

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jane Austen was born in December 1775. Her father was George Austen, a vicar¹ 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 determined 3 to be a published author.

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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 relatives<sup>4</sup> 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 wealthy<sup>5</sup> 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 anonymously<sup>6</sup>, 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 [əˈfɛkʃənɪt] (a.) 温柔親切的
- 3 determined [d:\tsmmd] (a.) 已下決心的
- 4 relative ['relativ] (n.) 親戚
- 5 wealthy [ˈwεlθt] (a.) 富有的
- 6 anonymously [ə'nɑnəməslɪ] (adv.) 匿名地

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 credited 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

purpose<sup>2</sup> 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 witty<sup>3</sup> 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 pride<sup>4</sup> and her prejudice<sup>5</sup> must be overcome. About Elizabeth, Jane Austen wrote in a letter:

"I must confess<sup>6</sup> that I think her as delightful<sup>7</sup> a creature<sup>8</sup> as ever appeared in print, and how I shall be able to tolerate<sup>9</sup> those who do not like her at least I do not know."

- 1 credit ['krɛdɪt] (v.) 把·····歸於
- 2 purpose ['pɪ/pəs] (n.) 目的
- witty [`wɪtɪ] (a.) 機智的; 詼諧的
- 4 pride [praid] (n.) 驕傲
- 5 prejudice ['prɛdʒədɪs] (n.) 偏見
- 6 confess [kənˈfɛs] (v.) 坦承
- 7 delightful [dr'lartfəl] (a.) 令人愉快的

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- s creature ['kritʃə] (n.) 生物;產物
- 9 tolerate [ˈtolə,ret] (v.) 容忍;寬恕



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# BEFORE READING

- What do you know about the novel Pride and Prejudice? Tick (√) true (T) or false (F).
  - I a The novel is a romance.
  - The story takes place in Paris.
  - ☐ ☐ It was first published in 1913.

  - The author was a woman.
  - The central theme of the novel is love and marriage.
- 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













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.
  - She feels he has a right to be proud.
- d What does Elizabeth promise? Do you think she will keep her promise?
- There are two very different opinions of Mr. Darcy in the dialogue. What are they?
- Read the descriptions of the characters. Try and guess which man each of the Bennet sisters will marry.



#### Jane Bennet

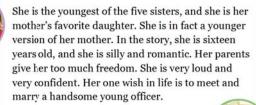
She is the eldest and the most beautiful of all the Bennet sisters. She is modest, generous and kind and she sees the good in everybody. She is the first of the sisters to fall in love, but she nearly loses the man she loves because she doesn't show that she loves him.

#### 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 Benne





#### Mr. Wickhan

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

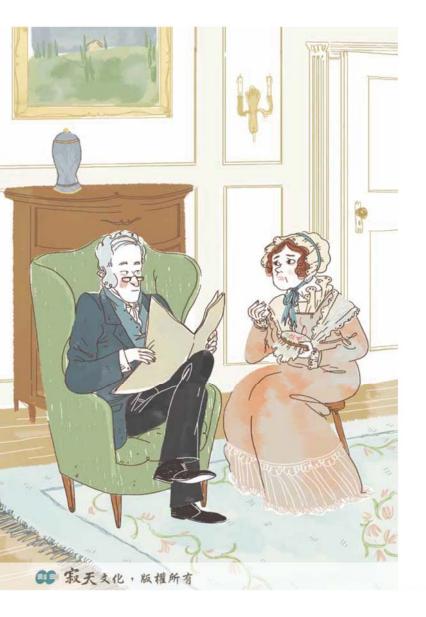
amuses people and says things people find funny	
thinks often about love	
is able to make everybody like him/her	
isn't proud	
is rich	



6	These	verbs	are f	from	the	story.	
	Match	them	with	thei	r m	eanings.	

- 1 look quickly at
- 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

Everybody knows, that a single man with a large fortune<sup>1</sup>, must want a wife.

When he first comes to a neighborhood, this truth is fixed<sup>2</sup> 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 rented<sup>3</sup> 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 income<sup>4</sup> 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."

- ı fortune [ˈfərtʃəɪ] (n.) 財富 4 income [ˈɪn,kʌm] (n.) 收入
- 2 fixed [frkst] (a.) 固定的
- 5 affect [ə'fɛkt] (v.) 影響
- i rent [rent] (v.) 租出

"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 humor<sup>3</sup>, 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?

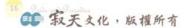
# Chapter 2

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

Mr. Bingley was good-looking, friendly and polite<sup>5</sup>. His sisters were fashionable young women. His friend, Mr. Darcy, soon drew<sup>6</sup> 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 admiration<sup>8</sup> 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 refused 11 to be introduced to any other lady. It was decided that he was the proudest, most unpleasant man in the world.

- 1 whichever [hwɪɪʃˈɛvə] (pron.) 無論哪個 7 pound [paund] (n.) 英鎊
- 2 tease [tiz] (v.) 戲弄;取笑 3 a sense of humor 幽默感
- 4 ball [bɔl] (n.) 大型舞會
- 5 polite [pə'laɪt] (a.) 禮貌的;斯文的
- 6 draw [dra] (v.) 吸引
- (動詞三態: draw; drew; drawn)
- 8 admiration [,ædmə're[ən] (n.) 欽佩: 讃美
- 9 wealth [wεlθ] (n.) 財富
- 10 upset [ʌp'sɛt] (v.) 使心煩
- (動詞三態: upset; upset; upset)
- 11 refuse [rɪˈfjuz] (v.) 拒絕





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Everybody disliked him. Mrs. Bennet disliked him even more after he insulted 1 her daughter, Elizabeth.

For two dances, Elizabeth Bennet had no dance partner, and at the time, she overheard<sup>2</sup> 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 tempt<sup>3</sup> me. I'm not in the mood<sup>4</sup> to dance with young ladies who are rejected<sup>5</sup> 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 jokingly<sup>6</sup> told the story to her friends.

- ı insult [ɪn'sʌlt] (v.) 羞辱
- 2 overhear [,ovə'lır] (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 [rɪˈdʒɛkt] (v.) 拒絕
- 6 jokingly [ˈdʒokɪŋlɪ] (adv.) 打趣地

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 character<sup>1</sup> is therefore complete<sup>2</sup>."

"I was very flattered<sup>3</sup> 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 eyes<sup>4</sup>" said Elizabeth.

- i character ['kærɪktə] (n.) 個性;品質
- 2 complete [kəm'plit] (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

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.

"His pride," said Charlotte Lucas, "doesn't upset me. You can't blame<sup>1</sup> 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."

- i blame [blem] (v.) 責備
- 3 definitely [ˈdɛfənɪtlɪ] (adv.) 明確地
- 2 weakness ['wiknis] (n.) 弱點 4 encouragement [in'k#idgmont] (n.) 鼓勵

hadn't even thought she was pretty. But then he began to find her unusually intelligent<sup>6</sup>. 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

imagined that she had an admirer<sup>5</sup> too. At first, Mr. Darcy

Now, Elizabeth was so busy thinking about Jane, she never

began to listen to her conversations with others. Elizabeth first noticed him doing this, one evening at a party at Sir William

"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

"Well, if he does it again, I'll tell him I've noticed him." Mr. Darcy approached them soon afterwards.

Elizabeth turned to him and said, "Don't you think, Mr. Darcy, that I expressed<sup>8</sup> 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 to 10 an argument 11, so Charlotte guickly changed the subject12. "I'm going to play the piano, Lizzy."

- 5 admirer [əd'max\*] (n.) 讃賞者
- 6 intelligent [m'tdədʒənt] (a.) 有才智的 10 lead to ... 導致……後果
- 7 approach [ə'protʃ] (v.) 接近
- 8 express [ɪk'sprɛs] (v.) 表逹
- 9 hard on sb 嚴厲對待
- 11 argument ['orgjəmənt] (n.) 爭論
- 12 subject ['sʌbdʒɪkt] (n.) 主題

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 harmed<sup>3</sup> 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 4 carriage ['kærɪdʒ] (n.) 馬車
- <sup>2</sup> raise one's eyebrows 感到驚訝而揚眉
- 3 harm [horm] (v.) 傷害
- 5 horseback ['hors,bæk] (n.) 馬背
- 6 delighted [dr'lartrd] (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 delighted<sup>6</sup>. The rain continued all evening. Jane couldn't come home.

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

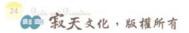
The next morning, however, Elizabeth received a note.

"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 of<sup>7</sup> 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 criticizing 1 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!"

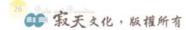
"Yes, and her dress was covered in mud3."

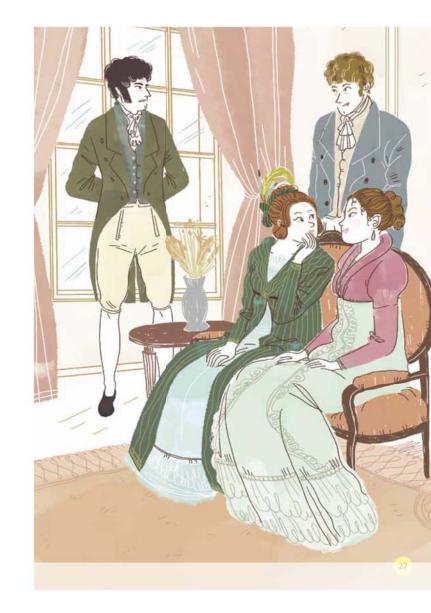
"I thought Miss Elizabeth Bennet looked very well this morning," said Mr. Bingley. "I didn't notice her cirty dress."

"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 ['krɪtɪ,saɪz] (v.) 批評;評論 3 mud [mʌd] (n.) 泥巴
- 2 manners ['mænəz] (n.) 禮貌:規矩
- 4 brighten ['braɪtɪɪ] (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 Cheapside<sup>1</sup> 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 reduce<sup>2</sup> 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 ['tʃip,saɪd] (n.) 倫敦的齊普賽街 (非時尚旨 2 reduce [rɪ'djus] (v.) 減少
- 3 amuse [ə'mjuz] (v.) 消遺
  - (n.) 倫敦的齊普賽街 (非時尚區) 4 frequently ['frikwantir] (adv.) 頻繁地



## Chapter 5

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 amused<sup>3</sup> 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."

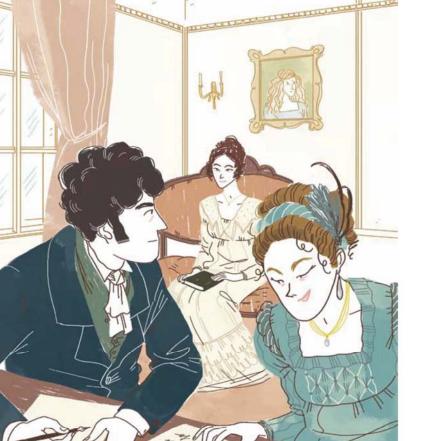
"I've already told her that once."

"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 frequently 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.



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Mr. Darcy, however, had never been so attracted 1 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 recover<sup>2</sup> 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 entertainment<sup>3</sup>. 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 effort<sup>4</sup> to get his attention.

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

- 2 recover [rɪ'kʌvə] (v.) 恢復
- 1 attract [əˈtrækt] (v.) 吸引 3 entertainment [ˌɛntəˈtenmənt]
  - (n.) 餘興;娛樂
  - 4 effort ['ɛfət] (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 declined 1.

"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 disappoint 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 off<sup>3</sup> your figures<sup>4</sup>. 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.



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

"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 offense<sup>7</sup> 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 relieved. 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 [dr'klam] (v.) 婉拒;謝絕
- 2 disappoint [ˌdɪsə'pəɪnt] (v.) 使失望
- 3 show off 炫耀

4 figure ['fɪgjə'] (r.) 體態

- 5 vanity ['vænətɪ] (n.) 虚榮
- 6 result [rɪˈzʌlt] (n.) 結果
- 7 offense [əˈfɛns] (n.) 冒犯:觸怒
- s relieved [rɪˈlivd] (a.) 放心的

