

Pride & Prejudice (2005 film)

Plot^{[\[edit\]](#)}

During the 19th century, the Bennet family, consisting of [Mr. Bennet](#) and [Mrs. Bennet](#) and their five daughters—Jane, [Elizabeth](#), Mary, Kitty, and Lydia—live in comparative financial independence as [gentry](#) at Longbourn, a working farm in rural England. As the Bennets have no sons, Longbourn is destined to be inherited by Mr. Bennet's cousin, [Mr. Collins](#), and so Mrs. Bennet is anxious to marry off her five daughters before Mr. Bennet dies, to secure herself in her widowhood.

Wealthy bachelor Charles Bingley has recently moved into Netherfield, a nearby estate. He is introduced to local society at an assembly ball, along with his haughty sister Caroline and reserved friend, [Mr. Darcy](#), who "owns half of Derbyshire". Bingley is enchanted with the gentle and beautiful Jane, while Elizabeth takes an instant dislike to Darcy after he coldly rebuffs her attempts at conversation and after she later overhears him insulting her. When Jane becomes sick on a visit to Netherfield, Elizabeth goes to stay with her, verbally sparring with both Caroline and Darcy.

Later the Bennets are visited by the "Dreaded Cousin" Mr. Collins. He is a "ridiculous" little clergyman who is infatuated with his patroness, [Lady Catherine de Bourgh](#). During dinner the family has some fun at Mr. Collins' expense and are treated to a reading by him of [Fordyce's Sermons](#). After learning from Mrs. Bennet that Jane is expected to become engaged soon, Collins decides to pursue Elizabeth, utterly oblivious to her lack of interest in him. Meanwhile, the easy-going and charming Lieutenant [Wickham](#) of the newly-arrived militia captures the girls' attention; he wins Elizabeth's sympathy by telling her that Darcy had cheated him of his inheritance. At a ball at Netherfield, Elizabeth, startled by Darcy's abrupt appearance and request for a dance, accepts his offer but vows to her best friend Charlotte Lucas that she has "sworn to loathe him for all eternity". During the dance, she attacks him with witty sarcasm and Darcy responds in kind. At the same ball, Charlotte expresses concern to Elizabeth that Jane's behaviour towards Mr. Bingley is too reserved and that Bingley may not realise that she loves him.

The next day at Longbourn, Collins proposes to Elizabeth but she strongly declines. When Bingley unexpectedly returns to London, Elizabeth dispatches a heartbroken Jane to the city to stay with their aunt and uncle, the Gardiners, in hopes of re-establishing contact between Jane and Bingley. Later, Elizabeth is appalled to learn that her friend Charlotte will marry Collins to gain financial security and avoid remaining a spinster. Months later, Elizabeth visits the newly-wed Mr. and Mrs. Collins who live in a cottage at Rosings, Lady Catherine's manor estate; they are invited to dine at Rosings and meet Darcy and Colonel Fitzwilliam, Lady Catherine's nephews. Here, Darcy begins to show a greater interest in Elizabeth. The next day, not realizing that Jane is Elizabeth's sister, Colonel Fitzwilliam lets slip to Elizabeth that Darcy had separated Bingley from Jane. Distraught, Elizabeth flees from a church service that all are attending, but Darcy follows her and proposes marriage.

He says he loves her "most ardently" despite her "lower rank." Elizabeth refuses him, citing his treatment of Jane, Bingley, and Wickham; they argue fiercely, with Darcy explaining that he had been convinced that Jane did not return Bingley's love. Darcy inadvertently insults Elizabeth's family and sends her into a rage. She lets her wit get the better of her and she hurls biting words at him. Darcy leaves angry and heartbroken. That evening, he finds Elizabeth at the Collins cottage and presents her with a letter explaining his side of their relationship. Darcy gives insight to Wickham's character and describes exploits including Wickham's attempted elopement with Darcy's 15-year-old sister, Georgiana. The letter concludes with Darcy explaining the reasons why he separated Mr. Bingley and Jane.

A couple of months later, the Gardiners take Elizabeth on a trip to the [Peak District](#); their tour includes Darcy's estate, [Pemberley](#). Elizabeth, who first asked to skip a visit to the estate, agrees to

go with them, believing Darcy is in London. Elizabeth is impressed by Pemberley's wealth and beauty and hears nothing but good things about Darcy from his housekeeper. During the visit, she awkwardly and accidentally runs into Darcy who has arrived home early. He invites her and the Gardiners to meet his sister. Darcy's manners have softened considerably, and Georgiana takes an instant liking to Elizabeth. When Elizabeth learns that her immature and flirtatious youngest sister Lydia has run away with Wickham, she tearfully blurts out the news to Darcy and the Gardiners before returning home. Her family expects social ruin for having a disgraced daughter, but over a week later they are relieved to hear that Mr. Gardiner had discovered the pair in London and that they had married. Lydia later lets slip to Elizabeth that Darcy was the one who found her and Wickham and paid for their marriage.

Bingley and Darcy suddenly return to Netherfield; Bingley proposes to Jane and she accepts. The same evening, Lady Catherine unexpectedly visits Elizabeth, insisting that she renounce Darcy because he is supposedly to marry her own daughter, Anne. Elizabeth refuses the request and, unable to sleep, walks on the moor at dawn. There, she meets Darcy, also unable to sleep after hearing of his aunt's behaviour. He admits his continued love and Elizabeth accepts his proposal.

Mr. Bennet gives his consent after Elizabeth assures him of her love for Darcy. In the U.S. release of the film, an additional last scene shows the newlyweds outside at Pemberley, happy together.