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# Pride and Prejudice

Adapted for stage by

**Eric Domuret**

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*They exit. ELIZABETH looks at the painting of GEORGIANA. Then to WICKHAM. Then to DARCY's portrait. DARCY enters.*

ELIZABETH

Mr. Darcy!

DARCY

Ms. Bennet! . . . You are . . . I trust . . . You are well?

ELIZABETH

Yes. I am.

DARCY

And your sisters. Your family they are well?

ELIZABETH

Yes.

DARCY

Good . . . Miss Bennet . . . *(Exits)*

MRS. GARDINER

*(Enters)*

Lizzie, are you coming?

ELIZABETH

We are leaving.

MRS. GARDINER

What do you mean?

ELIZABETH

Call the horses.

MRS. GARDINER

Are you ill?

*MR. GARDINER enters followed by MRS REYNOLDS. During the following MRS. REYNOLDS observes the commotion. She crosses to the next room where DARCY exited.*

MR. GARDINER

What's the trouble?

ELIZABETH

It's time to go now.

MRS. GARDINER

I'm confused dear.

MR. GARDINER

What's the trouble?

ELIZABETH

We have overstayed our welcome, and I really must insist.

MR. GARDINER

Oh tosh we just arrived!

MRS. GARDINER

But, my dear there's something wrong.

ELIZABETH

I insist we leave at once.

MRS. REYNOLDS

*(Entering)*

Mr. Darcy has returned! And a day early! He is happy to receive you. He only needs a moment to make himself presentable after his journey.

DARCY

*(Enters)*

Forgive me for being brisk in my arrival. Ms. Bennet you are most welcome here.

ELIZABETH

I thank you. May I introduce my aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner.

DARCY

It is a pleasure to make your acquaintance. Mr. Gardiner, do you enjoy fishing?

MR. GARDINER

Indeed I do!

DARCY

There is a thriving river nearby that is well stocked.

MR. GARDINER

So I've heard.

DARCY

The invitation is open to fish here any time. I would be happy to supply you with the tackle as well if you like.

MR. GARDINER

I like very much indeed.

DARCY

Might you all be persuaded to have a tour? I would be delighted if you would allow me to show you around the grounds.

MRS. GARDINER

That would be most agreeable.

DARCY

Mrs. Reynolds would you be so kind as to show our guests to the garden?

MRS. REYNOLDS

Of course.

*MRS. REYNOLDS, MR. GARDINER, and MRS. GARDINER exit.*

DARCY

Ms. Bennet. *(Pause)*

ELIZABETH & DARCY, *Speaking at the same time*

ELIZABETH

Mrs. Reynolds informed us...

DARCY

Are you staying at Lambton?

---

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry, please.

DARCY

You are staying in Lambton?

ELIZABETH

Yes.

DARCY

At the inn?

ELIZABETH

Yes.

DARCY

How do you find it?

ELIZABETH

Mr. Darcy . . . I did not know . . . Your housekeeper assured us you would not be returning till tomorrow.

DARCY

I had planned so.

ELIZABETH

I would have never intruded. Had I known you would be returning . . .

DARCY

Ms. Bennet.

ELIZABETH

I know you must be terribly . . .

DARCY

How do you like Pemberley, Ms. Bennet?

ELIZABETH

Pemberley?

DARCY

Is it to your liking?

ELIZABETH

It . . . My aunt and uncle like it very much.

DARCY

And you?

ELIZABETH

I like it very much, indeed.

DARCY

The rest of my party is arriving momentarily.

ELIZABETH

Oh. Why did you not arrive with them?

DARCY

I rode ahead.

ELIZABETH

For what purpose?

DARCY

Leisure.

ELIZABETH

Who will be joining us?

DARCY

Mr. Bingley and Miss Caroline Bingley. Also, someone who greatly desires to make your acquaintance. My sister, Georgiana. I wonder if I may introduce you when she arrives? I also hope you would do me the honor in joining us here tomorrow. Your Aunt and Uncle are most welcome of course.

ELIZABETH

Thank you. Yes.

DARCY

Splendid. I shall come by with a carriage tomorrow.

BINGLEY

Miss Bennet! Mrs. Reynolds told us you were here! What a pleasant surprise! How do you do!

ELIZABETH

Well, Mr. Bingley, thank you.

BINGLEY

I trust your family is well.

ELIZABETH

All well, yes.

BINGLEY

And you sister?

ELIZABETH

Which one, sir?

BINGLEY

Jane. How does she?

ELIZABETH

Fine. It has been a while since you have seen each other.

BINGLEY

It is above eight months. We have not met since the 26th of November, when we were all dancing together at Netherfield.

ELIZABETH

That is quite a memory Mr. Bingley.

*GEORGIANA enters.*

DARCY

Miss Bennet, would you do me the great honor of introducing my sister. Miss Georgiana Darcy.

ELIZABETH

Miss Darcy.

GEORGIANA

Miss Bennet.

ELIZABETH

I have very much enjoyed your home.

GEORGIANA

Thank you.

ELIZABETH

You must be quite content here.

GEORGIANA

Yes.

ELIZABETH

I should think I gave quite an unpleasant shock to your brother when he found me here unexpectedly.

GEORGIANA

Unpleasant? No not at all! Oh he has nothing but praise for you. He has spoken of you in such high terms that I confess I have been most anxious to meet you. I do not know who is more excited at the surprise of you being here, myself or my brother!

ELIZABETH

Well . . .



GEORGIANA

Oh, forgive me. I spoke too boldly.

ELIZABETH

No Ms. Darcy, I share your excitement at meeting you.

MISS BINGLEY

*(Entering)*

Miss Elizabeth Bennet! How unexpected!

ELIZABETH

Miss Bingley.

MISS BINGLEY

Your complexion is a bit darker than I last remember. It must be on account of working outdoors on your father's estate.

DARCY

Georgiana, I have something for you. Would all of you . . .

MISS BINGLEY

Pray, Miss Eliza, are not the Militia removed from Meryton? They must be a great loss to your family.

BINGLEY

Shall we?

MISS BINGLEY

It must be a great loss to you, Miss Bennet, having Mr. Wickham no longer able to visit.

*GEORGIANA pulls away at the mention of this name.*

DARCY

Georgiana . . .

ELIZABETH

Miss Darcy! Your brother was telling me of the parlor.

GEORGIANA

Excuse me?

ELIZABETH

The parlor! You seem confused. I only ask because I do believe your brother has something waiting there for you. Might I intrude upon you to show me?

GEORGIANA

Yes. Um. . . Something waiting?

DARCY

Yes. A surprise.

ELIZABETH

Oh I hope I have not ruined it.

DARCY

Not at all.

GEORGIANA

Oh. Of course then. Yes. Of course! Follow me. *(Exits)*

DARCY

Miss Bennet. Thank you.

*ELIZABETH and DARCY exit.*