

*One of the most famous
scenes in the book -
Proposal #1.*

ELIZABETH

Mr. Darcy, I don't understand.

DARCY

You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you.

ELIZABETH

You are mistaken, I must do nothing.

DARCY

I have tried at every moment to suppress my feelings for you. I am aware of the inferiority of your circumstances, my family's expectations, your family's behavior-

ELIZABETH

Well, it is my fervent hope that these same awarenesses will help you overcome those feelings. They must have been painful for you, but not as painful as your utter disdain for and prejudice against everything I am. My family is ridiculous, but they are mine. My circumstances are not perfect, but they are *mine*. If you cannot accept them, you cannot possibly love me.

DARCY

I might ask how, with so little an attempt at civility, I am rejected.

ELIZABETH

Did you not hear what you said to me? And even if you hadn't, even if you had extolled my virtues and praised my connections, do you think that anything could tempt me to accept the man who ruined my dear sister Jane's happiness? You have taken Mr. Bingley away from Jane, divided them forever, shattering her poor heart beyond repair.

Do you deny it?

DARCY

No, I rejoice in my success. Toward him I have been kinder than toward myself.

ELIZABETH

Between my sister and Mr. Wickham-

DARCY

Mr. Wickham?

ELIZABETH

He's been a frequent guest at Longbourne lately. He's quite a favorite of my sisters'. Mr. Wickham needed little prompting to tell me how you ruined his life, how you kept the inheritance from him that was rightfully his, how to this day you treat him with mockery and contempt.

DARCY

And *this* is your opinion of me. Perhaps you would have accepted me if I had flattered you instead of being honest. But disguise of every sort is my abhorrence. I am not ashamed of my feelings. But could you expect me to rejoice in the inferiority of your circumstances?

ELIZABETH

The only thing you have done, Mr. Darcy, is spared me any concern I might have felt in refusing you, had you behaved in a more gentleman-like manner. From the moment I met you, I knew you were the last man on earth I could ever be prevailed upon to marry.

DARCY

(Softly)

You have said quite enough, madam. Forgive me for having taken up so much of your time.

Darcy exits.