but I must find my uncle this moment! They went for a walk, and...

**DARCY**

Good God! Are you alright?

**ELIZABETH**

I've just received some dreadful news from Jane.

**DARCY**

Tell me please, if you wish.

**ELIZABETH**

Lydia and...and Mr. Wickham. They left Brighton together. Oh, had I only explained what I knew to my family!

**DARCY**

Is it absolutely certain?

**ELIZABETH**

They left Brighton on Sunday and were traced to London.

**DARCY**

And what has been done to recover her?

**ELIZABETH**

My father is gone to London and Jane begs my uncle's assistance. We shall be off shortly, I hope. We are ruined. Who will want to be connected with us after a scandal such as this?

**DARCY**

I will search for Mr. Gardiner immediately. I do wish for a happy conclusion to this matter and an end to your distress. You will send my good wishes to your family.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes. Thank you.

*(DARCY exits)*

Goodbye, Mr. Darcy.

*(Blackout)*

**SCENE 8**

*(Mrs. Bennet's bedroom. MRS. BENNET lies in bed, MARY, KITTY by her side)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Had we all gone to Brighton, this would not have happened. I'm sure there was some great neglect by the Forsters, for she's not the kind of girl to do such a thing. And now Mr. Bennet's left us, and I know he'll fight Wickham wherever he meets him and then he will be killed, and what's to become of us all? The Collinses will turn us out before he's cold in his grave. Oh, I'm frightened out of my wits. You see what this has done to me?

MY HEAD POUNDS, MY BACK ACHES  
MY STOMACH'S IN KNOTS, MY SKIN FLAKES  
MY TEETH HURT, I'M STARTING TO SWELL  
MY EYES ITCH! I'M NOT WELL  
I'M TREMBLING AND PRICKLY  
MY NECK IS ASKEW. I'M SICKLY  
I CANNOT CONTROL ALL OF MY FUNCTIONS  
I'M NOT WELL  
I CAN'T BREATHE, I COUGH TILL I'M BLUE  
CONSUMPTION AND TYPHOID AND MEASLES AND GOUT, TOO!  
MY BOTTOM IS BRUISED. I SWEAT BUT I SHIVER  
AND I'M CERTAIN THERE'S SOMETHING  
WRONG WITH MY LIVER!

*(Lights up on JANE, reading. ELIZABETH rushes in)*

**JANE**

Oh, thank goodness you've come!

**ELIZABETH**

Uncle will be here shortly. Have you heard from father?

**JANE**

Only once to say that he had arrived in safety.

**ELIZABETH**

Tell me everything. Did no one notice anything before they ran off?

**JANE**

According to Lydia's last letter to Kitty, they fell in love just after she arrived in Brighton.

**ELIZABETH**

So Kitty knew?

**JANE**

Lydia wrote her in confidence.

**ELIZABETH**

You know of course, that no one will want to be connected with our family because of this. Oh, had we told what we knew, this would not have happened!

**JANE**

Perhaps it would have been better.

**ELIZABETH**

And how is mother taking it?

*(MRS. BENNET screams. JANE, ELIZABETH run to her.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Lizzy! I'm so glad you are home!

**ELIZABETH**

How are you, mother?

*(a slight pause)*

**MRS. BENNET**

MY HEAD POUNDS  
MY BACK ACHES  
MY STOMACH'S IN KNOTS  
MY SKIN FLAKES  
MY TEETH HURT  
I'M STARTING TO SWELL  
MY EYES ITCH!  
I'M NOT WELL  
MY LUNGS WHEEZE  
I CAN'T HEAR  
I'M DYING, I'M SURE

*(to Elizabeth)*

FAREWELL, DEAR

I'M DIZZY, I'M NAUSEOUS,  
MY POOR HEART IS FAILING!  
HOW AM I? I'M AILING!

*(MRS. BENNET motions to KITTY to give her a mirror.)*

*SHE looks into the mirror, horrified.)*

And my hair is a mess!

**MARY/KITTY**

HER HEAD POUNDS  
HER BACK ACHES  
HER STOMACH'S IN KNOTS  
HER SKIN FLAKES  
HER TEETH HURT  
SHE'S STARTING TO SWELL  
THEY DO  
SHE'S NOT  
HER LUNGS WHEEZE  
SHE CAN'T HEAR  
SHE'S DYING, SHE IS

Oo

AH! I'M NOT WELL!

*(The GARDINERS enter the bedroom)*

Oh my dear brother, what shall we do?

**MR. GARDINER**

No need for useless alarm. As soon as I get to London, I'll consult with your husband as to what's to be done.

**MRS. BENNET**

And when you find them, if they're not already married, make them marry! And please keep Mr. Bennet from fighting!

**MARY**

This is a most unfortunate affair and will be much talked of. But we must stem the tide of malice and pour into the wounded bosoms of each other the balm of sisterly affection as we draw from it this useful lesson: that loss of virtue in a female is irretrievable, that one false step involves her in endless ruin and that she cannot be too guarded in her behavior towards the undeserving of the other sex.

**MR. GARDINER**

*(after a beat)*

Well, we are setting off. I promise to send word as soon as I learn of anything.

*(The GARDINERS exit. The house rolls off as the CHORUS enters.)*

**CHORUS WOMEN**

THAT EVIL MISTER WICKHAM! SEDUCER!

**CHORUS MEN**

DECEIVER!

**CHORUS**

THAT SILLY, LITTLE LYDIA

**CHORUS MEN**

A FLIRT

**CHORUS WOMEN**

MORE LIKE A WENCH!

**CHORUS MEN**

I NEVER THOUGHT HIM HONEST

**CHORUS WOMEN**

SO CHARMING, THE DEVIL!

**CHORUS**

AND NOW THEY LIVE IN SIN  
YOU'D THINK THE BOTH OF THEM WERE FRENCH!

**SCENE 9A**

*(The CHORUS exits as lights come up on MR.BENNET sadly standing outside the house. ELIZABETH and JANE enter.)*

**ELIZABETH**

Dear father, what you must be going through.

**MR. BENNET**

I should have listened to you both. I should have never let her go.

**JANE**

You mustn't be so hard on yourself.

**MR. BENNET**

Mustn't I? Well it is good to be home. I'm too old to be gallivanting around London. Your uncle will do better.

*(The SERVANT runs in with a letter.)*

**SERVANT**

A letter for you, sir.

**MR. BENNET**

Thank you.

*(HE takes the letter. The SERVANT exits. MR. BENNET opens the letter and reads it.)*

It is from your uncle.

**JANE**

Is it good news?

**MR. BENNET**

What good is to be expected? He has found them..

**JANE**

And are they married?

**MR. BENNET**

There are some financial particulars he asks of me and then he says they will be. I must write and give him my consent.

**JANE**

That's wonderful!

**MR. BENNET**

He also says that Wickham's gambling debts of more than ten thousand pounds will be paid and that even then, there will be some money left.

**JANE**

A gamester!

**MR. BENNET**

I would like to know how much money your uncle has laid down, and how I am ever to pay him.

*(MR. BENNET, ELIZABETH and JANE exit as the CHORUS enters)*

**CHORUS WOMEN**

THAT CRAFTY MISTER WICKHAM! THE RASCAL!

**CHORUS MEN**

THE CHEATER

**CHORUS**

HE'LL ONLY COME TO NOTHING,  
SO WHAT DOES SHE SEE IN HIM?

**CHORUS MEN**

SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN SO FOOLISH

**CHORUS WOMEN**

SO CRAZY FOR SOLDIERS

**CHORUS**

BUT THEN, LOOK AT HER MOTHER  
IT'S NO SHOCK THAT THINGS ARE GRIM

**SCENE 9B**

*(The CHORUS exits as lights come up on MRS. BENNET lying in bed. ELIZABETH and JANE enter.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Married!

*(SHE jumps out of bed)*

My dear, dear Lydia! Oh my good, kind brother! I knew he would manage everything! How I long to see her, and dear Wickham too! But the wedding clothes!

**ELIZABETH**

Mother, do not forget our uncle's kindness. We believe he has assisted Mr. Wickham with money.

**MRS. BENNET**

Well, who should do it but her uncle? It's the first time we have ever had anything from him except a few presents.

*(running as ELIZABETH and JANE exit)*

Mr. Bennet! Mr. Bennet!

*(MR. BENNET enters)*

I have just received the good news!

**MR. BENNET**

And I have just written to your brother.

**MRS. BENNET**

Then it's settled! Oh just think, our Lydia married! We must search for a house for them nearby.

**MR. BENNET**

Very well, but let us come to a right understanding. Into this house they shall never have admittance.

**MRS. BENNET**

But she's our daughter! And what of money for her wedding clothes?

**MR. BENNET**

I'll not advance a single guinea for her clothes. She'll receive no mark of affection from me on this occasion.

*(MR. BENNET stomps off. MRS. BENNET follows as the CHORUS enters)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Mr. Bennet!

**CHORUS**

HOW NICE FOR LITTLE LYDIA

**CHORUS WOMEN**

THE DARLING!

**CHORUS**

NOW MARRIED! THE BENNETS MUST BE BEAMING

**SOLO WOMAN**

SHE'S A DEAR, I'VE ALWAYS SAID

**CHORUS**

THERE'LL BE A CELEBRATION, I HOPE WE'RE INVITED  
AND SO, THE YOUNGEST BENNET  
BECOMES THE FIRST ONE TO BE....

**SCENE 9C**

*(The Bennet's sitting room. Offstage we hear LYDIA laugh. The CHORUS exits. ELIZABETH, JANE, MR. BENNET, KITTY, MARY enter.)*

**MR. BENNET**

The sooner we get this over with, the better.

*(LYDIA enters, followed by WICKHAM, carrying several suitcases. MRS. BENNET rushes in.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

My Lydia! Married! Mr. Wickham! Oh, I wish you both joy!

**WICKHAM**

Thank you...mother.

*(The SERVANT enters and exits with the baggage)*

**LYDIA**

Papa! See! Aren't you glad you let me go to Brighton? Now my sisters must all congratulate us!

**ELIZABETH, JANE, KITTY, MARY**

*(half-heartedly and not quite together)*

Congratulations.

**MRS. BENNET**

Well, let us all sit down.

*(ALL sit)*



**ELIZABETH**

So what will you do now...now that you are married?

**LYDIA**

Well, Wickham has quit the militia and will be going into the Regulars. We're to be quartered in the north.

**MRS. BENNET**

The north? I had expected you to be settled nearby.

**LYDIA**

You must come and see us. And if one or two of my sisters stay behind, I dare say I shall get husbands for them.

**ELIZABETH**

I thank you, but I do not particularly like your way of getting husbands. Excuse me.

*(ELIZABETH gets up, angrily crossing outside)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Oh, but do tell us about the wedding!

*(Lights down on everyone but Elizabeth. WICKHAM crosses to Elizabeth.)*

**WICKHAM**

Dear sister?

**ELIZABETH**

What do you want?

**WICKHAM**

Come, we were always good friends, and now we are better.

*(pause)*

I understand from the Gardiners that you had seen Darcy while you were at Lambton.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes. I must say Mr. Darcy improves upon acquaintance.

**WICKHAM**

Really? I ought to have settled near there had I taken a life in the church. How happy I would have been.

**ELIZABETH**

I have heard that sermon-making was not always so palatable to you as it seems to be at present.

**WICKHAM**

Yes, I admit...

**ELIZABETH**

And that you resolved of never taking orders and that even still, you had been compensated accordingly.

**WICKHAM**

Well...

**ELIZABETH**

Come Mr. Wickham, we are brother and sister now. Do not let us quarrel about the past.

*(SHE gives him her hand. HE kisses it and exits. JANE and LYDIA cross to Elizabeth.)*

**LYDIA**

Lizzy, you did not hear an account of my wedding. Are you not curious to hear how it was managed?

**ELIZABETH**

No. I think there cannot be too little said on the subject.

**LYDIA**

La! Well, it was settled that we should marry at St. Clement's at eleven o'clock. The morning came and I was so afraid that something would happen to put it off, and just as the carriage came to the door, uncle was called away on business. Well, I did not know what to do, for he was to give me away, but luckily, he soon came back and then we all set out. I don't know why I was worried though, for Mr. Darcy might have done as well.

**ELIZABETH**

Mr. Darcy?

**LYDIA**

Oh yes! He was... But I quite forgot! It was to be a secret! I promised them so faithfully!

**JANE**

If it was to be a secret, say not another word. You may depend upon us seeking no further, right Lizzy?

**LYDIA**

Thank you, for if you did, I should certainly tell you all.

**JANE**

*(taking Lydia's arm and leading her away)*

Well, we will not let that happen...

*(back to Lizzy as they exit)*

Will we?

**ELIZABETH**

Right...yes...of course.

*(An idea forms in her head. Blackout)*

**SCENE 10**

*(Lights up on ELIZABETH reading a letter and MRS.GARDINER on the other side of the stage.)*

**MRS. GARDINER**

I've now told you everything. Mr. Darcy found them, persuaded them to marry and settled all of the financial matters. He blamed himself that Wickham's worthlessness had not been known, and wanted to remedy an evil which he felt responsible for. I must add that he has been so kind to us throughout this ordeal. He wants nothing but a little more liveliness, which a suitable wife, dare I say, someone like yourself may teach him.

*(lights off MRS. GARDINER)*

**ELIZABETH**

No, he could not have done it for me. Or... Oh my!

*(Blackout)*

**SCENE 11**

*(MR. BENNET reads in the sitting room. MRS.BENNET runs on. JANE and ELIZABETH walk by, overhearing them.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Mr. Bennet! Mr. Bennet! Have you heard? Mr. Bingley has come back to Netherfield!

*(suddenly downplaying it)*

Not that we should care about it though. I am sure I never want to see him again.

*(trying to hide her excitement)*

You'll visit him, of course.

**MR. BENNET**

If he wants our society he knows where we live.

*(MRS. BENNET sits. ELIZABETH smiles at JANE.)*

**JANE**

Why do you look at me, Lizzy? I assure you that this news does not affect me either with pleasure or pain.

*(BINGLEY approaches the house. KITTY rushes in followed by MARY)*

**KITTY**

Mr. Bingley has come!

*(THE DAUGHTERS quickly sit and pretend to keep themselves busy. BINGLEY knocks on the front door. The SERVANT enters, answers the door and lets BINGLEY in.)*

**SERVANT**

Mr. Bingley.

*(ALL stand)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Mr. Bingley! Welcome!

**BINGLEY**

Thank you, ma'am.

*(bowing to each who curtsies after her name.)*

Mr. Bennet. Miss Elizabeth. Kitty, Mary. Jane.

**MRS. BENNET**

Well, come in, come in. Please sit.

*(JANE and BINGLEY sit together. Much curious glancing between ELIZABETH, JANE and BINGLEY.)*

You are well?

**BINGLEY**

I am, thank you.

**MRS. BENNET**

And your sister is well?

**BINGLEY**

She is. And you are all well?

**MRS. BENNET, ET AL...** (*ad libbing*)

Oh, yes. Quite well,...etc.

**MR. BENNET**

I am glad everyone is well. If you will excuse me. Mr. Bingley.

*(MR. BENNET exits)*

**ELIZABETH**

How long will you be staying in the country?

**BINGLEY**

A few weeks, I believe. Jane, you are looking well.

**JANE**

Thank you, Mr. Bingley.

**MARY**

If you will excuse me, I must continue my studies.

**BINGLEY**

Of course.

*(MARY exits)*

Have you been to any balls since I went away?

**MRS. BENNET**

Not one. Yours was the last, and what a fine ball it was.

**BINGLEY**

I had a wonderful time that evening, as well.

**JANE**

I confess, I had never danced so much in all my life!

**BINGLEY**

And such pleasant dances they were!

*(MRS. BENNET winks at KITTY and ELIZABETH.)*

**KITTY**

What is the matter? Why do you keep winking at me?

**MRS. BENNET**

Nothing child, nothing. I did not wink at you.

*(MRS. BENNET winks again, then stands.)*

Come here my love, I want to speak to you.

*(MRS. BENNET grabs KITTY. THEY exit. The door opens and MRS. BENNET pokes her head out.)*

**ELIZABETH**

Excuse me.

*(ELIZABETH exits)*

**BINGLEY**

We are alone, it seems.

**JANE**

Yes.

**BINGLEY**

Jane, I owe you an apology for having left so suddenly last winter and without a word to you. It was very unkind of me.

**JANE**

It was so unexpected.

**BINGLEY**

You must believe me when I tell you it was only my being persuaded of your indifference that kept me from returning.

**JANE**

Indifference?

**BINGLEY**

Yes, but recently I learned the person was quite mistaken.

**JANE**

Yes, they were. What I felt was anything but indifference.

**BINGLEY**

Truly? And do you still feel it - this feeling that is anything but indifference?

**JANE**

Yes. Very much.

**BINGLEY**

I do as well! Oh, how I wanted to see you these last months! Will you ever forgive me?

**JANE**

I already have.

**BINGLEY**

I think so very often of the day we met. I saw you and thought to myself, I must dance with her!

**JANE**

Is that when you knew...this...feeling? When you saw me?

**BINGLEY**

Not right then, but soon after; when we went to dance.  
THE WAY YOU TOOK MY HAND  
SO KIND AND GENTLE, SO AT EASE  
SO SURE AND YET AS LIGHT AS AIR

**JANE**

AS IF SILENTLY SAYING "PLEASE"

**BINGLEY**

Dear, sweet Jane, make me the happiest man in the world.  
Marry me!

**JANE**

Yes!

**BINGLEY/JANE**

AND I KNOW THAT I WILL LOVE YOU TILL FOREVER

*(ELIZABETH enters, sees JANE and BINGLEY holding hands. THEY drop them.)*

**BINGLEY**

*(to Jane)*

I must speak to your father.

*(HE exits)*

**JANE**

'Tis too much! By far too much!

*(JANE runs to ELIZABETH and hugs her.)*

I do not deserve it. Oh, why is not everybody as happy?

**ELIZABETH**

You are the most deserving creature that ever lived! My dear, sweet sister! I am so happy for you!

**JANE**

I must go to mother. Oh Lizzy, how shall I bear so much happiness!

*(JANE runs out.)*

**ELIZABETH**

Well, I'm glad that is finally settled! Mr. Darcy, is this your doing as well?

**MRS. BENNET**

*(screaming from upstairs)*

Ah! My dear Jane! I always knew it would happen! Does this mean he will be staying for dinner?

*(JANE and BINGLEY enter from different sides of the stage, take each other's hands and run out. Blackout)*

**SCENE 12**

*(Lights up on LADY CATHERINE and ELIZABETH in front of the Bennet's house.)*

**ELIZABETH**

Lady Catherine!

**LADY CATHERINE**

Miss Bennet. I assume you understand the reason for my coming.

**ELIZABETH**

No, I cannot account at all for the honor of your visit.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Miss Bennet, I am not to be trifled with. I recently received a most alarming report, that not only was your sister to be most advantageously married, but that you would be soon united to my nephew, Mr. Darcy. Though I know it must be a scandalous falsehood, I instantly resolved on making my sentiments known to you.



**ELIZABETH**

If you believed it impossible, why did you take the trouble of coming so far?

**LADY CATHERINE**

To insist upon having it contradicted.

**ELIZABETH**

Your coming here is rather a confirmation of it if, indeed, such a report exists.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Do you not know that this report has been spread abroad?

**ELIZABETH**

No, I do not.

**LADY CATHERINE**

And can you declare that there is no foundation for it?

**ELIZABETH**

I do not pretend to possess your frankness.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Miss Bennet, has my nephew made you an offer of marriage?

**ELIZABETH**

You Ladyship has declared it impossible.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Headstrong girl, I am almost the nearest relation he has in the world and I am entitled to know his dearest concerns.

**ELIZABETH**

But you are not entitled to know mine.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Let me be rightly understood. This match must never take place. From their infancy, Mr. Darcy and my daughter have been intended for each other. And now, to be prevented by a woman of inferior birth, of no importance in the world and wholly unallied to the family!

**ELIZABETH**

Whatever my connections may be, if your nephew does not object to them, they can be nothing to you.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Tell me once and for all, are you engaged to him?

**ELIZABETH**

I am not.

**LADY CATHERINE**

And will you promise never to enter into such an engagement?

**ELIZABETH**

I will make no promise of the kind.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Miss Bennet, I shall not leave till you have given me the assurance I require.

**ELIZABETH**

And I shall never give it.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Heaven and earth, what are you thinking? Are the shades of Pemberley thus to be polluted?

**ELIZABETH**

You can now have nothing further to say. You have insulted me in every possible method. I must return to the house.

**LADY CATHERINE**

You are then resolved to have him?

**ELIZABETH**

I am resolved to act in a manner which will constitute my happiness without reference to you.

**LADY CATHERINE**

Very well. Do not imagine that your ambition will ever be gratified.

*(SHE turns, begins to walk away, then turns back)*

I take no leave of you, Miss Bennet. I send no compliments to your mother. You deserve no such attention.

*(LADY CATHERINE exits)*

**ELIZABETH**

Oh, that woman!

*(SHE turns to enter the house, but stops)*

WHAT COULD THIS MEAN, THIS RUMOR?

AND FROM WHOM DID IT START?

COULD IT BE TRUE?

Does he mean to...? Oh, God!

*(Blackout)*

### **SCENE 13**

*(ELIZABETH and JANE walk outside)*

**JANE**

Would you believe when he went to London he really loved me and nothing but a persuasion of my indifference prevented his returning? It must have been his sister's doing.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes, I'm sure it was.

**JANE**

But when she sees him happy she will learn to be content, though we can never be what we once were to each other.

**ELIZABETH**

That is the most unforgiving speech I ever heard you utter!

*(BINGLEY and DARCY enter.)*

**BINGLEY**

Good morning. Elizabeth, you remember Mr. Darcy.

**ELIZABETH**

Yes, of course.

**JANE**

Would you like to come into the house?

**BINGLEY**

It's a lovely morning. I propose we go for a walk.

**ELIZABETH**

That is a splendid idea.

*(The 4 walk a bit)*

**BINGLEY**

Jane, it looks quite beautiful down the hill there. We will see you both later.

*(BINGLEY and JANE run off)*

**ELIZABETH**

*(after a moment)*

It certainly is a lovely morning.

**DARCY**

Yes, it is. Very...very lovely.

*(to himself)*

HOW TO EXPRESS MYSELF?

WHERE TO BEGIN?

MY THOUGHTS ARE A JUMBLE

I BARELY CAN MUMBLE

*(HE smiles at her again)*

AND WIPE OFF THAT SICKENING GRIN

TELL HER HOW I FEEL, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

*(HE tries unsuccessfully to speak)*

**ELIZABETH**

*(to herself)*

WHAT IS HE THINKING?

WHY DOES HE NOT SPEAK?

THERE'S MUCH I COULD SAY,

BUT MAYBE TODAY

I'D DO BETTER TO PLAY SHY AND MEEK

No, he'll never believe that.

**DARCY**

I'm sorry?

**ELIZABETH**

Oh, nothing.

*(to herself)*

TELL HIM HOW I FEEL BEFORE IT'S TOO...

Mr. Darcy, I hope I am not wounding your feelings by saying this, but I must thank you for your kindness to Lydia. Ever since I have known of it, I have been anxious to tell you how grateful I am. Were it known to the rest of my family I should not have merely my own gratitude to express.

**DARCY**

I did not think the Gardiners were so little to be trusted.

**ELIZABETH**

You must not blame them. Lydia betrayed to me that you had been concerned in the matter and, of course I could not rest till I knew everything. I thank you in the name of all my family for taking so much trouble to discover them.

**DARCY**

If you will thank me, let it be for yourself alone. Much as I respect your family, I believe I thought only of you.

**ELIZABETH**

Of me?

**DARCY**

Yes. I spoke to Lady Catherine the other day.

**ELIZABETH**

Oh dear.

**DARCY**

Her report of her conversation with you gave me the courage to come here today.

**ELIZABETH**

I see.

**DARCY**

You are too generous to trifle with me. If your feelings are still what they were, tell me so at once. My feelings are unchanged, but one word from you will silence me on this subject forever. Elizabeth, will you marry me?

**ELIZABETH**

*(after a pause)*

My feelings have undergone such a change since then. Now I..

NOW I KNOW MY HEART

NOW I SEE WHAT'S RIGHT BEFORE ME

Yes! With gratitude and pleasure - yes!

**DARCY**

*(embracing ELIZABETH)*

Oh, Elizabeth! Dearest, loveliest Elizabeth!

*(HE lets go of her, turns and takes a few steps away.)*

**ELIZABETH**

Mr. Darcy?

**DARCY**

HOW COULD I HAVE SAID THE HURTFUL WORDS I SAID?  
HOW COULD I HAVE TREATED YOU UNKINDLY?  
HOW COULD I NOT SEE THE WOMAN I NOW SEE?  
HOW COULD I HAVE GONE THROUGH LIFE SO BLINDLY?  
YOU HAVE BEEN MY MIRROR  
YOU HAVE SHATTERED MY DISGUISE  
YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO OPEN UP MY EYES  
NOW YOU ARE ALL I SEE, ALL I COULD HAVE DREAMED  
ALL I'LL EVER NEED IS HERE BEFORE ME  
YOU GAVE ME THE CHANCE, THE CHANCE TO BE REDEEMED  
NOW I SEE WHAT'S WONDERFUL, WHAT'S TRUE  
ALL I SEE IS YOU

**ELIZABETH**

LET US PUT ASIDE OUR FOOLISHNESS, OUR PRIDE  
WE HAVE NO MORE NEED OF OUR DEFENCES  
NOW WE HAVE A LOVE THAT NOTHING CAN DIVIDE  
NOW, AT LAST, WE'VE BOTH COME TO OUR SENSES  
STRANGE, HOW FIRST IMPRESSIONS  
CAN DECEIVE US FOR A WHILE  
FOR NOW I SEE A MAN WHO MAKES ME SMILE  
YES, YOU ARE ALL I SEE, MY SOUL'S PERFECT MATE  
ALL MY HEART'S DESIRE IS HERE BEFORE ME  
LOVE TOOK ITS TIME, BUT YOU WERE WORTH THE WAIT  
ALL I SEE IS GOODNESS THROUGH AND THROUGH  
ALL I SEE IS YOU

**DARCY**

TO FEEL YOUR TOUCH,  
TO FINALLY HOLD YOU IN MY ARMS

**ELIZABETH**

TO FEEL YOUR LOVING ARMS AROUND ME

**DARCY**

TO SPEND A LIFETIME GAZING IN THOSE LOVELY EYES

**DARCY**

SEEING INTO YOUR SOUL  
A HEART, WARM AND KIND  
A LIFE FULL OF JOY  
A LOVE, PURE AND STRONG

**ELIZABETH**

I FOUND A MAN WHO HAS WIT  
I FOUND A MAN WHO IS SMART  
WHO IS MY EQUAL  
WHO LOVES, PURE AND STRONG

**DARCY/ELIZABETH**

I DON'T WANT TO MOVE, TO BLINK OR LOOK AWAY  
LET THIS MOMENT LAST A LITTLE LONGER

I DON'T WANT THIS SMILE TO SKIP A SINGLE DAY  
I JUST WANT THIS FEELING TO GROW STRONGER

**DARCY**

I COULD NOT IMAGINE  
WHO COULD LOVE THIS JADED HEART  
NOW I CAN NOT IMAGINE US APART

**ELIZABETH**

I COULDN'T SEE  
LOVE WAS STANDING  
RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME

**DARCY/ELIZABETH**

NOW YOU ARE ALL I SEE, EVERY BREATH I TAKE  
I CAN FACE THE WORLD WITH YOU BESIDE ME  
IT'S YOU I WANT TO SEE EACH MORNING WHEN I WAKE

**DARCY**

FOR ALL I SEE IS BEAUTIFUL

**ELIZABETH**

AND ALL I SEE IS HAPPINESS

**DARCY/ELIZABETH**

AND EVERYTHING EXCITING AND NEW  
FOR ALL I WANT AND ALL I NEED, AND ALL I SEE  
IS YOU!

*(JANE enters)*

**JANE**

Engaged to Mr. Darcy! I know how much you dislike him.

**ELIZABETH**

That is all to be forgot.

*(MR. BENNET enters)*

**MR. BENNET**

I am shocked, to say the least. Such a proud, unpleasant  
sort of man, but, if you really liked him...

**ELIZABETH**

I do like him. I love him.

*(MRS. BENNET enters, followed by the COMPANY)*

**MRS. BENNET**

Good gracious! Mr. Darcy! Who would have thought it? Oh, my  
sweetest Lizzy! How rich and great you will be! And such a  
charming man! Oh, pray apologize for my having disliked him

so much before. Oh, a house in town! Everything that is charming! Three daughters married! What will become of me!?

**COMPANY WOMEN (except ELIZABETH and JANE)**

EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL      **COMPANY MEN (except DARCY and BINGLEY)**

EVERYTHING WONDERFUL

EVERYTHING GLORIOUS

EVERYTHING RAPTUROUS

**COMPANY (except the 2 couples)**

ALL THAT IS LOVELY

AND ALL THAT IS CHARMING

**ELIZABETH, JANE, DARCY, BINGLEY**

AND ALL THAT IS PLEASING

ALL I WANT

AND ALL THAT IS THRILLING

ENCHANTING, BEWITCHING

AND ALL I NEED

ENTRANCING, ALLURING

AND ALL I SEE...

AND ALL I SEE...

*(Bells are heard.)*

**MRS. BENNET**

*(hitting Mr. Bennet on the arm)*

See, I told you I was hearing wedding bells.

**MR. BENNET**

*(delayed reaction)*

Ouch.

**THE FULL COMPANY**

...IS LOVE! LOVE! LOVE!

**THE END**