

PRIDE & PREJUDICE
THE MUSICAL

BOOK, MUSIC and LYRICS by LAWRENCE RUSH

Adapted from the novel by Jane Austen

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

Can you not learn how to amuse yourselves without annoying others?

LYDIA

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

KITTY

Me, too!

LYDIA

It's been so dull around here lately.

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

Lady Lucas 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 Lady Lucas may introduce him.

MRS. BENNET

I do not believe she will do any such thing. She is desperate to find her Charlotte a husband, though I think it a complete waste of time. Charlotte's beauty is...well, she hasn't any.

MR. BENNET

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

MRS. BENNET

Oh, I don't care anymore. 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.

"WEDDING BELLS"

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 inherit 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.

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 drivels?

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. I can 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
TIME TO PREPARE
THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE
HERE IS ROSE WATER
FOR YOUR FACE
NOT TOO MUCH!

MRS. BENNET

ELIZABETH/JANE

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

MR. BENNET

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

ELIZABETH/JANE

YOU MUST ALL BE CHARMING
WE'LL BE COY AND 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
OH, DEAR
CHARMING

MRS. BENNET

HERE IS OUR CHANCE TO MEET THE
CRÈME DE LA CRÈME
SOON WE'LL BE SAYING OUR FAREWELLS

OTHERS

AH
OUR FOND FARE-

HARK!

I THINK I'M HEARING - WAIT!

I THINK I'M HEARING - YES!

I'M SURE I'M HEARING

WEDDING BELLS!

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, 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. Well, I'm glad Charlotte will be there, at least.

JANE

And I am 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. 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?

"I CAN WAIT"

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 week later. 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.)

ALL

"AT A BALL"

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

Lovely 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!

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 is one of the richest men in the country. 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 EXCEEDS ALL OTHERS TO DATE
I WONDER WHAT OTHER SURPRISES AWAIT

*(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.

(ELIZABETH leaves and crosses to Charlotte)

SIR WILLIAM

Well!

ELIZABETH

Charlotte, you won't believe what just happened!

(While singing, beginning with ELIZABETH and CHARLOTTE and ending with MRS. BENNET, those not dancing, mime gossiping from one side of the stage to the other.)

ALL WOMEN (except CAROLINE)

MUSIC AND DANCING

ALL MEN (except DARCY)

GOSSIP AND SLANDER

WOMEN

FLIRTING, ROMANCING

MEN

WHAT COULD BE GRANDER?

WOMEN
GOBBLING

MEN
GUZZLING

WOMEN
WOBBLING

MEN
NUZZLING

WOMEN
MINU-

MEN
-ETING

WOMEN
TETE-A-

MEN
-TETING

WOMEN
JIGGING

ALL

SWEATING!
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 BEGUILLES
WHAT AN AMUSEMENT, SUITED FOR ALL

WOMEN

THIS IS WHAT ONE EXPECTS...

MEN

ONLY A FOOL OBJECTS...

ALL

TO A GOOD, HONEST

WOMEN

WONDERFUL

WOMEN

EXCELLENT

WOMEN

LIVELY

WOMEN

MERRY

ALL

COUNTRY BALL!

(Blackout)

MEN

MARVELOUS

MEN

FABULOUS

MEN

FESTIVE

SCENE 3

(Later that night. Jane's room. JANE brushes her hair. 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 don't forget rich.

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

"THE WAY HE HELD MY HAND"

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...

(BINGLEY enters and crosses to Jane. Lights down on Elizabeth)

BINGLEY

Miss Bennet, may I have this dance?

JANE

Yes.

(BINGLEY takes her hand. THEY dance. After they stop, THEY stare at each other a moment. BINGLEY exits.)

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 a week later.
ELIZABETH and CHARLOTTE sit.)*

CHARLOTTE

Mr. Bingley and Jane?!

ELIZABETH

They have seen each other several times since the ball.

CHARLOTTE

Well, we all know she was the most beautiful girl in the room.

ELIZABETH

She is quite fond of him.

CHARLOTTE

Really! One would never know it by looking at her.

ELIZABETH

You know Jane. She's not one to show her feelings.

CHARLOTTE

True, but if she doesn't...

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

LYDIA

...and we heard the regiment arrived yesterday and Meryton will be their headquarters...

KITTY

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

(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. No word from Jane?

ELIZABETH

Not yet.

MRS. BENNET

See what a lucky idea it was to send her on horseback!

(The SERVANT enters with a note.)

SERVANT

A note for Miss Elizabeth.

(ELIZABETH stands and takes the letter from her.)

ELIZABETH

Thank you.

*(lights on JANE as Elizabeth reads and the
SERVANT exits.)*

JANE

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.

(lights off Jane)

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 in need of fixing as of this morning. You may go on horseback, like your daughter.

ELIZABETH

I will go to see Jane.

MRS. BENNET

On horseback?

ELIZABETH

I'll walk. It's only three miles. I shall be back by dinner.

CHARLOTTE

Mr. Darcy will be there, will he not?

ELIZABETH

What of it? I'm not afraid of him.

CHARLOTTE

Then 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)

FOOTMAN

Are you alright ma'am?

ELIZABETH

It's nothing. 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?

"THAT BENNET GIRL"

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 WHERE IS FINESSE, OR AN INKLING OF CHARM?
I'D VENTURE TO GUESS SHE WAS RAISED ON A FARM
SHE'S GRACELESS AND CRUDE
AND DID YOU HEAR HER SQUAWK?

DARCY/BINGLEY

No.

CAROLINE

OH, BUT THE GIRL CAN 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 the next day. 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 to my sister. I'm sure Elizabeth will be happy to join you.

CAROLINE

(with contempt)

Elizabeth.

(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

I am sure you have pleasure in nursing your sister, 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

How is your sister, Darcy? 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)

Netherfield is quite beautiful.

CAROLINE

It cannot compare to Pemberley, Darcy's estate, but it suits our needs.

ELIZABETH

I had seen it from afar, but never had been inside before.

CAROLINE

Really? And you live so close by!

ELIZABETH

We had never been invited, til now, of course.

CAROLINE

Ah! Well, we were more than happy to invite your sister.

(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. I'm going out to 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

"THOSE EYES"

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 OR 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.

(ELIZABETH enters. DARCY turns away from her.)

ELIZABETH

It is rather chilly outside. I thought I'd get something...
*(DARCY turns to Elizabeth. THEY stare at each other
for a moment.)*
Excuse me.

(ELIZABETH exits)

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, five days later. DARCY looks 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 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 looks out the window. Blackout)

SCENE 8

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

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 several 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. You should both know I received a letter while you were away. 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, he is paying us a visit. He says he's a recently ordained rector under the patronage of Lady Catherine de Bourgh, and seeks to make amends. He should be here at any moment.

MRS. BENNET

Lady Catherine de Bourgh 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.

(SERVANT enters with luggage and announces.)

SERVANT

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 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

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!

"LADY CATHERINE"

SHE TENDS TO ME JUST LIKE A MOTHER
A WOMAN UNLIKE ANY OTHER
OH DEAR, I FEAR I'M OVERCOME!
LADY CATHERINE, LADY CATHERINE
HOW BLESSED AM I TO SING THY PRAISE
FOR ALL THE BOUNTY YOU BESTOW
I'LL VENERATE YOU ALL MY DAYS
LADY CATHERINE, LADY CATHERINE
HER GLANCE ALONE DEMANDS RESPECT
HOW FORTUNATE AM I, WITHOUT HER, I'D SURELY DIE
FOR THERE IS NONE MORE VOID OF SIN
THERE'S NO NOBLER A CHIN
SURELY THERE'S NO ONE AKIN
TO THE 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.

LADY CATHERINE, LADY CATHERINE..

MR. BENNET

(interrupting him)

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.

(ALL exit. 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!

(MRS. BENNET exits)

MR. COLLINS

Elizabeth!

(Blackout)

SCENE 9

(A road. the next day. LYDIA and KITTY walk 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 Lady Catherine's garden, there are over twenty species of roses as well as irises in six colors!

KITTY

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

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

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. 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.

BINGLEY

Very glad to meet you. I hope you will attend as well.

MR. COLLINS

Oh, I'd be most happy! 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 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.

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

He and I grew up together. Our fathers were great friends. Darcy's father promised mine 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 he spread about me, and his refusing 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. 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...

"LOVELY YOU"

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

Did I, now?

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. Blackout)

SCENE 10

*(A week later. 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.)*

"NETHERFIELD BALL"

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

WHAT LOVELY PLATES!

MEN

AND THE TAPESTRIES!

WOMEN

SPLENDID!

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 SIR
WILLIAM, LADY LUCAS and CHARLOTTE. MR. COLLINS
mingles. 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
ONCE MORE TOGETHER, AND THIS TIME IN NETHERFIELD
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)

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 and, unlike Mr. Darcy, IS very agreeable. He knows Mr. Darcy, and...

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, Mr. Wickham is not 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

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.)

"MUSIC"

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

ELIZABETH

THOUGH JANE IS LOVELY, I'VE ALWAYS HAD PRIDE IN MY ABILITY
SHE SEEMS UNMOVED TO READ ONE'S CHARACTER
AND THE MOTHER IS A FOOL! BUT WITH MISTER DARCY,
AND THEN ELIZABETH...etc 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 NOTHING MORE...etc.
AS TO BE ABLE TO SING
I SHOULD HAVE GREAT PLEASURE

MRS. BENNET

IN OBLIGING THE COMP'NY WITH AN AIR SOON I WILL REJOICE
AH...etc. 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**

MR. BENNET

OH, IF I COULD ONLY SHUT MY MARY UP

LUCAS, SIR WILLIAM)
WHAT AN AWFUL, AWFUL NOISE,
WHAT A NOISE...etc.

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...

(The FOOTMAN enters and rings a bell.)

FOOTMAN
Dinner is served.

*(During the singing, DARCY exits, followed by BINGLEY,
who takes Jane's arm. ELIZABTH follows, followed by
CAROLINE. MR. COLLINS, unsure what to do, follows.)*

ENSEMBLE WOMEN/MRS. BENNET/MARY/LYDIA/KITTY/CHARLOTTE
COCKSCOMBS AND TRIFLE!

ENSEMBLE MEN/MR. BENNET
POACHED SALMON, ROAST PIGEON!

ALL
OH, RARELY WILL WE SEE A FEAST LIKE THIS!

DARCY *(over the music)*
Bingley, I must speak to you after dinner.

ENSEMBLE WOMEN/MRS. BENNET/MARY/LYDIA/KITTY/CHARLOTTE
NOW OFF TO TABLE

ENSEMBLE MEN/MR. BENNET
WHILE WE ARE STILL ABLE!

ENSEMBLE WOMEN/MRS. BENNET/MARY/LYDIA/KITTY/CHARLOTTE
OH, WHAT A GRAND BALL!

ENSEMBLE MEN/MR. BENNET
AND WELL PLANNED BALL!

ENSEMBLE WOMEN/MRS. BENNET/MARY/LYDIA/KITTY/CHARLOTTE
SUCH A RARE BALL!

ALL

(gesturing at different people)

NOT LIKE THEIR BALL

WHAT A FUN BALL!

THIS IS ONE BALL WE COULDN'T MISS!

(Blackout)

SCENE 11

(The next morning. MRS. BENNET, KITTY and ELIZABETH sit in their parlor. ELIZABETH is reading. MR. COLLINS enters.)

MRS. BENNET

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. 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' PROPOSAL"

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. Therefore, 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? 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

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.

(ELIZABETH goes to MR. BENNET)

MR. BENNET

I understand 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!

(Blackout)

SCENE 12

(The next day. ELIZABETH and WICKHAM walk in the Bennet's garden.)

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

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. 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...how should I say this?

ELIZABETH

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

WICKHAM

I think of you as a friend, though very good friend.

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 five days ago, but we get on very well.

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.

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. But now I must be off! 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

Engaged to Mr. Collins?

CHARLOTTE

Oh dear. I wanted to tell you myself.

ELIZABETH

Really, 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?

CHARLOTTE

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

ELIZABETH

But...

CHARLOTTE

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

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

ELIZABETH

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.

(CHARLOTTE exits)

ELIZABETH

Is she mad? Mr. Collins?

(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! 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! 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? Not more bad news, I hope.

JANE

It is from Caroline Bingley. She says they have all left Netherfield for London.

(lights on CAROLINE on the other side of the stage)

CAROLINE

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 Mr. Bingley admires her greatly, he'll have frequent opportunity now of seeing her on the most intimate footing.

(lights off CAROLINE)

JANE

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...

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?

"GOOD RIDDANCE"

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!
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

AND IT'S ALL DUE TO LOVELY 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 as they 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. It's one month after the end of Act two.)*

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

Oh, Mr. Wickham.

"FORGET HIM"

I WILL NOT PINE
I WILL BE FINE
I'LL FORGET HIM
I WILL NOT HOPE
HE WON'T APPEAR
LIFE WILL GO ON
NOT ONE SINGLE TEAR WILL I SHED

(JANE enters)

JANE

I WILL BE STRONG
I'LL GET ALONG
I'LL FORGET HIM
I WILL NOT BLAME
I'LL GRIEVE NO MORE
I WILL BE HAPPY AGAIN AS BEFORE

ELIZABETH

IT WAS ONLY AN ERROR OF FANCY

JANE

NO ONE IS HARMED BUT ME

JANE/ELIZABETH

BUT WHAT A SWEET ACQUAINTANCE WAS HE
ALL THAT I NEED IS SOME TIME TO GET OVER...

(JANE starts to cry. DARCY enters)

DARCY

YOU'LL PAY A PRICE
BETTER THINK TWICE
JUST FORGET HER
FIND SOMEONE OF NOTE
AN HONORABLE NAME
SOMEONE WHOSE MOTHER'S DISPLAYS
WON'T FILL YOU WITH SHAME
BUT FORGET HER

(BINGLEY enters)

BINGLEY

I THOUGHT PERHAPS SHE LOVED ME
OR WAS SHE JUST POLITE
ONE CANNOT SEE WHEN LOVE BURNS SO BRIGHT

DARCY

ALL THAT I NEED IS SOME TIME TO GET OVER HER

BINGLEY

I NEED SOME TIME TO GET OVER HER

DARCY/ELIZABETH

STAY IN CONTROL

JANE/BINGLEY

YES, IT WAS GRAND

CLIMB OUT OF THE HOLE, YOU'LL

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT

DARCY/BINGLEY

FORGET HER

ELIZABETH/JANE

FORGET HIM

DARCY/ELIZABETH

LOVE COMES AND GOES
DON'T BE DEPRESSED
IT'S NO ONE'S FAULT

JANE/BINGLEY

AND THOUGH YOU'RE GONE
I STILL FEEL BLESSED
I'VE NO REGRETS

DARCY

'T WAS MERELY A TEST

ELIZABETH/JANE/BINGLEY

I HAD THE BEST OF TIMES

ELIZABETH/JANE

FORGET HIM
FORGET HIM

DARCY/BINGLEY

FORGET HER
FORGET HER

ELIZABETH/JANE/DARCY/BINGLEY

AND ALL WILL BE BETTER

ELIZABETH/JANE

FORGET HIM

DARCY/BINGLEY

FORGET HER

JANE/BINGLEY

I KNOW I SHOULD

ELIZABETH/JANE/DARCY/BINGLEY

I WISH I COULD

JANE

FORGET HIM

(JANE exits)

BINGLEY

FORGET HER

(BINGLEY exits)

ELIZABETH

FORGET HIM

DARCY *(looking at Elizabeth, who exits)*
FORGET HER

(Blackout)

SCENE 2

*(The Bennet's living room.
ELIZABETH and JANE sit, reading.
MR. BENNET enters, followed by
MRS. BENNET. It's the next day.)*

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

Well, it's not fair! I never 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!

"BRIGHTON"

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!
WRIGGLING MY TOES IN THE SAND
OO! OH, HOW GRAND IT WILL BE!

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 every day.

(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

MALE CHORUS

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..

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...

MALE CHORUS

PACK ALL HER CLOTHES!

ORDER A COACH!

UNCORK THE WINE!

BRIGHTON!, etc...

YOU'RE MINE! Etc...

(Blackout)

SCENE 3

(Two days later. 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

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...

"ALL I NEED"

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, ENDURABLE
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 Lady Catherine's footman! I had informed her 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)

"ALL I NEED" (reprise)

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

(Blackout)

SCENE 4

(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

Lady Catherine, 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. 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. 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

Will wonders never cease. 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 you 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 sickly voice)

I am well.

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 and DARCY exit. LADY CATHERINE stops ELIZABETH.)

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. In truth, 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's a comfort to know that Darcy is so perceptive and clear-headed.

(ELIZABETH is shocked and furious)

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. Blackout)

SCENE 5

(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. I was told you were ill.

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.

"DARCY'S PROPOSAL"

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 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 laid to my charge and I will not go without having defended myself. As to your sister Jane, yes, 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.

(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 cannot blame me for refusing.
Then, about a year ago, my sister Georgiana, only fifteen, went supervised on holiday and there also went 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.

(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? And Jane! Have I been wrong about everything?

"I DON'T KNOW MY HEART"

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

(One week later. 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 rather enjoyed 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 to 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.

(Blackout)

SCENE 6

(One month later. ELIZABETH and MR and MRS. GARDINER stand 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.)

"SO CHANGED"

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 walk 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 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 Mr. Wickham, 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, Mr. Darcy, 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 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.

(DARCY exits. 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

(ELIZABETH exits. Blackout)

SCENE 7

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

ELIZABETH

Oh Jane, you wouldn't believe the change in Mr. Darcy.

*(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!

*(Lights up on LYDIA and WICKHAM on another part of the
stage)*

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 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)

ELIZABETH

Oh Lydia, how could you be so foolish!

(SHE stands and paces)

I must get home at once!

*(SHE runs to the door. The CHAMBERMAID opens it and
MR.DARCY is there.)*

Mr. Darcy! I beg your pardon, but I must find my aunt and 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 8A

(The CHORUS enters)

"GOSSIP SEQUENCE/I'M NOT WELL"

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!

*(The CHORUS exits. The Bennet's sitting
room. MRS. BENNET lies on the sofa, MARY
and KITTY by her side. It's two days later)*

"I'M NOT WELL"

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 SLEEP, I PACE TO AND FRO
I CAN'T EAT A THING BUT HAVE I SLIMMED AT ALL? NO!
I BURN THEN I FREEZE. I SWEAT BUT I SHIVER
AND I'M CERTAIN THERE'S SOMETHING
WRONG WITH MY LIVER!

*(Lights up on JANE, reading in the sitting room.
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.

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...

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

(The GARDINERS enter, interrupting her)

Oh my dear brother, what shall we do?

MR. GARDINER

As soon as I get to London, I'll consult with your husband as to our next steps.

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.

MRS. BENNET

Goodbye, my good brother!

(The GARDINERS exit)

I'M DIZZY, I'M NAUSEAOUS
MY POOR HEART IS FAILING
AHH...

SCENE 8B

(The house rolls off as the CHORUS enters.)

CHORUS WOMEN

THE MEN HAD GONE TO LONDON
TO SEARCH FOR THE SCOUNDRELS

A MAN

A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK, IF YOU ASK ME

A WOMAN

I DID NOT

CHORUS MEN

NOW BENNET'S BACK AT LONGBOURN

CHORUS WOMEN

RETURNED EMPTY HANDED

CHORUS

BUT IF SHE'S EVER FOUND
THEY SHOULD DISOWN HER ON THE SPOT!

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

MR. BENNET

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

ELIZABETH

You mustn't be so hard on yourself.

MR. BENNET

Mustn't I? Well it is good to be home.
(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. He has found them.

ELIZABETH

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.

SCENE 8C

*(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

*(The CHORUS exits as lights come up on
MRS. BENNET lying on the sofa,
ELIZABETH and JANE beside her.)*

MRS. BENNET

Married!

(SHE jumps off the sofa)

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 that our uncle 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.

SCENE 8D

(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....

(LYDIA laughs offstage, cutting off the CHORUS. The Bennet's sitting room. As the CHORUS exits, JANE, ELIZABETH, 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.

(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 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

My Aunt would know.

(Blackout)

SCENE 9

(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

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

(Blackout)

SCENE 10

(Three days later. 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?

(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. The OTHERS sit.)

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 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.

(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?

BINGLEY

Not right then, but soon after; when we went to dance.

"THE WAY HE HELD MY HAND" (reprise)

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

BINGLEY

I must speak to your father.

(HE exits as ELIZABETH enters)

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?

(Blackout)

SCENE 11

(The CHORUS rushes on to the empty stage.)

"WHAT WONDERFUL NEWS"

CHORUS

WHAT WONDERFUL NEWS
JANE BENNET AND MR. BINGLEY ARE ENGAGED
THEY MAKE SUCH A HANDSOME COUPLE

OLDER WOMEN

THE GIRLS IN TOWN ARE SIMPLY ENRAGED

CHORUS

SUCH A GEM DID HE CHOOSE
JANE IS THE SWEETEST GIRL IN TOWN
WE EXPECTED A HITCH,
SEEMED THE HAPPY DAY HAD NEARED
BUT THEN CAME THAT GLITCH
WHEN HE UP AND DISAPPEARED
BUT HE'S BACK, AND HE'S RICH,
SO WHATEVER FEAR WE FEARED HAS FLED
SUCH WONDERFUL NEWS

A MAN

NOW LET'S GO BACK TO BED

(CHARLOTTE and MR. COLLINS enter, listening)

WOMEN

MRS. BENNET MUST BE JUMPING FOR JOY
HER DAUGHTER SNATCHED A RICH AND HANDSOME BOY

CHORUS

THAT'S TWO DOWN AND THREE MORE TO GO

WOMEN

I WONDER WHO'LL BE NEXT
WE SO WANT TO KNOW

(LADY CATHERINE enters, listening)

CHORUS

ELIZABETH, PERHAPS?
SHE'S LIVELY AND SMART

A WOMAN

AND PICKY AS CAN BE

WOMEN

SHE DANCED WITH MR. DARCY AT NETHERFIELD

MEN

HE'S SMUG AND ALOOF

WOMEN

YOU THINK IT COULD BE HE?

CHORUS/CHARLOTTE/MR. COLLINS

THEY SPOKE THROUGHOUT THE DANCE
THEIR EYES FLITTING TO AND FRO
THOUGH SHE LIKES TO SCRUTINIZE
THE MASCULINE GENDER
DARCY COULD SURPRISE, HE MAY BE A CONTENDER
BUT COULD YOU SEE ELIZA LIVING IN SUCH SPLENDOUR?

A WOMAN

WELL, WHY NOT?

CHARLOTTE

THEY SPOKE INTIMATELY AT ROSINGS

MR. COLLINS

AND HE STRUCK SOME AWKWARD POSINGS

CHORUS/CHARLOTTE/MR. COLLINS

AND I HEARD THAT LAST SEPTEMBER SHE
WAS SEEN WELCOMED AT PEMBERLEY

HALF THE GROUP

DARCY AND ELIZABETH...etc

HALF THE GROUP

WHAT WONDERFUL NEWS...etc

(The music builds to a crescendo as LADY CATHERINE exits, angrily. She re-enters as ELIZABETH enters from the opposite side of the stage, both in the dark. Suddenly the lights go off on the Chorus, who exit and up on Lady Catherine and Elizabeth.)

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 might 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...

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)

Could it be true? Does he mean to...? Oh, my!

(Blackout)

SCENE 12

(Four days later. 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.

(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.

ELIZABETH

(after an awkward pause)

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...

"I DON'T KNOW MY HEART" (reprise)

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?

"ALL I SEE"

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 and MR. BENNET enter. DARCY exits)

JANE

ENGAGED TO MR. DARCY!

MR. BENNET

I AM SHOCKED, TO SAY THE LEAST

JANE

I KNOW HOW YOU DISLIKE HIM

ELIZABETH

THAT IS ALL TO BE FORGOT

(MRS. BENNET enters, followed by the COMPANY)

MRS. BENNET

GOOD GRACIOUS! MR. DARCY!

MR. BENNET

SUCH A PROUD, UNPLEASANT MAN

JANE

ARE YOU SURE? etc...

MRS. BENNET

MY SWEETEST LIZZY

COMPANY

MR. DARCY! etc...

MRS. BENNET

HOW RICH AND GREAT YOU'LL BE!
THREE DAUGHTERS MARRIED!
WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME?

MR. BENNET

BUT IF YOU REALLY LIKED HIM

ELIZABETH

I do like him. I love him!

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

AND ALL THAT IS PLEASING

AND ALL THAT IS THRILLING

ENCHANTING, BEWITCHING

ENTRANCING, ALLURING

AND ALL I SEE...

ELIZABETH, JANE, DARCY, BINGLEY

ALL I WANT

AND ALL I NEED

AND ALL I SEE

MRS. BENNET

(hitting Mr. Bennet on the arm as bells are heard.)

See, I told you I was hearing wedding bells.

MR. BENNET

(delayed reaction)

Ouch.

THE FULL COMPANY

...IS LOVE! LOVE! LOVE!

THE END