

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

SYNOPSIS

The story of Pride and Prejudice begins with the arrival of Charles Bingley, a rich single man to the Netherfield estate. His arrival thrills the Longbourn residents particularly the ladies. Mrs. Bennet is one of them. The main interest of Mrs. Bennet's life is to get her five daughters all married and if possible married to rich men. For Mrs. Bennet, Charles Bingley's arrival seems to be a golden opportunity for one of her daughters.

The Bennet family of Longbourn consists of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet and their five daughters. The Bennet daughters are Jane, who is the eldest and the most beautiful of the sisters; Elizabeth, the second daughter is the clever one and she is the heroine in the story; Mary, the middle child is the plain one; silly Kitty and wild Lydia are the two youngest of the sisters.

At a local ball, the Bennets become acquainted with the newcomer, Charles Bingley and they are all impressed by Bingley's pleasant manner and outgoing personality. However, they are not at all impressed by Bingley's friend, Fitzwilliam Darcy, a young aristocrat who refuses to associate with others outside his own party and whom Elizabeth overhears refusing to dance with her.

Soon, the eldest of the Bennet daughters, Jane forms a relationship with Bingley. However, any relationship between the two of them is opposed by Bingley's sisters and Darcy. They do not approve of Jane as Bingley's wife because of her

status. Meanwhile, Darcy finds himself attracted to Elizabeth despite his objections to her family's condition and Caroline Bingley's jealous criticisms of Elizabeth cannot lessen Darcy's admiration.

As Darcy's admiration grows stronger, Elizabeth continues to dislike him. She is instead attracted to George Wickham, a handsome officer who has just arrived at the neighborhood. Wickham informs Elizabeth that his father worked for Darcy's father and that he and Darcy grew up together. Wickham claims that Darcy has disobeyed his father's will and has refused to give Wickham the position as a clergyman all because Darcy was jealous of Wickham. Wickham's story makes Darcy appear cruel and Elizabeth accepts Wickham's story without question. She dislikes Darcy even more because of it.

At the same time, there is an additional member to the Bennet family. William Collins, a clergyman who will inherit Mr. Bennet's estate when he dies because of the law called entail. William Collins's visit has a sole purpose, which is to take one of the Bennet daughters as his wife because her patroness, Lady Catherine de Bourgh has instructed her to do so. At first he chooses Jane but when he learns that Jane is in love with someone else he settles with Elizabeth. However he is shocked and offended when Elizabeth refuses his proposal. He quickly turns his attention to Charlotte Lucas, Elizabeth's best friend and the couple soon marries. Soon after the wedding, the couple move to Hunsford Parsonage.

At Netherfield, suspecting the relationship between Jane and Bingley as romance, Darcy and the Bingley sisters persuades Charles Bingley to leave

Netherfield and go back to London. Later, Caroline Bingley writes to Jane saying that they do not intend to return to Longbourn and that she predicts a match between her brother and Darcy's sister, Georgiana who is also in London. Learning of this, Elizabeth is angry for her sister and she suspects that this is an effort to keep Bingley away from Jane.

Visiting the newly weds, the Collinses at Hunsford parsonage, Elizabeth is introduced to Mr. Collins' patroness and Darcy's aunt, Lady Catherine de Bourgh. Unexpectedly, Elizabeth also meets again with Darcy who happens to visit his aunt. This time he brings along his cousin, Colonel Fitzwilliam. The pleasant gentleman is from whom Elizabeth learns of Darcy's interference in separating Bingley from her sister, Jane.

Darcy confuses Elizabeth greatly with his behavior. He seems to always look for a chance to see her but he never says much. One day, he surprised Elizabeth by proposing her. Having seen Darcy's pride and believing Darcy is responsible for her sister's unhappiness and Wickham's misfortune, Elizabeth refuses.

The next day, Darcy gives Elizabeth a letter, which reveals his role in separating Bingley from and Jane and the details of the facts concerning Wickham's situation. Learning these facts, Elizabeth realizes her prejudice and grows ashamed of herself.

After returning home for a while, Elizabeth goes on a trip with her uncle and aunt, the Gardiners to London. They travel to Derbyshire and visit Darcy's estate, Pemberley. Unexpectedly, Elizabeth meet Darcy again. This time, Darcy treats

Elizabeth and the Gardiners with high respect. He even introduces her to his sister, Georgiana. Such treatment surprises Elizabeth.

Just as Elizabeth and Georgiana's friendship starts to grow, Elizabeth receives a letter from Jane informing her of Lydia's elopement. This makes Elizabeth and the Gardiners rush home. In her letter, Jane informs that Lydia has eloped with George Wickham. Mr. Bennet and Mr. Gardiner immediately search for the couple. When they are finally found, they are married.

Just after the wedding, Elizabeth learns that at first Wickham refuses to marry Lydia but after Darcy offers to pay his debts and give him a large sum of money, he agrees to marry Lydia. In addition, Darcy also buys him a commission at the army up north. By doing this, Darcy has saved the Bennet's reputation for Lydia's elopement is a disgrace to the family and it may destroy the other miss Bennets' chance of ever being well married. Learning this fact, Elizabeth's admiration and love for Darcy grows.

Not long after Lydia's departure, Charles Bingley returns to Netherfield. The first thing that he does when he returns is going to Longbourn and propose Jane. Jane, of course, accepts. The couple is soon engaged. Elizabeth's happiness for her sister is disturbed by the surprising arrival of Lady Catherine de Bourgh.

Lady Catherine de Bourgh's visit has two purposes. The first is that she wants to know whether Darcy has made an offer of marriage to Elizabeth and the second is that she wants Elizabeth to promise not to accept Darcy's proposal if he makes one.

Concerning the first matter, Elizabeth refuses to reveal anything and concerning the second matter, she refuses to make such a promise.

Elizabeth's refusal makes Lady Catherine de Bourgh really angry. She lectures Elizabeth about how an unequal match she and Darcy will make but Elizabeth's determination remains unchanged.

Darcy learns from his aunt of Elizabeth's responses and he suspects that Elizabeth has had a change of feeling towards him. Therefore, he goes and propose Elizabeth once again. This time, Elizabeth happily accepts.

The story ends in a great happiness for the Bennets. The two eldest Bennet sisters are happy to get love. Mr. Bennet is happy to see his two most beloved daughters find happiness in their marriage and Mrs. Bennet is happy to see her daughters well married.