



傲慢與 THE TURN OF THE SCREW 偏見

—
Jane Austen

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

For the Student

- 👂 Listen to the story and do some activities on your Audio CD.
- 🗣️ Talk about the story.
- ★ Prepare for Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) for schools.

For the Teacher

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Level 5 Structures

Modal verb would	Non-defining relative clauses
I'd love to . . .	Present perfect continuous
Future continuous	Used to / would
Present perfect future	Used to / used to doing
Reported speech / verbs / questions	Second conditional
Past perfect	Expressing wishes and regrets
Defining relative clauses	

Structures from other levels are also included.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jane Austen was born in December 1775. Her father was George Austen, a **vicar**¹ and her mother was called Cassandra. She had seven brothers and sisters, and she was the second youngest. The Austens lived in Steventon in Hampshire, and they were a happy, well-educated and affectionate² family. Jane and her sister, called Cassandra like her mother, were very close, and much of what we know about Jane Austen comes from her letters to Cassandra.

Jane Austen began to write stories and sketches for her family when she was twelve years old. When she was a teenager, she was determined³ to be a published author.



In all her novels, Jane Austen wrote about marriage, but she never married herself. Around Jane's twentieth birthday, she fell in love with Tom Lefroy, a young law student. They met when he was visiting relatives⁴ in Hampshire. During his short visit, they spent a lot of time together but his family did not allow them to be together because Jane was not from a wealthy⁵ family. He went back to London to study, and two years later, he married the sister of a fellow student.

Jane Austen wrote her six great novels in seven years. *Sense and Sensibility* in 1811; *Pride and Prejudice* in 1813; *Mansfield Park* in 1814; *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, were published in 1817 after her death. They were all published anonymously⁶, but it became known that she was the author. In 1816, Jane became ill. She traveled to Winchester to see a doctor, and she died there on the 18th July 1817. She is buried at Winchester Cathedral.

- 1 vicar ['vɪkə] (n.) (英國國教) 教區牧師
- 2 affectionate [ə'fekʃənɪt] (a.) 溫柔親切的
- 3 determined [dɪ'tɜːmɪnd] (a.) 已下決心的
- 4 relative ['relatɪv] (n.) 親戚
- 5 wealthy ['welθɪ] (a.) 富有的
- 6 anonymously [ə'nɒnəməslɪ] (adv.) 匿名地

ABOUT THE BOOK

Pride and Prejudice was first written between October 1796 and August 1797 and it was called *First Impressions*. It wasn't published, however, until 1813. It was Jane Austen's second novel. She was twenty-one years old when she first wrote it. It is still one of the most popular novels in English literature and it has sold more than 20 million copies. *Pride and Prejudice* was published anonymously and was credited¹ to the author of *Sense and Sensibility*.

Pride and Prejudice is a story of life and love in England in the 1800s. The story is about Mr. and Mrs. Bennet and their five unmarried daughters. Mrs. Bennet's main

purpose² in life is to see her five daughters married. Consequently, she is very happy when a handsome rich gentleman arrives in the neighborhood, and he falls in love with her eldest daughter Jane. However, when her sister, the clever and witty³ Elizabeth Bennet first meets his handsome and wealthier friend, Mr. Darcy, she dislikes him. And that is the beginning of their wonderful love story. In order for them to fall in love, his pride⁴ and her prejudice⁵ must be overcome. About Elizabeth, Jane Austen wrote in a letter:

"I must confess⁶ that I think her as delightful⁷ a creature⁸ as ever appeared in print, and how I shall be able to tolerate⁹ those who do not like her at least I do not know."

- ¹ credit ['kredit] (v.) 把……歸於
- ² purpose ['pʊps] (n.) 目的
- ³ witty ['wɪti] (a.) 機智的；詼諧的
- ⁴ pride [praɪd] (n.) 驕傲
- ⁵ prejudice ['preɪdʒɪs] (n.) 偏見
- ⁶ confess [kən'fɪs] (v.) 坦承
- ⁷ delightful [dɪ'laɪtɪfəl] (a.) 令人愉快的
- ⁸ creature ['kri:tʃə] (n.) 生物；產物
- ⁹ tolerate ['tɒlə'reɪt] (v.) 容忍；寬恕



BEFORE
READING

- 1 What do you know about the novel *Pride and Prejudice*?
Tick (✓) true (T) or false (F).

- T F a The novel is a romance.
T F b The story takes place in Paris.
T F c It was first published in 1913.
T F d *Pride and Prejudice* was the author's first novel.
T F e The author was a woman.
T F f The central theme of the novel is love and marriage.

- 2 These things are often found in Jane Austen's novels.
Match them to the pictures.

- 1 vicar 4 estate
2 housekeeper 5 ball
3 officer 6 carriage



- 3 Read the passage and then answer the questions.

Mr. Darcy was the main topic of conversation. "Mrs. Long told me that he sat next to her for half an hour without speaking," said Mrs. Bennet. "Miss Bingley told me," said Jane, "that he never speaks much, unless with his close friends. With *them* he's very friendly."

"I don't believe a word of it, my dear. Everybody says he's very proud," said Mrs. Bennet. "I don't mind him not talking to Mrs. Long," said Charlotte, "but I mind him not dancing with Elizabeth."

"Another time, Lizzy," said her mother, "don't dance with *him*."

"I think, I can promise never to dance with him," said Elizabeth.

"His pride," said Charlotte Lucas, "doesn't upset *me*. You can't blame a wealthy man, from a good family for being proud."

"That's very true," replied Elizabeth, "and I could easily forgive *his* pride, if he hadn't insulted *mine*."

"Pride," said Mary, "is a very common weakness."

There are very few of us who don't feel pride over one thing or another."



- a When is Mr. Darcy friendly?
- b How has Mr. Darcy upset Charlotte?
- c What does Charlotte think about Mr. Darcy's pride? Tick (✓).
- ___ ① She doesn't think he has anything to be proud about.
- ___ ② She feels he has a right to be proud.
- d What does Elizabeth promise? Do you think she will keep her promise?
- e There are two very different opinions of Mr. Darcy in the dialogue. What are they?

4 Read the descriptions of the characters. Try and guess which man each of the Bennet sisters will marry.



Jane Bennet

She is the eldest and the most beautiful of all the Bennet sisters. She is modest, generous and kind and she sees the good in everybody. She is the first of the sisters to fall in love, but she nearly loses the man she loves because she doesn't show that she loves him.

Elizabeth Bennet

She is the second-eldest sister, and she is her father's favorite daughter. She has dark hair and dark brown eyes. She is considered pretty but it is her character that attracts her husband in the end. She is intelligent and witty and she is very independent. She believes that she is a good judge of character but she finds out that she isn't.



Lydia Bennet

She is the youngest of the five sisters, and she is her mother's favorite daughter. She is in fact a younger version of her mother. In the story, she is sixteen years old, and she is silly and romantic. Her parents give her too much freedom. She is very loud and very confident. Her one wish in life is to meet and marry a handsome young officer.



Mr. Wickham

He is a friendly, charming, good-looking young officer. He charms all the ladies with his good looks, his stylish uniform and his friendly personality. He has no money himself, and his one wish in life is to marry a wealthy girl.



Mr. Bingley

He is good-looking and wealthy. He is also very kind and generous. He never says a bad word about anyone and he defends the Bennet sisters when his own sisters criticize them. He doesn't care that the girl he loves isn't from a wealthy family. He is happy to marry for love.



Mr. Darcy

He is very wealthy and good-looking and he is proud of his family's beautiful house and high position in society. He believes that you should marry someone from the same social class. He is shy, and at first he appears arrogant and proud. He doesn't find it easy to talk to people.

- 5 Underline all the adjectives used in Exercise 4. Then look for the adjectives which mean the following to complete the table.

amuses people and says things people find funny	
thinks often about love	
is able to make everybody like him/her	
isn't proud	
is rich	



- 6 These verbs are from the story. Match them with their meanings.

- ① look quickly at
- ② say something bad about someone
- ③ look hard at
- ④ talk
- ⑤ say no
- ⑥ not take any notice of
- ⑦ make fun of
- ⑧ go red with embarrassment
- ⑨ make someone unhappy by not doing something

- ___ a tease
- ___ b disappoint
- ___ c glance
- ___ d blush
- ___ e stare
- ___ f insult
- ___ g chat
- ___ h ignore
- ___ i refuse





Chapter 1

2 Everybody knows, that a single man with a large fortune¹, must want a wife.

When he first comes to a neighborhood, this truth is fixed² in the minds of all the neighboring families. He will one day belong to one of their daughters.

"My dear Mr. Bennet," his wife said one morning, "have you heard that Netherfield Park has been rented³ at last?"

"No," replied Mr. Bennet.

"Do you not want to know who's renting it?" cried his wife.

"No, but *you* want to tell me," replied Mr. Bennet.

"A rich young man has rented Netherfield."

"What's his name?"

"Mr. Bingley."

"Is he married or single?"

"Single, of course! A single man with a large fortune, an income⁴ of four or five thousand pounds a year. Isn't that wonderful for our girls?"

"How can it affect⁵ them?"

"How can you be so annoying?" replied his wife. "You must know that I'm thinking of him marrying one of them."

1 fortune ['fɜːtʃən] (n.) 财富

2 fixed [fɪkst] (a.) 固定的

3 rent [rent] (v.) 租出

4 income ['ɪn,kʌm] (n.) 收入

5 affect [ə'fekt] (v.) 影響



"Is that the reason he's coming here?"

"Of course not. But he *might* fall in love with one of them, and that is why you must visit him."

"I see no reason to do that."

"But, my dear, think of your daughters," said Mrs. Bennet.

"I don't need to visit. I'll send him a note telling him he can marry whichever¹ daughter he chooses."

"Mr. Bennet, you love teasing² me," said his wife.

"I hope you'll live to see many rich, young men come into the neighborhood."

"It will be no use to us, if twenty men come, since you won't visit them."

"When there are twenty, I'll visit them all."

Mr. Bennet had a sense of humor³, which after twenty-three years of marriage, his wife still didn't understand. *She* was less difficult to understand. The business of her life was to help her daughters marry.

Mr. Bennet was, in fact, one of the first to visit Mr. Bingley, and he promised to introduce his wife and daughters to him at the next ball⁴ in two weeks' time.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennet

- How are they different?
- Which of the two characters do you prefer and why?
- Do you know anyone who has been married for 23 years?
- How do they talk to each other?

Chapter 2



The evening of the ball arrived. Mr. Bingley came with his two sisters and another young man.

Mr. Bingley was good-looking, friendly and polite⁵. His sisters were fashionable young women. His friend, Mr. Darcy, soon drew⁶ everybody's attention. He was tall, handsome and he had an income of ten thousand pounds⁷ a year. The ladies decided he was much more handsome than Mr. Bingley. He was looked at with great admiration⁸ for about half the evening, until he was discovered to be proud. Then, neither his wealth⁹ nor his large house could save him from having a very unpleasant face.

Mr. Bingley was friendly, danced every dance, was upset¹⁰ that the ball finished so early, and talked of giving one himself at Netherfield. How different he was from his friend! Mr. Darcy only danced with Mr. Bingley's sisters. He refused¹¹ to be introduced to any other lady. It was decided that he was the proudest, most unpleasant man in the world.

- 1 whichever [hwɪtʃˈevə] (pron.) 無論哪個
- 2 tease [tiːz] (v.) 戲弄；取笑
- 3 a sense of humor 幽默感
- 4 ball [bɔːl] (n.) 大型舞會
- 5 polite [pəˈlaɪt] (a.) 禮貌的；斯文的
- 6 draw [drɔː] (v.) 吸引
(動詞三態：draw; drew; drawn)

- 7 pound [paʊnd] (n.) 英鎊
- 8 admiration [ˌædməˈreɪʃən] (n.) 欽佩；讚美
- 9 wealth [welθ] (n.) 財富
- 10 upset [ʌpˈset] (v.) 使心煩
(動詞三態：upset; upset; upset)
- 11 refuse [rɪˈfjuːz] (v.) 拒絕



5 Everybody disliked him. Mrs. Bennet disliked him even more after he insulted¹ her daughter, Elizabeth.

For two dances, Elizabeth Bennet had no dance partner, and at the time, she overheard² a conversation between Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley.

"Come on, Darcy," said Mr. Bingley. "You must have a dance."

"You know I hate dancing, unless I know my partner really well. Your sisters are already dancing, and there isn't another girl in the room nice enough to dance with."

"I can't agree with you," cried Mr. Bingley, "I've never met so many pleasant girls, and several of them are very pretty."

"You're dancing with the only beautiful girl in the room," said Mr. Darcy, looking at the eldest Miss Bennet.

"Oh, Jane's the most beautiful girl I've ever seen!" said Mr. Bingley. "But one of her sisters is very pretty."

"Which do you mean?" asked Mr. Darcy, turning and looking for a moment at Elizabeth.

Then he turned away and coldly said, "She's alright, but not beautiful enough to tempt³ me. I'm not in the mood⁴ to dance with young ladies who are rejected⁵ by other men. You'd better go back to Jane. You're wasting your time with me."

Mr. Bingley followed his advice, and Mr. Darcy walked off.

Elizabeth was upset. However, she had a lively sense of humor, so she jokingly⁶ told the story to her friends.

1 insult [in'sʌlt] (v.) 羞辱

2 overhear [ˌoʊvəˈhɪr] (v.) 無意中聽到；偷聽 (動詞三態：overhear; overheard; overheard)

3 tempt [tempt] (v.) 吸引；打動

4 in the mood 有做某事物的心思或興致

5 reject [rɪ'dʒekt] (v.) 拒絕

6 jokingly ['dʒɒkɪŋli] (adv.) 打趣地

6 The whole family enjoyed the ball. Mrs. Bennet was happy that Mr. Bingley danced with Jane twice. Jane was as happy as her mother about this, and Elizabeth was happy for Jane. The younger sisters, Kitty, Mary and Lydia were never without dance partners, which was all they cared about. They all returned home, very happy.

That night, when Jane and Elizabeth were alone, Jane told her sister that she really liked Mr. Bingley.

"He's kind, friendly, funny and I've never met anybody so cheerful!"

"He's also handsome," replied Elizabeth. "His character¹ is therefore complete²."

"I was very flattered³ that he asked me to dance a second time," said Jane.

"He could see that you were about five times as pretty as every other girl in the room. Well, he certainly is very friendly. I allow you to like him. Everybody is good in your eyes⁴" said Elizabeth.

1 character ['kærɪktə] (n.) 個性；品質

2 complete [kəm'pli:t] (a.) 完美的

3 flatter ['flætə] (v.) 奉承；使高興

4 in one's eyes 在某人看來

Chapter 3

7 The Lucas family lived a short walk from Longbourn, the village where the Bennet family lived. Charlotte, their eldest daughter was Elizabeth's best friend.

The Miss Lucases and the Miss Bennets always met to talk about a ball; and so the following morning the Lucases came to visit. Mr. Darcy was the main topic of conversation.

"Mrs. Long told me that he sat next to her for half an hour without speaking," said Mrs. Bennet.

"Miss Bingley told me," said Jane, "that he never speaks much, unless with his close friends. With *them* he's very friendly."

"I don't believe a word of it, my dear. Everybody says he's very proud," said Mrs. Bennet.

"I don't mind him not talking to Mrs. Long," said Charlotte, "but I mind him not dancing with Elizabeth."

"Another time, Lizzy," said her mother, "don't dance with *him*."

"I think, I can promise *never* to dance with him," said Elizabeth.



8 "His pride," said Charlotte Lucas, "doesn't upset *me*. You can't blame¹ a wealthy man from a good family for being proud."

"That's very true," replied Elizabeth, "and I could easily forgive *his* pride, if he hadn't insulted *mine*."

"Pride," said Mary, "is a very common weakness². There are very few of us who don't feel pride over one thing or another."

Pride

- Is pride a good thing or a bad thing?
- Is there anything you are proud of?

When Jane and Mr. Bingley were together, everybody could see that he was in love with her, and Elizabeth could see that Jane was falling in love too. However, she felt sure nobody else would notice. Elizabeth mentioned this to her friend, Charlotte.

"If a woman doesn't show her feelings for a man," said Charlotte, "she might lose him. Mr. Bingley definitely³ likes your sister, but she must give him some encouragement⁴."

"Charlotte's right," thought Elizabeth. "Mr. Bingley might not realize that Jane's in love with him."

9 Now, Elizabeth was so busy thinking about Jane, she never imagined that she had an admirer⁵ too. At first, Mr. Darcy hadn't even thought she was pretty. But then he began to find her unusually intelligent⁶. He noticed that she had very beautiful dark eyes, and he began to like her sense of humor. To her, he was just the man who didn't think she was beautiful enough to dance with.

Mr. Darcy began to wish to know more about her, and so he began to listen to her conversations with others. Elizabeth first noticed him doing this, one evening at a party at Sir William Lucas's house.

"Why did Mr. Darcy listen to my conversation with Colonel Forster?" Elizabeth asked Charlotte.

"That's a question which only Mr. Darcy can answer," said Charlotte.

"Well, if he does it again, I'll tell him I've noticed him."

Mr. Darcy approached⁷ them soon afterwards.

Elizabeth turned to him and said, "Don't you think, Mr. Darcy, that I expressed⁸ myself very well just now, when I asked Colonel Forster to have a ball at Meryton?"

"Very well," he replied, "but it's a subject women like talking about."

"You're hard on us⁹," said Elizabeth.

This was leading to¹⁰ an argument¹¹, so Charlotte quickly changed the subject¹². "I'm going to play the piano, Lizzy."

5 admirer [əd'maɪə] (n.) 讚賞者

9 hard on sb 嚴厲對待

6 intelligent [ɪn'telɪdʒənt] (a.) 有才智的

10 lead to ... 導致……後果

7 approach [ə'prəʊtʃ] (v.) 接近

11 argument ['ɑ:gjəmənt] (n.) 爭論

8 express [ɪk'spres] (v.) 表達

12 subject ['sʌbdʒɪkt] (n.) 主題

1 blame [bleɪm] (v.) 責備

3 definitely ['defəntɪtli] (adv.) 明確地

2 weakness ['wi:knis] (n.) 弱點

4 encouragement [ɪn'kʊrɪdʒmənt] (n.) 鼓勵

Lydia and Kitty asked her to play some dance music and people began to dance.

Mr. Darcy stood watching. Sir William Lucas was standing next to him. Elizabeth at that moment walked towards them.

"Mr. Darcy, let me introduce Miss Bennet. She's a very good dance partner," said Sir William.

"I don't want to dance," said Elizabeth.

"But you dance so well, Miss Elizabeth," said Sir William. "And although Mr. Darcy dislikes dancing, he can't have any objection¹ to dancing with you."

Elizabeth raised her eyebrows². "Can't he?" she said and turned away.

Her refusal to dance hadn't harmed³ her in Mr. Darcy's eyes, and he was thinking happily about her, when Miss Bingley walked over and said, "I can guess the subject of your thoughts."

"I shouldn't think so," he replied.

"You're thinking what a boring evening this is; and I agree with you."

"You're completely wrong. I was thinking what beautiful eyes a certain lady has."

"And which lady is that?" asked Miss Bingley.

"Miss Elizabeth Bennet," replied Mr. Darcy.

1 objection [əb'dʒɛkʃən] (n.) 反對

2 raise one's eyebrows
感到驚訝而揚眉

3 harm [hɑ:m] (v.) 傷害

4 carriage ['kærɪdʒ] (n.) 馬車

5 horseback ['hɔ:s,bæk] (n.) 馬背

6 delighted [dɪ'laɪtɪd] (a.) 高興的

7 die of 因……而死亡

Chapter 4

The next day, a note from Netherfield arrived for Miss Bennet.

"Well, Jane, who's it from?" asked her mother.

"It's from Miss Bingley," said Jane. "She's inviting me to dinner. Her brother and Mr. Darcy will be dining out."

"Dining out," said Mrs. Bennet, "that's very unlucky."

"Can I have the carriage⁴?" asked Jane.

"No, my dear, you should go on horseback⁵, because it might rain. Then you'll have to stay all night," said her mother.

Jane went on horseback, and it began to rain heavily. Jane's sisters were worried about her, but her mother was delighted⁶. The rain continued all evening. Jane couldn't come home.

"That was a lucky idea of mine!" said Mrs. Bennet.

The next morning, however, Elizabeth received a note.

"Jane's caught a terrible cold. I must go there at once," cried Elizabeth.

"Well, my dear," said Mr. Bennet, "if your daughter dies, it will be a comfort to know that it was all for Mr. Bingley."

"People don't die of⁷ colds," said Mrs. Bennet.

Elizabeth, however, really wanted to see Jane, so she walked to Netherfield to see her.

When she arrived, she was shown into the breakfast room, and was politely welcomed by Mr. Bingley and his two sisters.

Jane was very ill, so Elizabeth went up to see her immediately.

At three o'clock, Elizabeth had to leave, but Jane didn't want her to go.

Miss Bingley invited her to stay at Netherfield, and a servant was sent to Longbourn to tell the family and bring back some clothes.

At half-past six, Elizabeth went down for dinner. Jane was not better, and Mr. Bingley was very worried about her.

When dinner was over, Elizabeth went to sit with Jane again, and Miss Bingley began criticizing¹ her as soon as she left the room.

"She has no manners², no conversation, no style, no beauty."

Her sister, Mrs. Hurst thought the same, and added, "I'll never forget her appearance this morning. She looked very wild."

"She did, Louisa. Her hair was so untidy!"

"Yes, and her dress was covered in mud³."

"I thought Miss Elizabeth Bennet looked very well this morning," said Mr. Bingley. "I didn't notice her dirty dress."

"You noticed it, Mr. Darcy, I'm sure," said Miss Bingley. "I'm afraid that this adventure has affected your admiration of her beautiful eyes."

"Not at all," he replied; "they were brightened⁴ by the exercise."

1 criticize ['krɪtɪsaɪz] (v.) 批評；評論

3 mud [mʌd] (n.) 泥巴

2 manners ['mænəz] (n.) 禮貌；規矩

4 brighten ['braɪtən] (v.) 使明亮



13

A short pause followed.

"Miss Jane Bennet is a very sweet girl, and I really wish she were well married," said Mrs. Hurst. "But with such a father and mother, I'm afraid there's no chance of that."

"I think you said that their uncle is a lawyer in Meryton," said Miss Bingley.

"Yes, and they have another uncle, who lives somewhere near Cheapside¹ in London."

"How awful," said her sister, and they both laughed.

"If they had enough uncles to fill *all* Cheapside," cried Mr. Bingley, "it wouldn't make them one bit less charming."

"But it must reduce² their chance of marrying well," replied Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Bingley didn't reply, but his sisters agreed.

Criticism

- What do Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst criticize about Elizabeth?
- What does it show about their characters?

¹ Cheapside ['tʃi:p,said]

(n.) 倫敦的齊普賽街 (非時尚區)

³ amuse [ə'mju:z] (v.) 消遣

⁴ frequently ['fri:kwəntli] (adv.) 頻繁地

² reduce [ri'dju:s] (v.) 減少

Chapter 5

14

The next evening, Elizabeth joined the party in the living room. Mr. Darcy was writing a letter, and Miss Bingley was sitting near him, watching him. Elizabeth amused³ herself by listening to their conversation.

"What beautiful handwriting you have," said Miss Bingley.

Mr. Darcy said nothing.

"How happy Miss Darcy will be to receive such a letter!" said Miss Bingley.

He didn't reply.

"Please tell your sister that I'd love to see her."

"I've already told her that once."

"Do you always write such charming long letters to her, Mr. Darcy?"

"They're generally long but whether always charming I don't know," he said finishing his letter and putting down his pen.

Then, he asked Miss Bingley to play something on the piano. Miss Bingley moved quickly to the piano and sat down.

While she was playing, Elizabeth couldn't help noticing, how frequently⁴ Mr. Darcy's eyes were fixed on her. It was very strange. It couldn't possibly be because he liked her. In the end, she decided he had seen some fault in her. The idea didn't upset her. She liked him too little.



15 Mr. Darcy, however, had never been so attracted¹ to a woman as he was to Elizabeth. He really felt, that if she were from a good family, he would be in danger of falling in love with her.

Miss Bingley was jealous. She hoped Jane would recover² quickly and then Elizabeth could go home.

After dinner, Jane came to sit in the living room. Mr. Bingley was happy. He sat down by her, and he hardly talked to anybody else. Elizabeth watched them delighted.

When tea was over, Mr. Darcy picked up a book. Miss Bingley did the same, but she wasn't interested in reading it. She had only chosen the book because it was the second volume of Mr. Darcy's book.

She looked round the room in search of other entertainment³. On hearing her brother talking about a ball to Jane, she turned to him and asked, "Are you serious about having a ball at Netherfield? I think you should ask everybody here first. Not everybody likes balls."

"If you mean Darcy," cried her brother, "he can go to bed before the ball begins. We're having a ball and that's final."

Miss Bingley didn't answer, and soon afterwards she got up and walked about the room. Mr. Darcy continued to read his book. She made one final effort⁴ to get his attention.

"Elizabeth," she said, "come and walk around the room with me."

1 attract [ə'trækt] (v.) 吸引

2 recover [rɪ'kʌvə] (v.) 恢复

3 entertainment [ˌentə'teɪnmənt] (n.) 余兴; 娱乐

4 effort ['efət] (n.) 努力



16

Elizabeth was surprised, but she agreed.

This time, Miss Bingley was successful. Mr. Darcy looked up and closed his book.

Miss Bingley invited him to join them, but he declined¹.

"I can only imagine two reasons for you choosing to walk up and down the room together."

"What could he mean?" asked Miss Bingley. "Do you know, Elizabeth?"

"No," said Elizabeth. "But the easiest way to disappoint² him is not to ask him for an explanation."

Miss Bingley, however, didn't want to disappoint Mr. Darcy, and so she asked him for an explanation.

"Either you have secrets to discuss," said Mr. Darcy, "or you want to show off³ your figures⁴. If it's the first, I'll be in your way, and if it's the second, I can admire you much better as I sit by the fire."

"Oh, shocking!" cried Miss Bingley. "How shall we punish him?"

"Nothing's easier, if you really want to," said Elizabeth. "Laugh at him."

"But Mr. Darcy is not a man to be laughed at."

"That's a pity," cried Elizabeth, "for I love to laugh."

"The wisest men might be laughed at by someone who loves to laugh at people," said Mr. Darcy.

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"Of course," replied Elizabeth, "but I never laugh at what is wise and good. I only laugh at weaknesses such as vanity⁵ and pride."

"Vanity is a weakness but pride, pride is always necessary," said Mr. Darcy.

Elizabeth turned away to hide a smile.

"Your examination of Mr. Darcy is over, I think," said Miss Bingley. "And what is the result⁶?"

"Mr. Darcy has no faults. He said so himself."

"I've got plenty of faults," said Mr. Darcy. "I can't forgive or forget an offense⁷ against me. My good opinion once lost, is lost forever."

"That is a fault!" agreed Elizabeth. "But you've chosen your fault well. I can't laugh at it."

"Let's have some music," cried Miss Bingley, tired of a conversation in which she had no share.

The piano was opened, and Mr. Darcy felt relieved⁸. He had begun to feel the danger of paying Elizabeth too much attention. She attracted him more than he liked.

Jane and Elizabeth left Netherfield the next day.

1 decline [di'klaɪn] (v.) 婉拒；謝絕

2 disappoint [ˌdɪsə'pɔɪnt] (v.) 使失望

3 show off 炫耀

4 figure ['fɪɡjə] (n.) 體態

5 vanity ['vænəti] (n.) 虛榮

6 result [rɪ'zʌlt] (n.) 結果

7 offense [ə'fens] (n.) 冒犯；觸怒

8 relieved [rɪ'livd] (a.) 放心的