

# **An Assembly Such as This Study Guide**

**An Assembly Such as This by Pamela Aidan**

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# Plot Summary

"An Assembly Such As This" by Pamela Aidan is the first part of a trilogy retelling Jane Austen's classic, "Pride and Prejudice." Darcy, an upper-class gentleman, tries to fight his attraction for Elizabeth Bennet, a young lady with unacceptable relations; simultaneously, Darcy tries to dissuade his friend, Charles Bingley, from pursuing Jane Bennet, Elizabeth's sister. "An Assembly Such As This" brilliantly retells one-third of the renowned tale about Fitzwilliam Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet from Darcy's point of view.

At the Meryton assembly, Bingley meets and dances with the most handsome lady in the room, Miss Jane Bennet. Meanwhile, Darcy insults Jane's sister, Elizabeth, by stating that she is "not handsome enough to tempt me," though he finds her intriguing. Returning to Netherfield, Darcy is happy to receive a letter from Georgiana, his younger sister, that expresses her recovery from last summer's fiasco with George Wickham. Darcy rides out to escape from Miss Bingley's attention and returns to discuss business about Netherfield with Bingley. During their afternoon repast with the ladies, Bingley praises Janet Bennet, and Darcy and Bingley's sisters try to discourage him from showing attention to the young lady. Miss Bingley, mocking the Bennet sisters, asks Darcy's opinion about Elizabeth being a beauty; Darcy dissents.

Bingley is eager to see Jane again as people make visits to Netherfield. When the Bennets arrive, Elizabeth treats Darcy coldly, and he fears she overheard his remark at the assembly but refuses to lay himself open by apologizing. At dinner, Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst mock their country neighbors, and Darcy makes it apparent that Miss Elizabeth Bennet is not his idea of perfection in a woman. The Netherfield party attends a dinner at Squire Justin's house where Darcy closely watches Elizabeth whom he admires. When Squire Justin praises Elizabeth to Darcy, Darcy is embarrassed that his attraction is evident. During the party at Lucas Lodge, Elizabeth again treats Darcy coldly, but she intercepts his path when he attempts to intervene between Bingley and Jane's tete-a-tete. In a conversation with Miss Bingley, Darcy remarks upon Elizabeth's "fine eyes."

While Darcy and Bingley dine at Colonel Forster's, Miss Bingley has Jane over for dinner. Jane becomes ill from riding her horse to Netherfield in the rain. She stays at Netherfield for her recovery, and Elizabeth arrives to nurse her sister. Darcy is discomfited by Elizabeth's proximity but eager to cultivate his acquaintance with her. Miss Bingley and the Hursts are rude to Elizabeth during her stay. When Mrs. Bennet and her three youngest daughters arrive, Darcy disapproves of their rudeness since it embarrasses Elizabeth. Feeling better, Jane joins the Netherfield party in the drawing room where Bingley occupies her attention. Miss Bingley flirts with Darcy, and Darcy tries to flirt with Elizabeth who grows irritated. Jane recovers quite well, and she and Elizabeth leave Netherfield.

Bored without Jane and Elizabeth, Bingley and Darcy decide to go to Meryton and then visit Longbourn, but they encounter the Bennet sisters in Meryton with Mr. Collins and Wickham. Wickham's presence angers Darcy. Darcy decides to avoid Elizabeth Bennet



until the Netherfield ball when he may procure her hand for a dance. At the ball, Darcy, astounded by Elizabeth's beauty, asks her to dance, and she accepts confusedly. During their dance, Darcy and Elizabeth talk, and she makes it evident that she disdains Darcy for ruining Wickham's life by withdrawing his friendship; Darcy worries about what Wickham is telling everyone about their relationship. Miss Bingley appeals to Darcy for help in separating Bingley and Jane, and Darcy comes up with a plot for this.

The day after the ball, Darcy and Bingley go to London where Darcy dissuades Bingley from buying Netherfield and claims that Jane is indifferent to him. Darcy handles business and plans to attend Lady Melbourne's soiree with Bingley. Darcy's friend, Dy, visits Darcy, and Darcy enlists his aid in a game of subterfuge to extricate Bingley from Jane Bennet. At the soiree, Bingley dances with Miss Cecil while Darcy talks to the gentlemen in the drawing room until Lady Melbourne's daughter-in-law causes a scene. Darcy, Dy and Bingley return to Erewile House where Dy tells a story about knowing one's ground. As Dy leaves, he claims that the story was meant to warn Darcy to be sure of his intentions in separating Bingley and Jane. Bingley heeds Dy's counsel wistfully before leaving Darcy. Darcy wonders if his own interest in separating himself from Elizabeth fuels his plot against Bingley and Jane. Darcy imagines Elizabeth's face in front of him and tells her to leave because he is Bingley's deliverer.



# Chapter 1, At Such an Assembly as This

## Chapter 1, At Such an Assembly as This Summary

"An Assembly Such As This" by Pamela Aidan is the first part of a trilogy retelling Jane Austen's classic, "Pride and Prejudice". Darcy, an upper-class gentleman, tries to fight his attraction for Elizabeth Bennet, a young lady with unacceptable relations; simultaneously, Darcy tries to dissuade his friend, Charles Bingley, from pursuing Jane Bennet, Elizabeth's sister. "An Assembly Such As This" brilliantly retells one-third of the renowned tale about Fitzwilliam Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet from Darcy's point of view.

Fitzwilliam George Alexander Darcy enters the assembly hall with a grimace, noticing that his friend's sisters are equally unexcited. Darcy contemplates the relation between Bingley and his sisters as they are so different. Bingley's innocence caused him to be the object of several cruel jokes by the young men in town, but Darcy felt obliged to warn him, gaining Bingley as a friend. Darcy, Bingley, Miss Bingley, Mr. Hurst and Mrs. Hurst enter the assembly hall and are introduced to Sir William Lucas who welcomes them and annoys Darcy. While Bingley dances with Miss Lucas, Darcy positions himself against the wall, lamenting the waste of an evening. Darcy notices Bingley dancing with the most handsome girl in the room, but he is simultaneously filled with disdain of the girl's family as he can see her mother's thoughts turn to matrimony; Darcy decides that he must warn Bingley against showing favor to the girl. Bingley joins Darcy at the refreshment table and encourages his friend to dance. Darcy hates dancing unless he knows his partner very well; he claims that Bingley is dancing with the only handsome girl in the room. When Bingley points out his partner's sister and suggests Darcy dance with that young lady, Darcy claims that she is not handsome enough to tempt him, though he is intrigued by the girl. Bingley dances and enjoys his evening until their party leaves the assembly. Bingley's sisters are displeased with the evening and mock the people they have met. From their carriage, Darcy notices the intriguing girl and her sisters talking to the militia. Darcy is struck with the girl's simple joy and is unable to take his eyes off of her.

The next morning, Darcy rises early while the others sleep late. He receives a letter from Georgiana, his sister, whom he is concerned about since last summer's incident with George Wickham. Georgiana's letter claims that her melancholy air did not go unnoticed by Mrs. Annesley, her new companion, whose suggestion to visit the tenants around Pemberley alleviates Georgiana's sadness about the past. Darcy's tension evaporates at this news. Miss Bingley joins Darcy, praises his early rising, and offers to pour fresh coffee for him; however, Darcy refuses to give Miss Bingley any encouragement in her bid for his personal interest. Miss Bingley asks about Georgiana before expressing her disdain of country company and remarking that the previous night's assembly must have been trying for Darcy's acute sensibilities. Miss Bingley appears piqued by Darcy's inattention and his comment that she was greatly admired at the assembly. Darcy excuses himself and rides out on his horse.



## Chapter 1, At Such an Assembly as This Analysis

Chapter 1 introduces the main characters in the novel though some of them are unnamed at this point. Mr. Darcy, Mr. Bingley and Miss Bingley are introduced and named, but Jane and Elizabeth Bennet are introduced and unnamed. The main settings of the novel are also seen in this chapter: Meryton and Netherfield. Darcy's thoughts highlight the differences between Bingley and his sisters as well as the way that he and Bingley became friends. Darcy's distaste for Sir William Lucas shows his snobbery and pride. Bingley dancing with the handsomest girl in the room and his subsequent infatuation foreshadows his pursuit of Jane Bennet, though she is not yet named. Darcy's disdain of Jane's family foreshadows Darcy's interference in their relationship. Darcy insults the intriguing girl, Elizabeth, foreshadowing Elizabeth's grudge against Darcy. Bingley's sisters mocking the country people demonstrate their snobbery. When Darcy notices Lizzy talking to the militia, he is unable to take his eyes off of her, which foreshadows Darcy falling in love with Elizabeth Bennet. Georgiana's letter provides background information on Wickham and shows that Darcy is a loyal brother who loves his sister very much. Miss Bingley offering Darcy fresh coffee demonstrates her pursuit of Darcy. Darcy's escape from Miss Bingley shows how much he dislikes Miss Bingley and her intentions toward him.



## Chapter 2, A Man of Property

### Chapter 2, A Man of Property Summary

Returning to Netherfield from his morning ride, Darcy finds himself pleased with the lands and confident in his ability to teach Bingley to be a man of property as Darcy was taught by his father. Bingley joins Darcy, teasing him about riding out to avoid Miss Bingley. Darcy asks Bingley to join him in the library to discuss the work needed on the property. Darcy rereads Georgiana's letter and prays that there is truth in her proclaimed mending. Darcy and Bingley spend the morning in the library until the ladies request their company for an afternoon repast. As Miss Bingley disdains country society, Bingley praises Miss Jane Bennet, and Darcy attempts to dissuade Bingley from his attention to Miss Bingley with the concurrence of Bingley's sisters. Miss Bingley mocks the immodesty of the other Bennet sisters, commenting that the local militiamen seem to like them. Mockingly, Miss Bingley states that Miss Elizabeth Bennet is also accounted a beauty and asks Darcy's opinion. Darcy claims that he would as soon "call her mother a wit," even though he thinks that it is appropriate for the intriguing girl of the prior evening to be named after a queen.

Not anticipating enjoyment of the morning's activities, Darcy reads and thinks that the Bingley family will be prominent in Meryton society. Bingley joins Darcy, accusing him of fortifying for the onslaught or preparing his retreat. Bingley assures Darcy that it will not be bad because he has already met most of them at Friday's night assembly or at church on Sunday. Bingley looks forward to seeing Miss Bennet again. Darcy hopes that Mrs. Darcy will not bring all of her daughters. Bingley expresses his desire that his attentions will not be so thinly divided as it was at church when he was inundated with questions and invitations. When Darcy notes that Miss Bennet was not one of the throng, Bingley says that Miss Bennet and Elizabeth were engaged in a conversation with the vicar. Bingley notes that it is almost time; he has come to tell Darcy that the first carriage has been seen a mile from the gate. Bingley thanks Darcy for standing by him despite the fact that Darcy hates these types of things. Darcy and Bingley prepare to receive visits. Miss Bingley announces that their guests have arrived and thanks Darcy for sharing his prayer book with her yesterday. After Miss Bingley leaves the library, Bingley looks at Darcy questioningly and mentions that his sisters were shocked that Darcy attended church because they only go when an influential person is supposed to attend. Darcy regularly attends church. Darcy explains that during church, he noticed Elizabeth Bennet's rich soprano, and when Miss Bingley noticed him noticing, she suddenly discovered the loss of her prayer book, forcing Darcy to offer to share his. Bingley mocks Darcy for bearing it all well, looks down the hall, announces "all clear," and heads toward the drawing room.



## Chapter 2, A Man of Property Analysis

Darcy begins the chapter with pleasure in the lands surrounding Netherfield and reminiscences about his father. Darcy and Bingley's discussion in the library shows Darcy's role as Bingley's mentor. Bingley and Bingley's sisters react very differently to Jane Bennet, emphasizing the differences between them which Darcy considers in the first chapter. Darcy attempts to discourage Bingley's attentions toward Jane Bennet; this foreshadows Darcy's intervening in their relationship. Darcy's words, disputing that Elizabeth is a beauty, contradicts his thoughts, that she would have the name of a queen. Bingley knows that Darcy dislikes society, demonstrating this knowledge by comments to this effect. Bingley's desire to see Jane again foreshadows his love for her. The conversation between Bingley and Darcy about Elizabeth and Jane talking to the vicar demonstrates Elizabeth and Jane's piety. Darcy admits to the truth of Bingley's observation about Darcy's dislike of society when he states how much he hates visits. Miss Bingley fawning over Darcy again further demonstrates her pursuit of Darcy. Darcy's regular attendance at church demonstrates his piety. Bingley's response to Darcy sharing his prayer book with Miss Bingley and his looking down the hall and joking "all clear" shows that Bingley knows how much Darcy dislikes Miss Bingley pursuing him.





# Chapter 3, En Garde!

## Chapter 3, En Garde! Summary

Darcy waits a few seconds before following Bingley, entering the room unannounced. Miss Bingley sends Darcy his favorite coffee with her compliments as Darcy notices excitement at the window. Darcy looks out of curiosity as the young men claim it is time for fun since Miss Lydia has arrived. Darcy sees Mrs. Bennett and realizes that Elizabeth must also have arrived. Miss Elizabeth Bennet descends from the carriage, and Miss Bingley is vexed as she notices the disturbance at the window and its cause. The Bennets are announced, and Miss Jane Bennet exchanges greetings with Miss Bingley. Miss Lydia Bennet quickly becomes the center of attention for the young men in the room. As Darcy watches Elizabeth enter, he notices an expression of impudence on her face and draws near inadvertently until he is standing next to Bingley. Miss Bingley introduces Elizabeth and Bingley but falters when she notices Darcy so near. Elizabeth and Bingley banter about his neglect at the ball due to his need to procure refreshment for Jane. Bingley introduces Elizabeth and Darcy, excusing himself in pursuit of Miss Jane Bennet. Darcy chats with Elizabeth, but her arch response causes Darcy to be cold. Elizabeth excuses herself because her mother needs her, causing Darcy to be shocked at Elizabeth's rudeness and amused at how her expression betrayed her opinion of Miss Bingley. Darcy is confused by Elizabeth's manner toward himself though. He realizes that she must have overheard his comment at the assembly and acknowledges to himself that he owes her an apology. Darcy considers his options but refuses to lay himself open by apologizing. Darcy observes Elizabeth without being noticed and admits to himself that her social graces demonstrate a lack of genteel upbringing, but he is unable to convince his emotions to second the verdict though he has no such qualms about the rest of her family. Darcy unwittingly joins Bingley and the other gentlemen's discussion about tomorrow's proposed shooting expedition and agrees that it is a good idea.

Before dinner, Bingley and Darcy jokes about Miss Bingley's pursuit to be in the first circles; Bingley praises Georgiana for never giving Darcy trouble. Over dinner, Bingley allows Miss Bingley free rein to discuss the visits, and Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst mock the country neighbors. Miss Bingley tells Bingley about the engagements that they have procured. Bingley is happy when he learns that his Saturday evening will be spent at Sir William Lucas' home. Darcy realizes that Bingley's happiness is due to the fact that the eldest Miss Lucas seems to be close friends with Miss Bennet, meaning that Miss Bennet will likely be in attendance at the dinner. Darcy worries about Bingley and Jane Bennet but knows that Bingley falls in and out of love quickly and sees no reason for Jane Bennet to be any different. Darcy feels the need to distract his own attention from Elizabeth Bennet. Miss Bingley asks Darcy his opinion of their neighbors, especially the ladies. Darcy tells Miss Bingley to apply to Bingley about the ladies, but Bingley defers to Darcy on the subject of Elizabeth Bennet; Darcy makes it apparent that Elizabeth Bennet is not his idea of perfection in a woman.



## Chapter 3, En Garde! Analysis

Miss Bingley sends Darcy coffee which demonstrates her pursuit of Darcy. The young men's claim that it is time for fun because Lydia has arrived demonstrates Lydia's reputation. Elizabeth's look of impudence when she greets Miss Bingley demonstrates her feelings toward Miss Bingley. Miss Bingley falters in her introductions when she notices that Darcy has approached so near upon Elizabeth's arrival; this demonstrates her feelings for Darcy and her jealousy of Elizabeth. Bingley's love for Jane is foreshadowed first by his neglect at the ball due to his need to procure refreshment for Jane. Elizabeth's arch response to Darcy demonstrates her dislike. Darcy's confusion about Elizabeth's manner toward him, his realization that he owes her an apology and his refusal to apologize to her shows Darcy's pride and his lack of social skills. His realization that he owes her an apology contrasts sharply with his refusal to apologize. Further contradicting himself, Darcy admits Elizabeth's lack of social graces but is unable to convince his emotions that she is lacking in anything. Bingley praising Georgiana for never giving Darcy trouble is ironic due to her venture with Wickham last summer. Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst's comments about their country neighbors shows their cruel snobbery. Bingley's excitement at seeing Jane Bennet again demonstrates his growing love. Darcy assures himself that Bingley will quickly grow tired of Jane as he usually does with ladies, demonstrating his doubt of Bingley's love for Jane. Darcy's need to distract his attention from Elizabeth Bennet foreshadows Darcy loving Elizabeth. Bingley defers to Darcy in regards to Elizabeth Bennet while discussing the ladies in the area, suggesting that he may suspect Darcy's feelings about Elizabeth. Darcy lies when he says that Elizabeth Bennet is not his idea of perfection in a woman.



## Chapter 4, Intermezzo

### Chapter 4, Intermezzo Summary

During the shooting party, Bingley is established as one of the prominent sporting men in the district due to following Darcy's advice. Darcy, on the other hand, stays in the background and focuses on training his young hound, Trafalgar. Darcy is at peace training and playing fetch with his dog while the party continues ahead of him. Darcy finally joins the others who teasingly praise Trafalgar. When the hunt ends, Bingley exchanges civilities with the other men and departs with Darcy. Bingley tells Darcy that the Bennets have accepted an invitation to dine at Squire Justin's house tomorrow evening, and Bingley is certain that the Bennets will be at Sir William Lucas' party. Darcy realizes that he is to be constantly thrown into company with Miss Elizabeth Bennet and contemplates the forces he will need for tomorrow night.

The Netherfield party arrives late for their evening at Squire Justin's due to a crisis with Miss Bingley's apparel. Darcy enters last, and after exchanging greetings with Bingley, Squire Justin greets Darcy and teases him about Trafalgar. Darcy searches for the Bennets and finds himself face-to-face with Elizabeth. Darcy greets Elizabeth who responds shortly before excusing herself to sooth her mother's flustering and to have a word with a younger sister. At dinner, Darcy regrets not being in Elizabeth's immediate sphere of polite conversation, but he witnesses her engaging manners. As he watches her sip her wine, his pulse elevates. After dinner, Darcy joins the men in the card room to partake of some illegal French brandy. He settles in a corner alone, comparing the light in his glass to Elizabeth's eyes; he admonishes himself for this comparison. Darcy notices Bingley talking to Mr. Bennet. Darcy attempts to retrieve his poise for the expected joust with Miss Elizabeth Bennet as Bingley settles next to Miss Jane Bennet. Bingley speaks briefly to Darcy as he procures refreshments for Jane, but he hurries back to her side to avoid being supplanted, despite the fact that Mrs. Bennet is guarding Jane carefully from any other potential suitors. As Darcy glances around the room in a search for Elizabeth, Miss Bingley offers him tea, and Darcy tells Miss Bingley that she is universally admired. Miss Bingley mockingly laments that Elizabeth does not like her, insinuating that Miss Elizabeth Bennet is jealous of her. After Miss Bingley walks away, Darcy discards the tea, and Squire Justin joins him. Squire Justin indicates Elizabeth Bennet as someone with great sense, wrapped in attractive packaging. Darcy watches Elizabeth praise a young girl's poorly constructed needlework to please the girl, causing Squire Justin to again exclaim praise of Elizabeth. Darcy is embarrassed that his attraction to Elizabeth is noticeable though he cannot deny that he is attracted to her as he continues to watch her for the remainder of the evening.

### Chapter 4, Intermezzo Analysis

Bingley being established as one of the prominent sporting men in the district demonstrates his likeability. Since this is due to Darcy's advice, this highlights Darcy's



role as a mentor to Bingley. Darcy preferring to spend time training his dog rather than socializing shows his disgust with society. Bingley's excitement that the Bennets have accepted an invitation to dinner at Squire Justin's house and his certainty that they will also be at Sir William Lucas' party demonstrates his love for Jane. Darcy immediately thinks about Elizabeth Bennet when he learns of the Bennets' engagements; this foreshadows his love for Elizabeth. The crisis with Miss Bingley's apparel demonstrates her vanity and superficiality. Elizabeth excusing herself to sooth her mother's flustering and to have a word with her younger sister demonstrates her role in the family. Darcy's regret in not being in Elizabeth's immediate sphere of polite conversation and his reaction to watching her sip her wine foreshadow his love for Elizabeth, as does his comparison of the light reflecting in his brandy glass with Elizabeth's eyes. Bingley attaching himself to Miss Jane Bennet demonstrates his growing love. Miss Bingley, meanwhile, continues her pursuit of Darcy by offering him tea and insinuating that Elizabeth is jealous of her. This is also ironic since this is very far from the truth; Elizabeth dislikes Miss Bingley because of Miss Bingley's mental inferiority and the fact that she believes herself to be superior to everyone even though she is not. Squire Justin's praise of Elizabeth demonstrates that Darcy's attraction is evident; this embarrasses Darcy because he feels that his emotions about Elizabeth are inappropriate due to the inferiority of her relations.



# Chapter 5, To Know More Of Her

## Chapter 5, To Know More Of Her Summary

Darcy joins Bingley for breakfast before their morning ride since Bingley awakes late. Darcy chides Bingley for his tardiness and begins the ride alone. Darcy is disquieted by spending the last two evening in Elizabeth's presence, though not her company. Bingley joins Darcy; his further delay is caused by Miss Bingley ensuring that he is engaged to dine at Colonel Forster's home on Monday since she would spare him a dinner with a guest that she is required to invite to dinner at Netherfield. Darcy insists to himself that he will talk to Miss Elizabeth Bennet this evening at Sir William Lucas' party. Darcy and Bingley prepare to leave punctually, conspiring to leave without Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst. Bingley is irritated to have learned that the obligatory dinner guest that Miss Bingley wishes to spare him from entertaining is Miss Jane Bennet.

Bingley and Darcy arrive at Lucas Lodge, and Sir William Lucas welcomes them. Elizabeth, Jane and many additional young ladies gather around Miss Lucas who teaches them the techniques of painting pottery—last year's rage in London. Bingley is swept up by the ladies, but Darcy evades the chaos. Elizabeth finishes painting and nearly walks by Darcy until his sudden movement startles her, causing her to greet him. After Elizabeth excuses herself from Darcy's company, Miss Bingley joins Darcy and insists that he escort her on a turn around the room. Finishing his duty, Darcy looks around the room for Elizabeth and finds her engaged in a conversation with Miss Lucas and Colonel Forster. He follows her gaze to Bingley sitting with Jane; a look reveals that Miss Bingley is also pointedly staring in that direction. Darcy starts toward Bingley to interrupt the tête-à-tête, but Elizabeth intercepts his path to ask his opinion on how she expressed herself while teasing Colonel Forster about giving a ball on Meryton. When Darcy responds, Elizabeth accuses him of severity on ladies. In an attempt to dispel the animosity between Darcy and Elizabeth, Miss Lucas insists that Elizabeth entertain them by playing the piano. Darcy listens rapturously. Sir William Lucas joins Darcy and praises this form of charming amusement for young people. Darcy responds coldly. Sir William Lucas asks why Darcy does not dance and presents Miss Elizabeth Bennet as a desirable partner when she approaches. Elizabeth claims that she has no intention of dancing, but Darcy requests her hand for a dance. When Sir William Lucas insists that Elizabeth dance, Darcy admires her poise and amusement in such an awkward situation. Miss Bingley joins Darcy and guesses that he is thinking about the insipidity of these people, but Darcy tells her that she is wrong; he is meditating on a pair of fine eyes in the face of a beautiful woman, naming Elizabeth as this woman. Darcy ignores Miss Bingley's subsequent drollery and is grateful that Bingley arranges their return to Netherfield in the same manner as their arrival. On the drive, Bingley asks Darcy what is wrong with him, and Darcy replies that their adventure into the country has brought about more than he expected.



## Chapter 5, To Know More Of Her Analysis

Darcy chides Bingley for his tardiness, acting again as a paternal and mentoring figure toward his naïve friend. His disquiet at spending the last two nights in Elizabeth's presence shows his growing affection and his feelings that it is inappropriate. Miss Bingley ensures that Bingley will be out of the house on Monday in order to spare him having to entertain a necessary guest; this foreshadows the discovery of who the guest is. This foreshadowing is fulfilled shortly after when Bingley learns who the guest is: Miss Bennet. He exacts his revenge by leaving for Sir William Lucas' party without his sisters. Darcy is happy with this arrangement, and Miss Bingley is likely annoyed since she loses this chance of spending time with Darcy. At Lucas Lodge, Bingley immediately joins the group that contains Miss Jane Bennet while Darcy watches Elizabeth closely. Miss Bingley continues her attentions to Darcy as he continues to pay attention to Elizabeth, who continues treating him coldly. When Darcy notices the attention that Bingley is paying to Jane, he starts to intervene but is interrupted by Elizabeth. Darcy is in rapture as he listens to Elizabeth play the piano, marking his growing affection. Darcy again shows disdain for Sir William Lucas in his coldness to his host. Oddly, Darcy now greatly desires to dance with Elizabeth, but when Sir William Lucas suggests it, she refuses by stating that she does not intend to dance; this is ironic since at the assembly in Meryton, Darcy was very rude and insulting when Bingley suggested that Darcy dance with Elizabeth and now he is disappointed. Miss Bingley again degrades the neighbors and attempts to draw Darcy into her mockery, but he claims that he is contemplating the effects of a pair of fine eyes in the face of a beautiful woman and names Elizabeth; this secures Miss Bingley's hatred of Elizabeth and indicates how much Darcy's feelings have changed from the Meryton assembly when he claimed "she is not handsome enough to tempt me."



# Chapter 6, Feint and Parry

## Chapter 6, Feint and Parry Summary

Darcy enjoys the evening spent at Colonel Forster's home while Bingley plots revenge on Miss Bingley for inviting Jane Bennet to Netherfield on a night that she knew him to be engaged elsewhere. Darcy and Bingley return to an uproar at Netherfield because Miss Bennet has taken ill. Bingley rushes to his sisters to learn about Miss Bennet; meanwhile, Darcy retreats to his room where Fletcher, his valet, informs him that Jane arrived at Netherfield on horseback in the midst of a rainstorm. Darcy puzzles over such strange behavior, wondering why she did not take the carriage. He also ponders whether Elizabeth Bennet will come to nurse her sister. Darcy spends the next morning in the library but joins Bingley and his sisters in the breakfast room. Although Bingley wants to send for a doctor from London, Miss Bingley dissuades him. Miss Elizabeth Bennet appears, disheveled and muddy from her walk to Netherfield, and asks about her sister; Miss Bingley takes Elizabeth to see Jane immediately. Darcy convinces Bingley to ride to Meryton to post their letters with the suggestion that Bingley invite Elizabeth to stay with her sister if Jane is not better by the time the men return from Meryton. After making his suggestion, Darcy debates whether the disturbance Elizabeth's presence will cause his comfort at Netherfield is worth getting to know her better, but he decides that it is.

Upon his return to Netherfield, Darcy is irritated not to see Elizabeth until dinner. He is also annoyed that Miss Bingley maneuvers the seating arrangements at dinner so that Elizabeth is forced to sit beside Mr. Hurst. As soon as the meal is over, Elizabeth returns to her sister's side while Miss Bingley and the Hursts mock Elizabeth's dining manners, pride, lack of taste and muddy appearance in the morning. Bingley objects that he did not notice her muddy appearance and Darcy concurs. When Miss Bingley interjects that the adventure must have surely affected Darcy's admiration of Elizabeth's lovely eyes, he disputes her by saying that Elizabeth's eyes were brightened by the exercise. Alone in his room, Darcy admits to himself the truth of Miss Bingley's observation that the Bennets' barely respectable London relations must lessen their chances of marriage. He is also disgusted with the way that Miss Bingley pursues him. Darcy internally compares Miss Bingley and Elizabeth, realizing that Elizabeth would be disdained in London while less worthy women were courted. Darcy recalls the evening: Miss Bingley mocks Elizabeth for being a great reader and despising cards, even as she praises the library at Pemberley and Pemberley in general and asks about Georgiana. After Darcy and Miss Bingley describe the requirements of an accomplished young lady, Elizabeth expresses wonder that they know any accomplished young women as she has never seen such a lady. Darcy anticipates a foray with Elizabeth the next day.

Miss Jane Bennet is improved a little the next morning, but Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst mock Elizabeth. Mrs. Bennet and three youngest Bennet sisters arrive, and Elizabeth joins them in the drawing room where her mother chides her for teasing Bingley. Darcy tries to express disapproval of Mrs. Bennet and encourage Elizabeth's conversation but





manages to offend them both. Mrs. Bennet discusses Jane's former suitor who wrote her poetry, and Elizabeth dismisses the conversation quickly. After Bingley agrees to hold a ball at Netherfield after Jane's recovery, Mrs. Bennet, Mary, Catherine and Lydia leave. Darcy writes Georgiana of his happiness at her improvement. He blames himself for her indiscretion. Miss Bingley interrupts the letter to say hello, and Darcy mentions Jane and Elizabeth Bennet's presence at Netherfield. He admits that he fears he has offended Elizabeth with his logic and sensibility. Darcy tells his sister that he plans to go to town soon but he is unsure whether he will stay in London or return to Netherfield. As Elizabeth sits with her needlework, Darcy ponders how to earn her good opinion. He asks Miss Bingley and Elizabeth to play the piano and sing, and Miss Bingley eagerly sings an Italian song. Afterward, she mentions how tedious songs in foreign languages can be if one does not know the language, directing the comment at Elizabeth who offers to translate it for her. Darcy asks if Elizabeth would like to dance a reel, but she declines in order to thwart his expectations, which she claims he has for the desire of despising her taste. Darcy sees Elizabeth as magnificent. He leaves to train Trafalgar, but he thinks of Elizabeth. The thought of Mrs. Bennet somewhat steadies Darcy's admiration of Elizabeth, and Darcy tells his dog that he would be in danger if not for the inferiority of Elizabeth's connections.

## Chapter 6, Feint and Parry Analysis

Although Bingley began his revenge on Miss Bingley by leaving her on the night of Sir William Lucas' party, he further plots his revenge by showing exactly how upset he is by his sister inviting Miss Jane Bennet to dine at Netherfield on a night that he is absent. The uproar at Netherfield upon Darcy and Bingley's return is due to Jane's illness which is caused by the insensible act of riding a horse to Netherfield in the rain; Darcy ponders this situation and disbelieves that Jane would make such an unwise decision. Again, his thoughts quickly turn to Elizabeth as he wonders whether she will come to nurse her sister. Bingley shows his concern for Jane by his desire to send for a doctor, but Miss Bingley dissuades him. Elizabeth's appearance is disheveled and shows her immense concern for Jane. Darcy's suggestion that Bingley invite Elizabeth to stay at Netherfield if Jane is not better by the time they return to Netherfield shows his own feelings for Elizabeth, especially when he decides that his discomfort is worth getting to know her better. Darcy's irritation at not seeing Elizabeth until dinner demonstrates his affection. Miss Bingley and the Hursts show their snobbery by mocking Elizabeth's manners and her muddy appearance in the morning. Bingley objects that he did notice her appearance and Darcy concurs; this is odd behavior for Darcy which demonstrates his affection for Elizabeth is not superficial. Miss Bingley's snide mockery about Elizabeth's "fine eyes" is thwarted by Darcy's statement that her eyes were brightened by the exercise.

In his room, Darcy continues thinking about Elizabeth Bennet and admits the inferiority of her connections. He compares Miss Bingley and Elizabeth, thinking that Elizabeth would be disdained in London while less worthy women were pursued. This shows his opinions about both ladies as well as the direction his thoughts are taking concerning Elizabeth. Miss Bingley continually mocks Elizabeth out of jealousy because Darcy pays





so much attention to Elizabeth. Elizabeth comments on Darcy's high expectations for an accomplished young woman. Mrs. Bennet and the other three Bennet sisters arrive, and Darcy continues being disgusted by Elizabeth's relations. Elizabeth also shows her disapproval of her mother's conversation topics by attempting to discourage her from embarrassing her. As Darcy writes to Georgiana, Miss Bingley constantly vies for his opinion by asking him to remember her to his sister. Darcy mentions Jane and Elizabeth in his letter, lamenting the fact that Elizabeth does not like him; this shows his feelings for her. When Miss Bingley states that love songs in foreign languages can be tedious if one does not understand the language, Elizabeth offers to translate it for her, flipping the insult back on Miss Bingley. Darcy admits to his dog that he greatly admires Elizabeth. His comment that he would be in great danger if not for the inferiority of Elizabeth's connections demonstrates the importance of social class.



# Chapter 7, Dueling in Earnest

## Chapter 7, Dueling in Earnest Summary

Darcy is excited to receive a package containing two eagerly anticipated volumes about war. At dinner, Elizabeth Bennet announces that Jane will join their party in the drawing room later in the evening. Darcy tells Bingley that he has received the two volumes and Bingley asks to borrow them after Darcy reads them. Miss Bingley asks to read one of them while Darcy reads the other; Darcy reluctantly agrees. The ladies leave the gentlemen to their port, but Bingley and Darcy are eager to join the ladies in the drawing room. Bingley attends Jane as Darcy tries to read though Miss Bingley distracts him before tossing her borrowed book aside and asking Elizabeth to take a turn around the room, inviting Darcy to join them as well. Darcy refuses, stating that either they are in each other's confidence and he would be in the way, or they are aware that their figures look best while walking and he can better admire from his current position. Elizabeth suggests they tease Darcy in response, but Miss Bingley insists that Darcy is not to be laughed at. When Elizabeth accuses Darcy of vanity, pride and hating everyone, he rebuts that her fault is to willfully misunderstand people. Darcy excuses himself and goes to his room where he thinks Elizabeth is forward and impertinent. He wonders why he continues to attend to her and admits to himself that she is both, mind and heart, what he has always desired; however, he resolves that no sign of his admiration for Miss Elizabeth Bennet will escape him henceforth.

After a sleepless night, Darcy wakes early as usual with a tightness in his chest as he recalls his resolve of the previous evening and determines to avoid Elizabeth. Darcy dresses, breakfasts, and prepares for his morning ride. In the stables, he finds his horse, Nelson, feisty, and he enjoys a very vigorous ride. Dirty and late for breakfast, Darcy returns to the house, orders a bath and sends his regrets to Bingley regarding his attendance at breakfast. Darcy overhears Elizabeth and Bingley discussing Elizabeth and Jane's intent to leave Netherfield tomorrow since Jane is mostly recovered. Bingley tries in vain to dissuade Elizabeth, but she persists. Darcy returns to his room, telling himself that it is a godsend for her to leave because he likes her more than he should already. He chides himself for the word "like"; he cannot even be honest with himself. When Darcy snaps at Fletcher who informs him that the Misses Bennets are to leave tomorrow, the valet suggests that Darcy has perhaps already heard.

Darcy sits in the library reading while Bingley and his sisters are out at their folly. When the door opens, Darcy expects Bingley but is distracted from his book when Elizabeth enters, chooses a book, and sits down to read. A servant summons Elizabeth because Jane asks for her, and Elizabeth leaves the library. Darcy paces; he is glad that Elizabeth is leaving Netherfield because she is turning him into a pining mooncalf. He looks at the book that she is reading and is surprised to recognize Milton's "Paradise Lost" because it is out of fashion. He pockets Elizabeth's bookmark as Bingley enters the library. Bingley insists that Darcy join them in the conservatory but asks his friend not to wrangle or debate with Elizabeth. Darcy denies doing so ever but promises to



conduct himself appropriately. During their refreshments in the conservatory, Darcy sits apart and tries to distract himself from noticing Elizabeth. As everyone discusses the ball that Bingley promised to have at Netherfield, Darcy longs for Pemberley. When Darcy admires the flowers, Elizabeth joins him and states that his admiration of the flowers' beauty may be detrimental to its character. Darcy reminds Bingley of their engagement in the billiards room after which he speaks only to Bingley and Mr. Hurst at dinner. Darcy falls asleep in a chair and is woken by Fletcher who arranges Darcy's suit for church service tomorrow. Exhausted, Darcy goes back to sleep.

## Chapter 7, Dueling in Earnest Analysis

Darcy's excitement to receive his two volumes shows his interest in reading. Elizabeth's announcement that Jane will join them in the drawing room later demonstrates that Jane's health is improving. Miss Bingley's desire to read one of Darcy's book is evidently just another ploy to attract his attention, which is seen when she quickly tosses the book aside. Bingley and Darcy's eagerness to join the ladies in the drawing room after dinner is due to Bingley's desire to see Jane and Darcy's desire to see Elizabeth. Bingley shows his love for Jane as he attends to her immediately upon entering the drawing room. Miss Bingley asks Elizabeth to take a turn around the room and invites Darcy to join them; she has obviously noticed Darcy's attraction to Elizabeth and is attempting to ingratiate herself with Darcy by paying attention to Elizabeth. Darcy's refusal is the result of his attempt to flirt, but it leads to an awkward conversation between Darcy, Elizabeth and Miss Bingley when Miss Bingley tells Elizabeth that they cannot tease Darcy in response because he is not to be laughed at. Although Darcy thinks that Elizabeth is forward and impertinent, he also acknowledges to himself that she is what he has always desired. This contrasts with his previous declaration that Miss Elizabeth Bennet is "not his idea of perfection in a woman." Despite this self-admission, he determines not to allow his admiration to be evident from this point on.

The next day, the tightness in Darcy's chest as he recalls his resolve demonstrates the depth of his love and admiration of Elizabeth. This is further demonstrated by his reaction to overhearing her insist that she and Jane leave Netherfield tomorrow. Darcy chides himself for liking Elizabeth too much already but then admonishes himself for using the word "like"; he cannot even admit his true feelings for Elizabeth to himself. Fletcher's suggestion that Darcy has perhaps already heard that Elizabeth and Jane are leaving tomorrow indicates that Fletcher is aware of how his master feels about Miss Elizabeth Bennet. Darcy attempts to distract himself from thoughts of Elizabeth by reading in the library, only for Elizabeth to intrude upon his reverie. After Elizabeth leaves the library, Darcy looks at the book she was reading and is surprised to see Milton's "Paradise Lost"; this indicates that he expects her to be reading frivolous nonsense and is impressed at her choice of an irreproachable classic. The fact that Darcy pockets Elizabeth's bookmark demonstrates his love and admiration for her. Elizabeth's comment to Darcy that his admiration of the flower's beauty may be detrimental to its character is indicative of her virtue. Darcy's evasion of Elizabeth for the remainder of the evening demonstrates his attempt to overcome his feelings for her.



# Chapter 8, His Own Worst Enemy

## Chapter 8, His Own Worst Enemy Summary

As Darcy prepares for church, Fletcher seems overly concerned about his garb. On his way downstairs, Darcy encounters Elizabeth whom he escorts downstairs. Oddly, Elizabeth's clothes complement Darcy's apparel perfectly; Bingley and Miss Bingley notice, and Miss Bingley is very displeased by this fact. Darcy suspects that the complementary clothing is Fletcher's contrivance. On the ride to church, Darcy tries to meditate on his prayer book but is distracted with thoughts of Elizabeth. As he escorts Miss Bingley into the church, Elizabeth exits the church in order to retrieve Jane's shawl. She sits next to Darcy when she returns with Miss Bingley on his other side. During the sermon, Darcy is irritated by two giggling girls in front of him and Elizabeth's efforts not to join them; however, he shares his prayer book with Elizabeth while trying not to sit too close to either lady. After the sermon, both ladies say Darcy's name, but Elizabeth defers to Miss Bingley whom Darcy escorts. Darcy is distracted by a disturbance in the servant's pew with Fletcher at the center of it, holding the arm of a young lady as a footman glowers behind them. Miss Bingley disparagingly questions Darcy about his valet.

After returning to Netherfield, Darcy is eager to absent himself from Elizabeth's presence and forget her imminent departure. Bingley and Darcy read until Jane and Elizabeth take their leave. As Elizabeth leaves, she praises Fletcher to Darcy for acting as a knight in shining armor to little Annie Garrick, the girl at church. This image amuses Darcy who thanks Elizabeth and bids her farewell. In his room, Darcy tells Fletcher that they must discuss his behavior. When Fletcher grows flustered, Darcy compares this image to Elizabeth's version of the knightly Fletcher and cannot help but laugh. Darcy chides Fletcher for his altercation with Miss Bingley; although Fletcher is confused, he promises to never do so again. On Monday, Darcy and Bingley are both bored without Elizabeth and Jane. On Tuesday, Bingley suggests a ride into Meryton, ending with a visit to Longbourn, the Bennets' residence. Darcy's eagerness surprises Bingley. The men are pleasantly surprised to encounter the Bennet sisters in Meryton with two gentlemen, who Elizabeth introduces as her cousin, Mr. Collins, and Lieutenant George Wickham. Darcy is shocked and angry to see Wickham and is barely able to appear civil while wondering why Wickham is in Meryton and worrying about Georgiana. Darcy realizes that he will continually be in company with Wickham since Wickham is in Colonel Forster's regiment. After returning to Netherfield, Darcy asks Bingley to make it clear to Colonel Forster that Wickham is not invited to the Netherfield ball because Wickham did a great injury to Darcy's family's kindnesses. Bingley cheerfully agrees.

After dinner, Darcy begins to write Georgiana but does not know how to begin because he does not want to cause her pain by mentioning Wickham. As he looks around, he realizes that the company is useless for help. Luckily, a servant arrives with a letter from Georgiana which refuses to allow Darcy to blame himself for her indiscretion and acknowledges her own fault in the matter. Darcy is relieved since this letter assures him



that Wickham has not bothered Georgiana any further. Darcy worries about meeting Wickham often in Hertfordshire and considers going to London on "unexpected business" to shorten his stay at Netherfield. Further reading Georgiana's letter, Darcy finds a compliment to Bingley and Miss Bingley as well as his sister's astonishment that Elizabeth does not like Darcy. Georgiana fears that he must have made a bad first impression, but she cannot bear for someone to so misjudge Darcy's character. Darcy is pleased with his sister's letter and her changes in the past five months. Her confidence in him renews his optimism and he considers that circumstances are in his favor regarding Elizabeth.

## Chapter 8, His Own Worst Enemy Analysis

Fletcher's concern about Darcy's apparel foreshadows Fletcher's scheme concerning Darcy's clothing. This scheme is hinted at when Darcy notices that Elizabeth's clothes perfectly complement his own. Unfortunately, Miss Bingley also notices, which causes her extreme displeasure due to her intentions toward Darcy. Darcy's inability to focus on his prayer book due to Elizabeth being a distraction demonstrates his extreme attraction to Elizabeth. Darcy being seated in between Elizabeth and Miss Bingley is ironic since Darcy loves Elizabeth and Miss Bingley loves Darcy. Darcy tries to avoid sitting too close to either lady in order to keep the peace. Fletcher being at the center of the disturbance in the servant's pew irritates Darcy and causes Miss Bingley to disparage Darcy's valet. Darcy's eagerness to forget about Elizabeth's departure demonstrates his affection and the likeliness that he will miss her at Netherfield. Elizabeth explains Fletcher's actions in church, saving him from getting into trouble and providing an image of Fletcher that contrasts strangely with the image Fletcher presents when in Darcy's presence. Darcy chides Fletcher for his altercation with Miss Bingley, likely insinuating Fletcher's role in making sure Darcy and Elizabeth's clothes were complementary. Darcy and Bingley's boredom and decision to visit Longbourn make evident their affection for Elizabeth and Jane Bennet. Ironically, they encounter the ladies in Meryton before they begin for Longbourn. Also ironically, the Bennets are with George Wickham, causing Darcy pain, anger and worry for Georgiana. Darcy's request that Bingley make it evident to Colonel Forster that Wickham is not invited to the Netherfield Ball demonstrates Darcy's hatred of Wickham. Bingley's cheerful acquiescence in such an awkward position shows his loyalty to his mentoring friend. Darcy's indecision in writing to Georgiana for fear of causing her pain shows his fraternal devotion. Luckily and ironically, he receives a letter from her that ensures him that Wickham has not bothered her any further. Darcy considering going to London to avoid Wickham shows the extent of his distaste. Georgiana's faith in Darcy's character shows her sisterly affection and renews Darcy's faith in himself.



# Chapter 9, The Illustration of His Character

## Chapter 9, The Illustration of His Character Summary

The inclement weather before the ball works in Darcy's favor. He intends to avoid Elizabeth until the ball when he will apologize and procure her hand for a dance. On Tuesday morning, the day of the ball, Fletcher convinces Darcy to change his plain black coat for an emerald green and gold silk, causing Darcy to be suspicious but agree. Darcy joins Bingley who is frantic in his preparation for the ball. Darcy calms Bingley who assures him that Wickham will not attend the ball because he is in London on business. Darcy is relieved. As Darcy descends to the ball, he receives and pockets a letter. He is annoyed and surprised by the Bennets' tardiness. The Bennets' carriage finally arrives, and Darcy makes his way to the receiving line. He is astounded by Elizabeth's beauty and greets her eagerly, but Elizabeth responds coldly and excuses herself. Lines from Milton pervade Darcy's thoughts as he looks at Elizabeth. Darcy sees Elizabeth dance with Mr. Collins while Bingley dances with Jane. He also sees Elizabeth accept a lieutenant for the next dance. Darcy assures Bingley that the ball is a success, but Bingley is irritated that others consume Jane's attention and accuses Darcy of staring at Elizabeth instead of dancing. Darcy assures his friend of his intent to dance tonight.

As Elizabeth talks to Miss Lucas, Darcy asks her to dance, and she agrees confusedly. Darcy is confused and disheartened by Elizabeth's obvious indifference. During their dance, Elizabeth comments on the dance and suggests he comment on the size of the room or number of couples. He responds that he will say whatever she wishes, and she says "that reply will do for now." When Darcy asks if Elizabeth usually talks while dancing, she states that they are alike: they are both taciturn and unsocial. Darcy does not agree that this is a portrait of his disposition. Darcy thinks of Elizabeth's strange behavior and considers it payback for his comment at the Meryton assembly. When Darcy asks about their last encounter at Meryton, Elizabeth states that she was cultivating a new acquaintance, angering Darcy by the allusion to Wickham; Darcy says that Wickham's happy manners ensure his making friends but he is less capable of retaining them. Elizabeth comments that Wickham must suffer his whole life as a result of losing Darcy's friendship. Enraged, Darcy wonders what Wickham is saying about him.

Sir William Lucas intrudes to compliment their dancing and allude to a marriage between Bingley and Jane. After Sir William leaves, Darcy states that the interruption caused him to forget the topic of their conversation, but Elizabeth states that no other two people in the room have less to say to one another. Darcy asks about the books Elizabeth reads, but she claims they never read the same books, at least not with the same feelings. Elizabeth alludes to Darcy's prior statement that his resentment is unappeasable and asks if he is cautious to its being created and never being blinded by





prejudice. Darcy hopes not. Elizabeth points out that people who never change their opinion should be sure of judging people properly at first. Darcy blames himself for Elizabeth's coldness, though she claims that she is only trying to make out an illustration of his character since she hears such different accounts that she is exceedingly puzzled. Darcy states that it is not to the credit of either for her to sketch his character now. Elizabeth objects that she may have no other chance. When Elizabeth nearly trips, Darcy catches her arm, but she moves away hastily. Needing air, Darcy steps outside. He is angry at Wickham but cannot be angry at Elizabeth because she is his other half. Darcy chides himself for his folly.

## Chapter 9, The Illustration of His Character Analysis

Darcy's plot to avoid Elizabeth until the ball and then procure her favor in obtaining a dance demonstrates his interest in Elizabeth and the fact that he is falling in love with her. Fletcher again manipulates Darcy's dress, paralleling the complementary outfits Darcy and Elizabeth wore to church. Bingley's assurance that Wickham will not be present at the ball demonstrates Bingley's interest in aiding his friend. The fact that Wickham had "forgotten business" in London shows that Wickham is equally eager to avoid Darcy. Darcy's reaction to the Bennets' tardiness shows his interest in Elizabeth, as does Darcy making his way to the receiving line, despite his aversion to social gatherings. Elizabeth's cold response to Darcy's civilities shows her increasingly negative opinion of Darcy. Bingley continues his attentions to Jane which makes Darcy uncomfortable, foreshadowing his interference in the affair. Darcy's dislike for Mr. Collins after seeing him dance with Elizabeth insinuates that Darcy is jealous because he is in love with Elizabeth. Darcy plays close attention to Elizabeth's actions due to his feelings for her. Elizabeth's confusion when Darcy asks her to dance shows that she is completely unaware of his feelings for her. Her indifference to him hurts Darcy's pride.

Elizabeth's attempt at idle chatter during her dance with Darcy is meaningless, but when she states that they are both taciturn and unsocial, this is an obvious insult to Darcy since Elizabeth is anything but taciturn and unsocial. Darcy disagrees with this portrait that Elizabeth creates of him. When Darcy mentions their previous encounter at Meryton and Elizabeth refers to Wickham, it angers Darcy due to his hatred of Wickham. Darcy's following comment about Wickham's ability to make but not retain friends alludes to Wickham's misadventure with Georgiana. Elizabeth comments that Wickham must suffer his entire life since he has lost Darcy's friendship; this provides evidence that Wickham has mentioned his previous interactions with Darcy but has colored them in an entirely different light. Darcy realizes this and is barely able to contain his anger. Darcy's irritation at Sir William Lucas' interruption demonstrates his disdain for the amiable man. The allusion to a marriage between Bingley and Jane diverts Darcy's attention from Elizabeth and causes him concern for his friend. When Darcy asks Elizabeth about their prior conversation, Elizabeth shows her dislike for Darcy by claiming that no other two people in the room have less to say to one another. It is ironic that Elizabeth claims that she and Darcy never read the same books, at least not with the same feelings, since Darcy being impressed by Elizabeth reading Milton likely means that he has at least read "Paradise Lost" as well. Elizabeth attacks Darcy



concerning his unappeasable resentment and cautions him to be sure of judging people properly at first since he never changes his opinion; this alludes again to Wickham's falsified story as well as possibly hints at Darcy's first reaction to Elizabeth Bennet. When Darcy objects to Elizabeth sketching his character now, her comment that she may have no other chance insinuates her desire to never see him again. Elizabeth displays her disdain of Darcy through her ingratitude when he saves her from falling. Darcy's anger at Wickham and inability to be angry at Elizabeth demonstrates his feelings for both characters. Darcy chides himself for the folly of considering Elizabeth his other half because he is determined to overcome his sentiments toward her due to her inferior connections.





# Chapter 10, Beyond the Pale

## Chapter 10, Beyond the Pale Summary

Miss Bingley chides Darcy for escaping outside; she complains that Bingley pays too much attention to Jane Bennet and asks Darcy to stop Bingley. She also notices that Darcy got a letter from Lady Catherine and asks if Darcy will spend Christmas at Rosings. Darcy intends to continue his father's tradition of spending Christmas at Pemberley. Overhearing this conversation, Mr. Collins accosts Darcy with information about Lady Catherine De Bourgh, his patroness. In disdain, Darcy bows and leaves Mr. Collins. He considers how to extricate Bingley from Jane as he goes to dinner where Elizabeth is seated across from him. Darcy overhears Mrs. Bennet talking to Lady Lucas about her expectations concerning Jane and Bingley. When Elizabeth shushes her mother, Mrs. Bennet asks "what is Mr. Darcy to me to be afraid of?" Elizabeth is embarrassed, and Darcy is appalled and determined to prevent a misalliance between Bingley and Jane.

For the rest of the evening, Darcy closely watches Bingley, trying to determine if he is truly in love. He decides that Jane is indifferent to his friend. When a song from the ladies is requested after dinner, Miss Mary Bennet sets to the pianoforte, causing many to mock her. As Darcy wonders why she is not prevented from continuing, Mr. Bennet harshly chides her for her performance. Mr. Collins approaches Darcy, and Darcy, irritated with Mr. Collins' sermon, walks away. Darcy is convinced that he cannot allow Bingley to continue his pursuit of Jane Bennet because of the appalling behavior of her relatives. Although Darcy hoped to obtain Elizabeth's good opinion this evening, he knows there is no way to do so since what he must do now for Bingley's sake must irrevocably ensure her animosity. After the ball, everyone goes to bed except Darcy and Miss Bingley whom Darcy asks to act as his confederate in separating Bingley and Jane. He instructs her to lock Netherfield up and follow Darcy and Bingley to London in several days. He also tells her to confirm all that he says to Bingley and to write Jane that Bingley will likely never return to Netherfield. Miss Bingley agrees. Fletcher packs all of Darcy's things and plans their departure for noon the next day. When Fletcher sighs, Darcy asks if he is sorry to leave Herfordshire, and Fletcher says that the country has its own treasures and what man does not loath to leave treasure behind. Darcy considers his duties and prays that he does the right thing.

## Chapter 10, Beyond the Pale Analysis

Miss Bingley's appeal to Darcy to stop Bingley's attentions to Jane foreshadows Darcy separating Bingley and Jane at the same time that it fulfills the foreshadowing that Darcy will decide to intervene. The allusion to Lady Catherine designates Darcy's high social status. Darcy's intent to continue his father's tradition of spending Christmas at Pemberley demonstrates his respect for his father. Darcy is cold in response to Mr. Collins' offer to share information about Lady Catherine, showing his disdain of the



clergyman. This is likely inspired by his jealousy caused by seeing Mr. Collins dance with Elizabeth earlier. Darcy's contemplation on how to separate Bingley from Jane foreshadows his plot to go to London. Even as he makes this determination, Darcy is still enchanted by Elizabeth who is seated opposite him. Mrs. Bennet's conversation with Lady Lucas about her expectations for Jane and Bingley's marriage shows her lack of social couth. Elizabeth demonstrates the opposite in her attempts to quiet her mother. Unfortunately, Mrs. Bennet's inappropriate behavior strengthens Darcy's resolve to separate Bingley and Jane. Darcy's conviction that Jane is indifferent to Bingley foreshadows him telling Bingley this. Mr. Bennet's harsh criticism of Mary Bennet and Mr. Collins' sermon further convinces Darcy of the necessity of separating Bingley from this family. Darcy's hopes for the evening are contrasted with the actuality as he recognizes that he has no hope of obtaining Elizabeth's good opinion since what he must now do for Bingley's sake will surely make her despise him. Darcy's request that Miss Bingley act as his confederate in separating Bingley and Jane parallels her request that he prevent the alliance. It also continues foreshadowing Bingley's separation from Jane. As Darcy reveals part of his plan, this foreshadows Darcy and Bingley's departure from Netherfield for London. Fletcher refers to leaving a treasure behind in Hertfordshire, likely alluding to Darcy leaving Elizabeth but possibly insinuating that Fletcher has his own reasons for mourning their departure.



# Chapter 11, Certain Evils

## Chapter 11, Certain Evils Summary

Bingley and Darcy leave Netherfield at precisely noon and sleep on the ride. When they stop at an inn to change horses and eat, Darcy decides that it is time to start his campaign. Darcy and Bingley discuss the difference between exaggerating and letting one's imagination run away. Back in the coach, Darcy reads instead of continuing the conversation. Bingley states that he is considering making an offer on Netherfield, but Darcy dissuades him from rushing into a purchase. After mentioning that Hinchcliffe, Darcy's secretary is sometimes impertinent, Bingley begs Darcy not to mention it to Hinchcliffe because Bingley is interested in hiring Hinchcliffe's promising nephew. Darcy bids farewell to Bingley when he reaches Erewhile House, and Witcher, Darcy's butler, welcomes him home. Darcy settles comfortably, but he is plagued by Bingley's troubled face about Darcy's remarks concerning Netherfield. Darcy assures himself that he is doing this for Bingley's own good. The next morning, Hinchcliffe visits Darcy to discuss the charitable funds for the year. Hinchcliffe shows Darcy a letter from Georgiana requesting to send money to the Society for Returning Young Women to Their Friends in the Country; Darcy tells Hinchcliffe to make the initial donation but wants to discuss the matter with Georgiana before making subsequent contributions. Darcy attends his business and has a very productive day. As he dismisses Hinchcliffe, he asks about Hinchcliffe's nephew and points out that Bingley is his particular friend when Hinchcliffe seems to disdain the mention of Bingley. Darcy is happy to be able to do some good for Bingley that Bingley will appreciate now, unlike the other.

Bingley asks if Darcy is finished with his work since he has been busy for over a week. Darcy would like to attend Lady Melbourne's soiree because L'Catalani, a famous Italian singer, is supposed to attend. Bingley agrees, and Darcy warns him against being intimidated by that set's titles. As they dine, Bingley laments that it has been two weeks since seeing Jane at the ball. When Darcy questions Bingley about Jane's regard for him, Bingley confirms that he is sure of her regard though she has never said it because it would be inappropriate. Darcy hints that Bingley imagines Jane's regard and objects to her connections. Bingley dismisses the topic and prepares to leave. Darcy tells Bingley that he spoke to Hinchcliffe about his nephew for Bingley and Bingley is pleased. Darcy questions himself about his interference in the affair between Bingley and Jane. Seized with a need to do something, he practices with his sword before going to bed with a book.

## Chapter 11, Certain Evils Analysis

Bingley and Darcy's departure from Netherfield fulfills the foreshadowing of their departure that occurred in the previous chapter. Darcy begins his campaign, fulfilling his intent to dissuade Bingley from further pursuing Jane Bennet. The conversation about the difference between exaggerating and letting one's imagination run away is Darcy's



segue into telling Bingley that Jane is indifferent to him, despite Bingley's conviction that she loves him. Bingley shows his devotion to Jane through his declared consideration to buy Netherfield; Darcy continues his plan by dissuading his friend from such a rash purchase. The mention of Hinchcliffe's impertinence to Bingley foreshadows the introduction of Hinchcliffe and provides the reader with information on Hinchcliffe's personality. The setting changes as Bingley and Darcy reach London and Darcy settles into his London home, Erewhile House. Darcy's conscious plagues him as he recalls Bingley's troubled face regarding Darcy's negativity about buying Netherfield; however, Darcy convinces himself that he is doing this for Bingley's welfare. Hinchcliffe is introduced and his personality proven by his actions and words, which match the idea given by Bingley's comments. Georgiana's desire to donate money to the Society for Returning Young Women to Their Friends in the Country shows her desire to help others who have been in similar situations as she has. Darcy settles into business. In discussing Hinchcliffe's nephew and Bingley's interest in the boy, Darcy feels that he is doing some good for Bingley that Bingley will appreciate now, unlike the other, which is clearly an allusion to Darcy separating Bingley and Jane. It is ironic that Darcy wants to attend Lady Melbourne's soiree since he is such an antisocial person. The references to "that set" foreshadows the pretensions that will be encountered at the soiree. Foreshadowing is fulfilled when Darcy tells Bingley that he imagines Jane's regard. Bingley's desolate reaction shows the depth of his love for Jane, but he listens to Darcy, showing his confidence in his friend and mentor.



# Chapter 12, All That Glitters

## Chapter 12, All That Glitters Summary

Darcy finishes the last of his business before his departure to Pemberley for Christmas. He plans to go to Lady Melbourne's soiree only because L'Catalani is supposed to attend. Although he likes the Honorable William Lamb, Lady Melbourne's son, he disapproves of his eccentric wife, Lady Caroline. Darcy has Hinchcliffe send a confirmation to Mr. Thomas Lawrence for dinner since he plans to have the man paint Georgiana when she returns to London with Darcy after Christmas. Wicher announces Lord Dyford Brougham, Darcy's college friend, who barges in and insists that Darcy accompany him to tea at Boodle's. Although Dy acts brainless, Darcy knows that his friend has a keen mind. Dy updates Darcy on politics and economics and asks about Darcy's time in Hertfordshire. Darcy tells Dy that Bingley got entangled with a young woman from an unsuitable family and that Darcy is engaged in a game of subterfuge because Bingley will not listen to reason. Darcy mentions Lady Melbourne's soiree, and since Dy is also attending, they plan to meet so that Dy can help by introducing Bingley to some proper young ladies. Dy praises Georgiana as he and Darcy separate.

Fletcher agitatedly dresses Darcy for the soiree. As Fletcher shaves Darcy, Darcy's thoughts drift to Elizabeth. Fletcher dresses Darcy in a blue outfit like the green one that he wore at Netherfield. Darcy is happy to see Fletcher's enthusiasm increase as he dresses Darcy since Fletcher has seemed desolate since they left Hertfordshire. Darcy thinks of what a disaster that trip had become. Darcy again thinks of Elizabeth as Fletcher admires his creation and tells Darcy that it is called the Roquet if anyone asks. Bingley joins Darcy, and they go to the soiree. Darcy prepares Bingley to be introduced to Dy. He dismisses the coachmen with money for the pub. Darcy and Bingley are both astonished by the deferential treatment they receive at the door, and Bingley is daunted by the scene of the soiree. Lady Melbourne greets Darcy and chides him for never attending her parties. Darcy introduces Bingley to Lady Melbourne, and she introduces Bingley to Miss Cecil. Bingley asks Miss Cecil to dance. Brummel approaches Darcy and praises his clothes, conceding his own design is inferior to the Roquet. Lady Melbourne takes Darcy to the gentlemen's drawing room where she reintroduces him to William Lamb. Dy joins the men, and they talk about politics. Dy interrupts with talk of frivolities, and William Lamb walks away. As Dy suggests finding Bingley, Darcy is shocked to see Lady Caroline and her crew enter the dance floor scantily clad and begin a scandalous dance called the waltz. Many guests leave in disbelief, and L'Catalani shrieks in Italian and leaves haughtily. Darcy insists it is time to leave and searches for Bingley as Dy summons their coach. Darcy finds Bingley with Miss Cecil and tells him they are leaving; although he is confused, Bingley acquiesces, and they join Dy in the carriage and return to Darcy's house.



## Chapter 12, All That Glitters Analysis

Darcy finishing the last of his business in London before his departure to Pemberley for Christmas indicates the time of year at this point in the novel and also foreshadows Darcy's imminent journey to Pemberley. His reason for desiring to attend Lady Melbourne's soiree eliminates some of the irony in the desire. Darcy's disapproval of Lady Caroline and her designation as "eccentric" foreshadows the events at the soiree. Lord Dyford Brougham is introduced; he is a contradictory character who acts foolish though he is quite intelligent. Darcy and Dy update one another on their lives, and Darcy engages Dy's help in his plot concerning Bingley. Interestingly, Dy is also planning to attend Lady Melbourne's soiree which foreshadows their meeting at Melbourne House. Dy's praise of Georgiana parallels Bingley's earlier praise of Darcy's sister; this also shows that Georgiana is a proper young lady with the exception of last summer's indiscretion, and it demonstrates Darcy's ability to keep the situation quieted. Fletcher dressing Darcy parallels his earlier proceedings to the same effect. The fact that Darcy continues to think of Elizabeth demonstrates his complete infatuation. The fact that Fletcher has seemed desolate since leaving Hertfordshire suggests that he may have begun a romance while at Netherfield. Fletcher names his creation which foreshadows its reception at the soiree. Darcy gives the coachmen money for the pub which indicates his generous nature. Lady Melbourne chiding Darcy for never attending her parties indicates his normal antisocial behavior. Lady Melbourne shows an aptitude for interpreting people when she introduces Bingley to a lady and escorts Darcy to the gentlemen. Brummel makes a fuss over the Roquet, fulfilling the earlier foreshadowing as Fletcher dressed his master. Lady Caroline's behavior fulfills the earlier foreshadowing and offends many of the guests at Lady Melbourne's soiree, ending the evening.



# Chapter 13, The Wounds of a Friend

## Chapter 13, The Wounds of a Friend Summary

Witcher is surprised by Darcy's early arrival as Darcy, Dy and Bingley toast friendship in the library where Bingley asks about the scandal at the soiree. Dy tells Bingley about Darcy's outfit impressing Brummel and the scandal at the party. Dy asks Bingley about making an offer on Netherfield and tells him a story about the death of his horse due to him not knowing the ground where he was riding. Darcy walks Dy out when Dy decides to leave and thanks his friend for the story since he is sure it has given Bingley pause about the matter. Dy says that his story was meant to caution Darcy to be doubly sure of the nature of his interest in the matter as he departs. Bingley takes heed of Dy's counsel wistfully and leaves. Darcy, planning to have Miss Bingley corroborate Jane's indifference, writes a note to Miss Bingley and instructs Witcher to send it in the morning. Before retiring, Darcy chides Fletcher for the scene caused by his outfit. Fletcher is proud and anxious simultaneously, but Darcy does not fire him though he is not completely mollified.

In the morning, Darcy catches up on the news and settles some final business. Then, he goes Christmas shopping for Georgiana, buying her a book, silk, muslin, laces, ribbons, a pearl choker and bracelet and some piano music. As he shops, people continually ask him about the Roquet and congratulate him on his victory over Brummel. Darcy returns home and wonders aimlessly though the house. He recalls Elizabeth and thinks of how she would have reacted at the soiree last night. Darcy recalls Dy's words and wonders if separating Bingley and Jane is simply the surest defense against his own attraction to Elizabeth. As he thinks of marriage, a knock at the door reveals Hinchcliffe with a note from Miss Bingley agreeing to follow his instructions and relying on him for Bingley's deliverance. Darcy is disgusted with himself and shouts as another knock resounds at the door. The door opens to reveal a young servant girl announcing dinner, and Darcy is ashamed. Witcher appears to ask about the girl's error because she is his granddaughter and it is her first day upstairs. Darcy apologizes and sends her a shilling in congratulations. Darcy imagines Elizabeth's face before him and tells her that she must leave for he is to be Bingley's deliverer.

## Chapter 13, The Wounds of a Friend Analysis

Dy entertains and befriends Bingley by acquainting him with the events at Lady Melbourne's soiree which Bingley did not notice because he was preoccupied with entertaining Miss Cecil. Dy's story seems intended to warn Bingley away from buying Netherfield; however, Dy tells Darcy that he meant for the story to force Darcy to reexamine his intentions to separate Bingley and Jane Bennet. Dy's story works for both circumstances as Bingley seems thoughtful and wistful as he leaves Erewhile House and Darcy later questions his motives. Darcy continues his plot by writing Miss Bingley to corroborate his story about Jane's indifference. Before going to bed, Darcy chastises



Fletcher for the scene that the Roquet caused; however, Darcy shows his generous nature as a master again by also telling him about Brummel complimenting the design. Darcy demonstrates his generous nature and his brotherly affection toward Georgiana by shopping for her lavish Christmas gifts. As he shops, many people ask him about the Roquet, indicating that the news of Brummel's defeat is widespread. This, of course, makes Darcy uncomfortable. As Darcy recalls Dy's words and considers his motivation, his thoughts turn to marriage, indicating his love for Elizabeth. His disgust with Miss Bingley is evident as he laments giving her cause to feel gratitude toward him for anything, even Bingley's deliverance. Darcy tells Elizabeth's imagined image that she must leave for he is to be Bingley's deliverer, indicating that he has made his decision and will not renege on his promise to Miss Bingley to separate Bingley and Jane Bennet.





# Characters

## Fitzwilliam George Alexander Darcy

Fitzwilliam George Alexander Darcy is the protagonist of "An Assembly Such As This." He is a wealthy gentleman who owns a beautiful estate named Pemberley. After his parents' deaths, he becomes the caretaker for his younger sister, Georgiana. He is worldly, grave and unsociable which results in his being disliked by people who do not know him very well. Darcy is very good friends with Charles Bingley and serves as his mentor. When Darcy first enters the assembly hall in Meryton, he does not anticipate an enjoyable evening and laments wasting his evening in such a disagreeable manner. He refuses to dance, and when Bingley suggests he dance with his partner's sister, Darcy claims "she is tolerable but not handsome enough to tempt me"; however, Darcy is intrigued by this lady, Elizabeth Bennet. Meanwhile, as Bingley begins to court Elizabeth's sister, Jane, Darcy attempts to discourage his friend's attentions because he feels that the alliance would provide Bingley with unsuitable connections. Darcy is disgusted by Miss Bingley's intentions to court his attention and avoids her as much as he possibly can without being uncivil.

Every time that Darcy is near Elizabeth Bennet, his thoughts contradict his emotions as he tries to convince himself that she is not good enough for him but he cannot discipline his attraction to her. When Jane is ill at Netherfield, Darcy suggests that Bingley invite Elizabeth to stay to nurse her sister. When Darcy encounters Elizabeth, he attempts to flirt with her or engage her in conversation, but he seems to often offend her, resulting in cold responses from the amiable lady. Darcy is bored once Elizabeth and Jane Bennet leave Netherfield, and he joins Bingley to Meryton from whence they intend to visit Longbourn; however, they encounter the Bennet sisters in Meryton with Mr. Collins and George Wickham. Darcy worries about Georgiana throughout the novel, but he worries especially when Wickham appears in Meryton. Darcy avoids Elizabeth's company until the Netherfield ball with the intent of apologizing and procuring a dance with her at the ball. When Darcy asks Elizabeth to dance, he is astounded by her indifference. After realizing that Wickham is to blame behind Elizabeth's ill-treatment, Darcy is unable to be angry at Elizabeth.

When Miss Bingley asks for Darcy's help in separating Bingley from Miss Jane Bennet, Darcy assists her by leaving with Bingley for London the next day. At this point, he extinguishes any hope of obtaining Elizabeth's favorable opinion of him since he knows that this action will make her dislike him all the more. On their journey and in London, Darcy strives to convince Bingley that Jane is indifferent to him and that he is imagining her regard. Darcy attends to business in London with the intent of returning to Pemberley for Christmas. He plans to attend Lady Melbourne's soiree with Bingley since L'Catalani is supposed to be present as well. Darcy's friend, Lord Dyford Brougham, visits him, and Darcy enlists Dy's aid in separating Bingley and Jane. At the soiree, Lady Melbourne directs Darcy to the gentlemen's drawing room where he engages in political conversation until Lady Caroline's behavior disrupts the party at



which point he returns to Erewile House with Bingley and Dy. After Dy tells a story about knowing one's ground, Darcy is puzzled to learn that Dy intended the story to warn Darcy to be sure of his reasons for wanting to separate Bingley and Jane. Darcy wonders if his intentions are influenced by the knowledge that this is the only sure way to separate himself from Elizabeth; he disregards this thoughts and continues with his plans, telling his imagined image of Elizabeth Bennet to leave because he will be Bingley's deliverer.

## Charles Bingley

Charles Bingley is Darcy's innocent, naive friend. He is the younger brother of Mrs. Hurst and Miss Bingley. He leases an estate, Netherfield, in Hertfordshire for a year. Bingley is well-liked and sociable. At the assembly in Meryton, he dances with Jane Bennet, the most handsome girl in the room. Although his sisters mock the country neighbors after the assembly, Bingley finds them pleasing. Bingley disregards Darcy and his sisters' admonitions to avoid showing attention to Jane Bennet. Bingley often teases Darcy for evading Miss Bingley's attentions as Bingley courts Miss Bennet's. While receiving visits, Bingley pursues Jane and courts her attention. He defends her at dinner when his sisters mock the neighboring ladies. During the men's shooting expedition, Bingley is established as one of the prominent sporting men in the district.

When Miss Bingley ensures that she invites Jane to dine at Netherfield on an evening that Bingley is otherwise engaged, Bingley plots his revenge. Since Jane gets sick from riding horseback in the rain to Netherfield, Bingley invites her to stay during her recovery and invites Elizabeth to stay in order to tend Jane. Bingley is very concerned during Jane's illness and happy when she recovers. Bingley promises the three youngest Bennet sisters that he will throw a ball at Netherfield after Jane recovers. Bingley laments Jane and Elizabeth's departure and suggests a visit to Meryton and Longbourn only two days later. Bingley holds a ball at Netherfield where he continues paying much attention to Jane Bennet, which makes his sister irritated and uncomfortable. The day after the ball, Bingley goes to London with Darcy. On the way to and in London, Darcy tells Bingley that Jane is indifferent to him and Bingley is imagining her affection. Bingley is wistful and disheartened but heeds Darcy's advice, especially after Lady Melbourne's soiree where he meets Lord Dyford Brougham who tells a story warning about the importance of knowing one's ground.

## Elizabeth Bennet

Elizabeth Bennet is the second eldest Bennet daughter. She is lively, intelligent and beautiful. She overhears and is insulted by Darcy commenting that she is not "handsome enough to tempt me." After the assembly, Elizabeth is civil but cold whenever she encounters Darcy. She is completely unaware of Darcy's growing affection for her and continually attempts to scorn his attentions. Elizabeth plays the piano beautifully which increases Darcy's admiration. When Jane is confined at Netherfield due to her illness, Elizabeth arrives, muddy, to nurse her sister. During her



stay, she often debates and argues with Darcy, sometimes insulting him directly. Elizabeth dislikes Miss Bingley but enjoys teasing Bingley. She attempts to control her mother and younger sisters' inappropriate public behavior. After befriendng Wickham, Elizabeth is even less friendly toward Darcy.

## Lord Dyford Brougham

Lord Dyford Brougham, or Dy, is Darcy's college friend who visits Darcy when he returns to London. Dy is very intelligent though he feigns stupidity. Darcy enlists Dy's aid in severing Bingley's ties to Jane Bennet. Dy meets Darcy and Bingley at Lady Melbourne's soiree and joins them at Erewhile House afterward. In the library, Dy tells a story about knowing one's ground, and when Darcy thanks him for warning Bingley, Dy states that he meant the story as a warning to Darcy to be sure he understands his reasons for separating Bingley and Jane Bennet.

## George Wickham

George Wickham is a lieutenant in Colonel Forster's regiment. His father was Darcy's father's steward, and Wickham attempts to seduce Georgiana Darcy the summer before the action of the novel begins. Darcy hates George Wickham and is enraged when he encounters Wickham in Meryton. Wickham ingratiates himself with the Bennets, particularly Elizabeth, causing her to dislike Darcy more than she currently does.

## Caroline Bingley

Caroline Bingley, or Miss Bingley, is Bingley's unmarried, older sister. She courts Darcy's attentions and is rude to Elizabeth. Miss Bingley disdains their country neighbors because she is a social snob. During the Netherfield ball, she solicits Darcy's aid in separating Bingley from Jane and joins him in conspiring against the relationship.

## Jane Bennet

Jane Bennet is the beautiful, oldest Bennet sister. Bingley admires her and pays attention to her. After she gets sick from riding on horseback to Netherfield, Jane Bennet stays at Netherfield during her recovery. Darcy is convinced that Jane is indifferent to Bingley and conspires to separate them due largely to Jane's inferior connections.

## Fletcher

Fletcher is Darcy's valet. He dresses and shaves Darcy. Fletcher dresses Darcy to match Elizabeth Bennet at church before she leaves Netherfield. At church in Hertfordshire, he helps Annie Garrick. He dresses Darcy in the Roquet, Fletcher's own



design, for the soiree at Lady Melbourne's house; his design causes Brummel to acknowledge defeat. Fletcher is sad after leaving Hertfordshire.

## **Louisa Hurst**

Louisa Hurst is Bingley's married sister who stays with him at Netherfield. She agrees with Miss Bingley's disdain of their country neighbors.

## **Mr. Hurst**

Mr. Hurst is Bingley's brother-in-law who makes disparaging remarks about Elizabeth Bennet's lack of taste after she joins them for dinner.

## **Sir William Lucas**

Sir William Lucas is one of the Hertfordshire neighbors. He annoys Darcy constantly. Sir William Lucas holds a dinner party at his home, Lucas Lodge, where Bingley is attentive to Jane and during which Sir William Lucas encourages Darcy to dance with Elizabeth but she refuses.

## **Miss Lucas**

Miss Lucas is Sir William Lucas' oldest daughter and close friends with Jane and Elizabeth Bennet.

## **Georgiana Darcy**

Georgiana Darcy is Darcy's younger sister whom he taken charge of since his parents' death. Last summer, Georgiana ran off with George Wickham, intending to elope. After many months of melancholy, she begins to cheer up and accepts the fault in her actions.

## **Mrs. Annesley**

Mrs. Annesley is the new companion that Darcy hires for Georgiana. She convinces Georgiana to visit the Pemberley tenants in an effort to dispel the girl's melancholy.

## **Mr. Edward Bennet**

Mr. Edward Bennet is the father of the Bennet sisters who is crude and severe in company.



## **Mrs. Edward Bennet**

Mrs. Edward Bennet is the Bennet sisters' mother who is very frivolous and ill-mannered. She is quite rude to Darcy and a large part of the reason that Darcy disapproves of Bingley's alliance with Jane Bennet.

## **Mary, Catherine and Lydia Bennet**

Mary, Catherine and Lydia Bennet are the three youngest Bennet sisters who play a small role in the novel. They appear at social functions and duplicate their mother's frivolous, ill-mannered behavior.

## **Colonel Forster**

Colonel Forster is the leader of the regiment stationed in Meryton. He invites Bingley and Darcy to dinner at his house, but he treats Darcy coldly after Wickham arrives in Meryton.

## **Trafalgar**

Trafalgar is Darcy's young hound that he trains during the hunting expedition.

## **Nelson**

Nelson is Darcy's unruly horse.

## **Mr. Collins**

Mr. Collins is a cousin of the Bennets who visits Longbourn. His patroness is Lady Catherine De Bourgh, Darcy's aunt. When Mr. Collins realizes Darcy's connection to Lady Catherine, he fawns over Darcy at the Netherfield ball which greatly irritates Darcy.

## **Lady Catherine De Bourgh**

Lady Catherine De Bourgh does not appear in this novel but is mentioned. She is Mr. Collins' patroness and Darcy's aunt. She also owns Rosings.

## **Anne De Bourgh**

Anne De Bourgh does not appear in this novel but is mentioned. She is Darcy's invalid cousin and Lady Catherine De Bourgh's only daughter.



## Colonel Fitzwilliam

Colonel Fitzwilliam is mentioned in "An Assembly Such As This" though he does not appear. He is Darcy's cousin whom Darcy visits Rosings with annually.

## Hinchcliffe

Hinchcliffe is Darcy's impertinent secretary who is very loyal to Darcy and was first employed by Darcy's father.

## Witcher

Witcher is Darcy's butler at Erewhile House.

## Brummel

Brummel attends Lady Melbourne's soiree where he suggests that Darcy attends only to challenge his cravat. Brummel admits defeat in comparison to the Roquet.

## Lady Melbourne

Lady Melbourne hosts a soiree at Melbourne House in Whitehall. She is surprised that Darcy attends. Lady Melbourne introduces Bingley to Miss Cecil and leads Darcy to the gentlemen's drawing room.

## Honorable William Lamb

The Honorable William Lamb is Lady Melbourne's son who marries Lady Catherine. He debates politics with Darcy and Dy at Lady Melbourne's soiree.

## Lady Caroline

Lady Caroline is William Lamb's eccentric wife who behaves improperly at her mother-in-law's soiree, causing many of the guests to leave when she begins dancing the waltz scantily clad. She is often compared to the Covent Garden strumpets.

## D'Catalani

D'Catalani is a famous Italian singer that is supposed to attend Lady Melbourne's soiree; this is the reason for Darcy's attendance. She is insulted by Lady Caroline's

behavior and leaves while complaining against the English in a mix of English and Italian.



# Objects/Places

## Meryton

Meryton is a town in Hertfordshire where Darcy and Bingley attend an assembly. There they are first introduced to the Bennets, among other local families. Later, they encounter the Bennet sisters with Mr. Collins and George Wickham in Meryton.

## Assembly Hall

The first party of the novel is held in an assembly hall in Meryton where Darcy and Bingley meet the Bennets.

## Netherfield

Netherfield is the Hertfordshire estate that Bingley leases and considers buying.

## London

After the Netherfield ball, Darcy and Bingley visit the city of London where Darcy attends business. Darcy plans to return to London with Georgiana after Christmas.

## Pemberley

Pemberley is Darcy's family home where Georgiana resides and which Miss Bingley constantly praises.

## Library

Darcy spends much time reading in the library. He is impressed when Elizabeth joins him there to read Milton.

## Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire is the country shire which contains Meryton, Netherfield, Lucas Lodge and Longbourn. The majority of the novel's action occurs in Hertfordshire.

## Derbyshire

Derbyshire is the country shire where Pemberley is located.





## **Drawing Room**

The drawing room is where company generally meets and is entertained after dinner.

## **Lucas Lodge**

Lucas Lodge is the Lucas' family home where Darcy and Bingley attend Sir William Lucas' dinner party.

## **Longbourn**

Longbourn is the Bennets' home.

## **Rosings**

Rosings is the home of Lady Catherine De Bourgh where Darcy plans to visit with Colonel Fitzwilliam in the spring.

## **Erewhile House**

Erewhile House is Darcy's London home.

## **Melbourne House**

Melbourne House is the location of Lady Melbourne's soiree in London.

## **Boodle's**

Boodle's is the pub where Darcy and Lord Dyford Brougham take tea to discuss the recent events in their lives since Darcy has been in Herfordshire.

## **Whitehall**

Whitehall is the part of town which contains Melbourne House.

## **The Roquet**

The Roquet is Fletcher's garment creation which Darcy wears at Lady Melbourne's soiree. Brummel admits defeat and the Roquet's acclaim spreads throughout London society.



## **Soiree at Lady Melbourne's**

Darcy and Bingley attend a soiree at Lady Melbourne's because L'Catalani is supposed to attend. The soiree is ruined by Lady Caroline's inappropriate behavior.

## **Ball at Netherfield**

Bingley holds a ball at Netherfield at the request of the three youngest Bennet girls. At the ball, Bingley continues his attentions to Jane, causing Darcy and Miss Bingley to conspire to separate them. Darcy dances with Elizabeth who disdains him for his treatment of George Wickham. After the ball, Darcy and Bingley leave Hertfordshire for London.



# Themes

## Social Class

In "An Assembly Such As This," the most prevalent theme is that of social class. Social class dictates the interaction between characters and is the reason that Darcy tries to prevent his feelings for Elizabeth Bennet, as well as the reason that he tries to separate Bingley and Jane. At the assembly in Meryton, Darcy refuses to dance with anyone he does not know and he disdains Jane Bennet's mother as he sees her thoughts turn to matrimony as soon as Bingley begins dancing with Jane. The reason that George Wickham attempted to elope with Georgiana Darcy, rather than marry her legitimately, is that his poverty-stricken position would not allow it, regardless of his honorable or dishonorable intentions. Throughout the novel, Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst disdain their country neighbors, especially at the party at Lucas Lodge where the girls gather around to paint pottery, a hobby that is passe in London by this time.

Repeatedly, Darcy tries to convince himself that he can overcome his emotions for Elizabeth Bennet because her connections are inferior. This is highlighted by the appearance of Mr. Collins, Elizabeth's cousin, who is basically employed by Lady Catherine De Bourgh, Darcy's aunt. Darcy even admits to Trafalgar, his dog, that he would be in danger if not for Elizabeth's inferior relations. Hinchcliffe shows his disdain for Bingley, who is rich through "new money," even though he is only Darcy's secretary. Darcy's entourage of assistants and servants demonstrate his wealth and high class, compared to other characters in the novel. Eventually, Darcy convinces himself that he is justified in separating Bingley and Jane Bennet because he is Bingley's deliverer. Another example of class can be seen at Lady Melbourne's soiree where many members of upper-class society gather, but the soiree is ruined by Lady Caroline's inappropriate behavior, one of the reasons that Lady Caroline is likened to a strumpet.

## Social Gatherings

One of the prevalent themes in "An Assembly Such As This" is that of social gatherings, whether in the form of assemblies, parties, balls or simply dining. The novel begins with an assembly in Meryton where Darcy first encounters and insults Elizabeth Bennet and during which Bingley first meets and becomes infatuated with Miss Jane Bennet. After returning to Bingley's leased home, Netherfield, Darcy learns of their party's pending engagements and realizes that he will often be thrown into company with the Bennets. He encounters them at church and again when the Netherfield party receives visits in their home. During a shooting party for the men, Bingley is established as a prominent sporting man in the district.

The Netherfield party attends a dinner at Squire Justin's where Darcy is scorned by Elizabeth. At a party at Lucas Lodge, Elizabeth refuses to dance with Darcy when Sir William Lucas suggests it. On a night that Miss Bingley is ensured that her brother and



Darcy will be dining at Colonel Forster's house, she invites Miss Jane Bennet to dine at Netherfield. After Jane gets sick from riding to Netherfield on horseback in the rain, Bingley invites her to stay for her recovery, and Elizabeth arrives to nurse her sister. At Netherfield, the party is expanded briefly to include Jane and Elizabeth Bennet. Mrs. Bennet and the three youngest Bennet sisters visit at Netherfield as well and obtain a promise from Bingley to hold a ball after Jane's recovery. After Jane recovers, the Netherfield party attends church together before Jane and Elizabeth leave Netherfield later in the day.

Bored without Jane and Elizabeth Bennet, Darcy and Bingley travel to Meryton with the intention of visiting Longbourn afterward, but they are pleasantly surprised to encounter the Bennet sisters in Meryton; unfortunately, Wickham accompanies the Bennets. At the Netherfield ball, Darcy and Elizabeth spar, and Darcy gains the conviction that he must separate Bingley and Jane. On the way to London, Darcy and Bingley stop to eat. Darcy's college friend, Dy, visits Darcy at Erewhile House in London, and the two go to Boodle's for tea. Darcy, Bingley and Dy attend Lady Melbourne's soiree which is hastily ended when Lady Caroline acts inappropriately. Leaving the party, Darcy, Bingley and Dy return to the library at Erewhile House where they toast friendship and discuss business and personal matters. Social gatherings allow these characters to court, befriend or fight, and thus, play a very important role in the plot of the novel.

## **Difference Between Darcy's Thoughts and Feelings About Eliza**

A largely recurring theme in "An Assembly Such As This" is the comparison between Darcy's thoughts and feelings, as regards Miss Elizabeth Bennet. When Bingley suggests that Darcy dance with Elizabeth Bennet at the assembly in Meryton, he states that "she is tolerable but not handsome enough to tempt me"; yet, he thinks that she is intriguing, and when he sees her talking to a group of militia after the assembly, he is struck with her simple joy and is unable to take his eyes off of her. When Miss Bingley asks Darcy's opinion about Elizabeth Bennet being accounted a beauty, he states that he would "sooner call her mother a wit," even though he thinks that it is appropriate for her to be named after a queen. After the Netherfield party receives visits, Miss Bingley again questions Darcy about Elizabeth, and while he is very attracted to Elizabeth, he claims that she is not his idea of perfection in a woman.

At parties, Darcy tends to treat Elizabeth coldly in response to her indifference toward him; however, at Squire Justin's, he compares the light reflecting from the brandy in his glass to Elizabeth's eyes, and he spends the entire evening watching her closely. At all of their interactions, this seems to be the case: he treats her coldly but thinks about her incessantly. Although he admits to himself that Elizabeth is everything he has always desired, Darcy resolves that no sign of admiration for Miss Elizabeth Bennet will escape him henceforth in chapter seven. Before leaving Netherfield, Darcy avoids Elizabeth pointedly, though she is nearly all that he thinks about. In the final scene, Darcy wonders if his attempt to separate Bingley and Jane results from it being the surest

defense against his own attraction to Elizabeth, but regardless, he tells her imagined image to leave because he must be Bingley's deliverer.

# Style

## Point of View

The point of view of "An Assembly Such As This" is third person. This point of view is limited and reliable which is proven by the fact that the narrator knows the actions of the events reported upon and can only examine Darcy's thoughts and feelings without access to the thoughts and feelings of the other characters in the novel. This point of view is important to the novel since the main theme is Darcy's conflicting feelings about Miss Elizabeth Bennet. If the narrator could not share Darcy's thoughts and feelings to compare to the contradicting words that he speaks, the reader would not understand Darcy's confusion regarding Elizabeth or the reason for his cold behavior toward her.

"An Assembly Such As This" is told by using a fairly equal distribution of exposition and dialogue. This method is used to convey Darcy's thoughts and feelings which can then be contrasted with his words that often suggest the exact opposite of the truth. The dialogue in the novel also allows the reader to become better acquainted with the secondary characters as the characters' tones frequently distinguish them and illuminate their personalities better than exposition could possibly do. A short amount of time passes during the novel, and the events of the novel are seen through Darcy's viewpoint.

## Setting

The novel is set on Earth, in England in the late eighteenth century. England is divided into many shires which are located in urban and rural areas. The distinction between these areas often indicates class and culture. The novel begins at an assembly hall in Meryton which is in Hertfordshire. This is where Bingley and Darcy first encounter Miss Jane Bennet and Miss Elizabeth Bennet. The novel then proceeds to Netherfield and the surrounding lands as Darcy's party returns to their leased estate. Netherfield is where many of the country neighbors come to see the Netherfield party. The visits take place in the drawing room at Netherfield, while Darcy spends much of his time not devoted to society in the Netherfield library.

The Netherfield party also attends many other social gatherings, traveling to the homes of their country neighbors. Squire Justin hosts a party as does Sir William Lucas at Lucas Lodge. While Jane Bennet dines at Netherfield by Miss Bingley's scheming, Bingley and Darcy take their dinner at Colonel Forster's house in Meryton. Church also plays a role as the Netherfield party attends Sunday service with Jane and Elizabeth. Netherfield hosts a ball before Darcy and Bingley depart to London. On their journey, they stop at an inn to eat.

In London, Darcy settles into his home, Erewhile House. He takes tea at Boodle's when his friend, Dy, comes to visit him. Darcy, Bingley and Dy attend Lady Melbourne's soiree



which occurs at Melbourne House in Whitehall, a section of London. Although the following settings are not actually present in the novel, they are alluded to. Darcy's home in the country is named Pemberley, and it is in Derbyshire. The Bennets live at Longbourn. Darcy plans to visit his aunt, Lady Catherine De Bourgh, at her home in Rosings.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel tends to be somewhat stiff and formal. This language reflects the time period in which the original novel upon which "An Assembly Such As This," "Pride and Prejudice," was written—the late eighteenth century. The formal language does not hinder a reader's ability to understand the novel; instead, it adds an appropriate tone to the novel that reflects the novel's setting.

The language of the novel tends to characterize the different social classes and specific characters introduced in the novel. The novel is told using a fairly equal distribution of exposition and dialogue. The dialogue allows the reader to become acquainted with the different characters as their tone and manner of speaking of their situations vary greatly. A very short amount of time passes in the novel, making it necessary for the reader to quickly become acquainted with the characters. The language of "An Assembly Such As This" aids comprehension by allowing the reader to become submerged in the culture and setting of the novel. The novel is easy to understand and often amusing.

## Structure

"An Assembly Such As This" is composed of thirteen chapters which range from ten to thirty pages long. Each chapter is titled to refer to the action within the chapter. The chapters are very descriptive despite the short amount of time that passes within each chapter, often only a few hours.

The plot of the novel is simple without subplots. This novel is about Darcy, an upper-class gentleman, falling in love with Miss Elizabeth Bennet, a girl with inappropriate connections. At the same time, Darcy's friend, Bingley, falls in love with Elizabeth's sister, Miss Jane Bennet. Darcy tries to convince himself that he does not care for Elizabeth and conspires with Bingley's snobbish sister to separate Bingley and Jane Bennet.

The novel is quick paced due largely to Darcy's continually contradicting feelings and the witty repartee that frequently occurs between Darcy and Miss Elizabeth Bennet. The novel is easy to read and is an engrossing retelling of Jane Austen's classic, "Pride and Prejudice." Occasionally, background information and flashbacks intrude upon the story line, but they do not challenge comprehension of the novel as they blend well into the plot. The novel is very easy to read and quite entertaining.



## Quotes

"I certainly shall not! You know how I detest it, unless I am particularly acquainted with my partner. At such an assembly as this it would be insupportable. Your sisters are engaged, and there is not another woman in the room whom it would not be a punishment to me to stand up with." Darcy, Chapter 1: At Such an Assembly as This, pages 5-6.

"She is tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt me; and I am in no humor at present to give consequence to young ladies who are slighted by other men. You had better return to your partner and enjoy her smiles, for you are wasting your time with me." Darcy, Chapter 1: At Such an Assembly as This, page 7.

"I warn you, Bingley, earning a Cambridge fellowship is nothing to becoming a complete man of property. I have that on the greatest authority... My father. He did both." Darcy, Chapter 2: A Man of Property, page 15.

"She smiles too much... A man must wonder at such a profusion of smiles. What may be their cause 'Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain,' if I may be so bold as to quote. Think, man! Do these smiles indicate a happy, even disposition, or are they a practiced pose, a charade of good nature designed to entrap or to cover an absence of real intellect?" Darcy, Chapter 2: A Man of Property, pages 17-18.

"The archness of her tone caused Darcy to frown slightly at its meaning, and involuntarily, he looked her full in the face. She appeared all innocence, but something told him it was not so. Perhaps it was the almost imperceptible lift of one shapely brow or the tendency of her dimple to peep out. Regardless, he knew himself to be an object of amusement. He was not pleased to be such a figure." Narrator, Chapter 3: En Garde!, page 32.

"Really, these country folk are not very entertaining. It was all horses and hunting with the gentlemen. And the ladies! Not a one could speak of current fashions or had even the slightest acquaintance with the theater! Poetry is likely as unknown a language here as is Italian!" Miss Bingley, Chapter 3: En Garde!, page 37.

"It passed through his mind as he wiped his hands with the napkin on his lap that in some mysterious way Miss Elizabeth Bennet was continuing to exact her penance for his stupid blunder. So, with as much insouciance as he could summon, he made it clear as he criticized her face, her form, and her manners that Miss Elizabeth Bennet was not his idea of perfection in a woman." Darcy, Chapter 3: En Garde!, page 41.

"So, Miss Elizabeth, we are to be continually thrown into each other's society? What will be your next tack, I wonder." Darcy, Chapter 4: Intermezzo, page 45.

"Not partial to tea, are you, Mr. Darcy? Don't touch it myself, unless it has got plenty of sugar and milk. Otherwise... Vile stuff! When I heard about the Americans throwing a





shipload of it into their harbor many long years ago, I knew that we had lost the colonies. Any group of people with that much sense would be the devil to stop in whatever they decided to do!" Squire Justin, Chapter 4: Intermezzo, pages 53-54.

"Lizzy Bennet is as true as she appears. No artifice there and, as I said, uncommon good sense, all wrapped up in as neat a little package as could be desired, eh?" Squire Justin, Chapter 4: Intermezzo, page 55.

"Thrilling... yet terrifying! No, the danger the young woman presents it to your heart... your very soul. No less thrilling—and certainly no less terrifying. Miss Elizabeth Bennet, what have you wrought?... It is beyond the time for excuses. I require that you speak to her at Sir William's this very evening. And God help you!" Darcy, Chapter 5: To Know More Of Her, pages 60-61.

"You are a very strange creature by way of a friend! Always wanting me to play and sing before anybody and everybody! If my vanity had taken a musical turn, you would have been invaluable. But as it is, I would really rather not sit down before those who must be in the habit of hearing the very best performers." Elizabeth Bennet, Chapter 5: To Know More Of Her, page 66.

"Undoubtedly, there had been some tension, he admitted, but surely her words at the last had been provocative. He warmed to the thought. She desired an apology, that was certain. But was he deceived in believing that she would be open to more once it was offered?" Narrator, Chapter 5: To Know More Of Her, page 66.

"Mr. Darcy, you must allow me to present this young lady to you as a very desirable partner. You cannot refuse to dance, I am sure, when so much beauty is before you." Sir William Lucas, Chapter 5: To Know More Of Her, page 69.

"Miss Elizabeth Bennet was so much more than he had expected to encounter in the savage hinterlands of Hertfordshire. His admiration deepened as the picture she had earlier presented at the pianoforte flashed through his mind." Narrator, Chapter 5: To Know More Of Her, pages 70-71.

"Was Elizabeth's presence at Netherfield truly an excellent idea, as he had just told Bingley? To be so often in her company, here, where he had achieved a certain level of easiness, threatened his comfort; yet it was the perfect place to deepen his acquaintance with her. Here, she would be the guest, the outsider, and he would have the advantage that familiarity bestowed." Narrator, Chapter 6: Feint and Parry, page 79.

"Well, I daresay I have never met with such intolerable manners in my life! Indeed, if we were not favored with insufferable pride one moment and with impertinence the next, I know nothing of the matter!" Miss Bingley, Chapter 6: Feint and Parry, page 81.

"She may reign in Meryton, but in London, she would be disdained while altogether less worthy women are courted and praised to the skies." Darcy, Chapter 6: Feint and Parry, page 84.



"I am no longer surprised at your knowing only six accomplished women. I rather wonder now at your knowing any... I never saw such a woman. I never saw such capacity, and taste, and application, and elegance, as you describe, united." Miss Elizabeth Bennet, Chapter 6: Feint and Parry, page 86.

"And so ended his affection. There has been many a one, I fancy, overcome in the same way. I wonder who first discovered the efficacy of poetry in driving away love! 'Driving love away, Miss Elizabeth? Curious! I have been used to consider poetry as the food of love, not its executioner!' 'Of a fine, stout, healthy love it may. Everything nourishes what is strong already. But if it be only a slight, thin sort of inclination, I am convinced that one good sonnet will starve it entirely away.'" Miss Elizabeth Bennet and Darcy, Chapter 6: Feint and Parry, page 90.

"I beg your forgiveness for the disjointed nature of this letter. Miss Bingley has again importuned me with compliments. Suffice it to say that she regards all that the Darcys do as done to perfection." Darcy, Chapter 6: Feint and Parry, page 93.

"Songs of love can be so tedious when one does not know the language. Do you not find this so, Miss Eliza?' 'Oh, Miss Bingley, that is too unfortunate! Especially as you played them so beautifully. Please, permit me to translate them for you!'" Miss Bingley and Elizabeth Bennet, Chapter 6: Feint and Parry, page 96.

"Thank you, Miss Bingley, but I had rather remain where I am. I can imagine only two reasons for your choosing to walk up and down the room together, in either of which my joining you would certainly interfere... You either choose this method of passing the evening because you are in each other's confidence, and have secret affairs to discuss or because you are conscious that your figures appear to the greatest advantage in walking. If the first, I should be completely in your way; and if the second, I can admire you much better as I sit by the fire." Darcy, Chapter 7: Dueling in Earnest, pages 103-104.

"But it has been the study of my life to avoid those weaknesses which often expose a strong understanding to ridicule.' 'Such as vanity and pride.' 'Yes, vanity is a weakness indeed. But pride—where there is a real superiority of mind—pride will be always under good regulation.'" Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet, Chapter 7: Dueling in Earnest, page 105.

"My good opinion once lost is lost forever." Darcy, Chapter 7: Dueling in Earnest, page 106.

"A more forward, opinionated little baggage I defy anyone to find! Such cheek and impertinence! So ready to do battle on the slightest pretense... Her face...when she looked on those others...such warm affection... Why, then, do you continue to attend to her? Because she is both—mind and heart—and what you have always desired." Darcy, Chapter 7: Dueling in Earnest, page 107.



"She leaves tomorrow then. A godsend, really. She has been here long enough! And you like her more than you should... Like her! Poor fool, you cannot even be honest with yourself!" Darcy, Chapter 7: Dueling in Earnest, page 112.

"True...pure...lovely. In all honesty, what better prerequisites were there for the woman one spent one's life with? His memory harkened back to Miss Bingley's long list of talents for the truly accomplished woman and his added requirement that she be well read. Would the embodiment of that list offer a better surety of his future happiness than a woman who was true, pure, and lovely?" Narrator, Chapter 8: His Own Worst Enemy, pages 126-127.

"Mr. Darcy, I assure you that I have no desire to intrude into your domestic affairs or embroil you in local matters. I fear that you will find this an intolerable sort of imposition, but please allow me to acquaint you with the great service your man performed this morning for little Annie Garlick... Why, knowing that he had your complete support and your high expectations to bolster him, he did what none in the servant class was willing to do, nor any of the local gentlemen were pleased to do... [the hulking footman] has been pressing poor Annie in a most inappropriate manner. Your man was a knight in shining armor to her." Elizabeth Bennet, Chapter 8: His Own Worst Enemy, pages 132-133.

"Charles, I must in all seriousness ask of you a great favor... I ask that you make it clear to Colonel Forster that his newest officer is not welcome at your ball next week. I am fully aware of the position in which this places you and can only offer my deepest apologies for doing so. An explanation I cannot give, save to tell you that my acquaintance with Lieutenant Wickham is of long standing, his father, before his death, having been steward to mine, and that he has repaid my family's generosity in a monstrous fashion which will forever stand between us." Darcy, Chapter 8: His Own Worst Enemy, pages 139-140.

"As you honored me as Pemberley's 'treasure', so I remind you that you are its heart." Georgiana Darcy, Chapter 8: His Own Worst Enemy, page 144.

"His strategy was elegant in its simplicity: pique Elizabeth's curiosity by his absence from all venues of intercourse with her and then, at the ball, make her the unmistakable object of his attention. The surprise and confusion engendered by such action would, he hoped, allow him to claim her hand for at least one set, during which he would offer a well-crafted apology for his lamentable manners at their first meeting. He trusted in Miss Elizabeth Bennet's unpredictable wit to inspire their conversation from there on. Surprise... the complete suddenness and partiality of his address! Darcy smiled to himself as he imagined her flustering prettily. She would be fairly caught and without resources. Then, Miss Elizabeth Bennet, we shall begin again." Narrator, Chapter 9: The Illustration of His Character, pages 146-147.

"Well, at least I have danced—and I expect to do quite a bit more—while you have done nothing but stalk about being civil or staring at Elizabeth Bennet. And do not piker up at



me, for it won't wash I know you too well, my friend." Bingley, Chapter 9: The Illustration of His Character, page 159.

"It is your turn to say something now, Mr. Darcy. I talked about the dance, and you ought to make some kind of remark on the size of the room, or the number of couples." Elizabeth Bennet, Chapter 9: The Illustration of His Character, page 161.

"Mr. Wickham is blessed with such happy manners as may ensure his making friends—whether he may be equally capable of retaining them, is less certain.' 'He has been so unlucky as to lose your friendship, and in a manner he is likely to suffer from all his life.'" Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet, Chapter 9: The Illustration of His Character, pages 163-164.

"I do not think we were speaking at all. Sir William could not have interrupted any two people in the room who had less to say for themselves. We have tried two or three subjects already without success, and what we are to talk of next I cannot imagine." Elizabeth Bennet, Chapter 9: The Illustration of His Character, page 164.

"I am not angry with her. She is not blameworthy, she is... my other half?" Darcy, Chapter 9: The Illustration of His Character, page 167.

"Oh, yes, he may as well be leashed. Truly, Mr. Darcy, people are beginning to talk! Only just now, that insufferable Sir William was hinting to me that my duties as Netherfield's mistress would soon burden me no longer. If he could say such a thing to me, he has said as much to others. Of that you may be sure. Charles will listen to you. You have ever been his good friend." Miss Bingley, Chapter 10: Beyond the Pale, page 169.

"What is Mr. Darcy to me, pray, that I should be afraid of him? I am sure we owe him no such particular civility as to be obliged to say nothing he may not like to hear." Mrs. Bennet, Chapter 10: Beyond the Pale, page 174.

"Sorry, sir? London has its pleasures, and Pemberley is the fairest spot on God's green earth. Hertfordshire? Hertfordshire, I have found, has its own treasures, sir; and what man is not loath to leave behind a treasure?" Fletcher, Chapter 10: Beyond the Pale, page 182.

"The man who exaggerates is perfectly aware that he does so and does not expect anyone to take his protestations to heart. He may come to employ it habitually, but he is still in possession of the truth of the matter and, if pressed, will admit it. But the man in thrall to his imagination has relinquished the command of his faculties to an illusion and will hold to it despite all facts to the contrary. Further, he will demand the rest of the world's credulity in the matter and regard any who refuse as enemies or oppressors or— or at the least, a very dull fellow indeed." Darcy, Chapter 11: Certain Evils, pages 185-186.

"Mr. Bingley, sir? Ah, yes, I recall him now, sir. Fortune through trade, Yorkshire family, I believe." Hinchcliffe, Chapter 11: Certain Evils, page 194.



"At least you have done him a good turn in this that he will appreciate immediately. Not like the other. That will take some time." Darcy, Chapter 11: Certain Evils, page 194.

"That set! Do not let their titles and airs fool you, Bingley. They hide a dangerous, deceptive lot that you would do well to stay clear of. Intrigue and ambition are their creed, and woe to the man or woman who becomes entangled in their plots." Darcy, Chapter 11: Certain Evils, page 195.

"Charles, you must be the judge of that. I only wish to caution you, warn you aware from an alliance that would bring you more pain than satisfaction. The difficulties of Miss Bennet's family and connections are many, yet these may be borne if you are absolutely convinced of her devotion. But if marriage were contracted with only want of advancement in Society on the lady's part..." Darcy, Chapter 11: Certain Evils, page 197.

"The heart that is conscious of its own integrity is ever slow to credit another's treachery." Lord Dyford Brougham, Chapter 12: All That Glitters, page 205.

"Lady Melbourne is not a woman I should wish to gainsay. Even were I given the opportunity." Darcy, Chapter 12: All That Glitters, page 222.

"Gentlemen, I must bid you good night. This has been a very eventful, not to mention revealing, evening. I think it safe to say we saw more of some people than we bargained for. And were exposed to some new experiences." Lord Dyford Brougham, Chapter 13: The Wounds of a Friend, page 231.

"Because the story was for your benefit! There is more to Hertfordshire than you have told me, old friend. I know you wish to do Bingley a service in this affair, and he may well be in need of it, but 'ware yourself, Fitz. Make sure of your ground and doubly sure of the nature of your interest." Lord Dyford Brougham, Chapter 13: The Wounds of a Friend, page 232.

"I begin to see the wisdom in your counsel. I was rushing my fences, not sure of the ground, and disregarding the warnings of a friend. I must think about Miss Bennet rationally, as you have advised me." Bingley, Chapter 13: The Wounds of a Friend, page 233.

"A gaping, unnamed discontent whose existence he had never suspected arose before him and now threatened to rob him of his satisfaction and complacency." Narrator, Chapter 13: The Wounds of a Friend, page 243.

"How much of his interest was directed solely toward Bingley's good? Was it nearer to the truth that separating Charles from Miss Jane Bennet was his surest defense against the conflict raised by the own heedless attraction to her sister?" Narrator, Chapter 13: The Wounds of a Friend, page 244.

"No, you must leave, for I am his deliverer." Darcy, Chapter 13: The Wounds of a Friend, page 246.



## Topics for Discussion

Describe Darcy and Bingley's friendship.

Why is Darcy reluctant to acknowledge his feelings for Elizabeth Bennet, even to himself?

Compare and contrast Darcy and Bingley's reactions to Elizabeth and Jane Bennet, respectively.

How does Elizabeth Bennet feel about Darcy and why?

Who is George Wickham and why does Darcy dislike him so intensely?

What happens at the Netherfield Ball and how does this differ from Darcy's desires and expectations?

How does Darcy feel about each of the Bennets (Mr. Bennet, Mrs. Bennet, Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Catherine and Lydia)?