

Acting Monologues from *Pride and Prejudice*

MRS. BENNET: Oh my dear Mr. Bennet! The girls and I have had a most pleasant evening! Jane was so admired. Everyone said how well she looked. Indeed Mr. Bingley must have thought so for he danced with her twice! Of course, I was quite worried at the beginning for he asked Charlotte Lucas for the first dance. It was vexing but in the end I do not think he admired her at all. Indeed, nobody can – poor creature. And then he saw our Jane. He immediately inquired as to who she was, got quickly introduced and asked for her for the next two dances! I am quite delighted with Mr. Bingley. Just so you know. He is excessively handsome. And his sister is the most charming person. I never saw anything more elegant than Miss Bingley's dress! There was a bit of unpleasantness though. Mr. Bingley's friend – a Mr. Darcy. A shockingly rude gentleman. You would not have approved of his manners at all. For he is simply horrid. I wish you had been there, my dear. To give him one of your "set-downs."

MR. COLLINS: My desire was to speak with you alone tomorrow morning. I have been granted permission by both your parents to do so. But this is such an inviting atmosphere and it would be quite appropriate to make an announcement in such charming company. When I left to pay your family this visit, Lady Catherine de Bourgh did say to me, "Mr. Collins, you must marry. It is most suitable for a clergyman to do so. Choose wisely. A suitable woman not too high up but still brought up in a gentle manner." You do understand that my life includes many kindnesses from the Lady de Bourgh. I believe that your wit and vivacity would be approving to her. I will inherit your estate – I hope you do not hold it against me. I will not make any demands on your father as to dowry. I am indifferent to fortune and I will never allow an ungenerous thought as to your mean surroundings when we are married. (she declines) I understand that women often first decline an offer that they secretly mean to accept. (she declines again) But I shall speak to her of you in the highest, most glowing tones. She shall know of your modesty and economy in all things. I shall tell her of all your amiable qualifications. (she declines yet again) It is likely that you will never have a proposal again. Therefore, I am not upset with your rejection and I understand that in the end, it will be accepted.

ELIZABETH: You are too hasty, sir. In a proposal – for I believe it was a proposal that I have not answered – you must know I am sincerely flattered by the compliment you pay me and sensible of the honor that has been offered. But it is with great regret, I must decline... Upon my word sir, my decision is to decline your offer. I am not such a lady who would turn down a proposal in hopes of being asked again. You could not make *me* happy, sir, and I am convinced I am the last woman in the world who could ever presume to make *you* so. And I fear Lady Catherine de Bourgh would find me ill-qualified to serve as a clergyman's wife. ...Please, Mr. Collins. All praise of me is unnecessary. Pay me the compliment of believing what I say...I thank you again for the honor you have done me but my feelings in every respect forbid such a marriage. Can I speak plainer?

WICKHAM: I can only think that because of my fondness for his father and his affection to me, that Mr. Darcy was jealous. I believe his father's attachment to me irritated him... We were indeed raised together. My father, who had a job similar to your uncle Mr. Phillips', gave up his work to devote his time to managing the Pemberley property for the elder Mr. Darcy. I believe the elder Mr. Darcy promised my father that in return he would see to it that I was well looked after... Indeed, I think you could call his pride – his best friend.