

**Molly:** Hey, everyone. Before we begin today, we want to thank our newest Patreon, Catherine. Welcome to the team. As you know, we're gearing up for *Persuasion*, and this is Becca's first time reading the book. So, she's been recording her initial thoughts to each chapter, and we're going to be releasing those as bonus episodes on Patreon throughout Season 4 of this podcast. So, if that sounds interesting to you, head on over to [patreon.com/podandprejudice](https://patreon.com/podandprejudice) to see how you can support us.

Now, you might be thinking, it's Monday. What are we doing releasing a Pod and Prejudice episode on a Monday? Well, it is Monday, April 1st. And some people who are near and dear to the podcast thought that would be a great opportunity to try something new and release a very special episode. So, we have this little bonus episode for you. And in two weeks, we're going to be back to Season 3 with one last episode about *Emma Approved*, this time with speaker one special guest, Joanna Sotomura. And after that, we're going to have our season finale Q&A, [00:01:00] which you all sent in your questions for and which we had a lot of fun with. So, we really hope you enjoyed that.

After that, we're going to be going on a brief hiatus. We might have some more bonus content for you throughout that to be determined. And then we're going to be back with Season 4 of the podcast on June 11th. So, with all of that being said, we hope you enjoy this very, very special episode of Pod and Pod and Prejudice.

[Pod and Prejudice theme]

**Mike:** This is Mike.

**Mel:** And this is Mel.

**Mike:** We're here to talk about people talking about Jane Austen.

**Mel:** We're here specifically to talk about--

**Mike and Mel:** Pod and Prejudice.

**Mike:** I'm Mike. I've listened to every episode of Pod and Prejudice.

**Mel:** And I'm Mel. Came to the Pod and Prejudice team pretty late in the game. So, I've only listened to maybe three and a half episodes from the newer season. So, I've never listened to Season 1, and I've never read or seen [00:02:00] many Jane Austen things. I recently have, because we can share that-- I am dating Molly, and Molly has introduced me to the world, but I'm pretty new to their podcast.

**Mike:** Yes. So, I'm engaged to Becca. So, I've been following this podcast like almost-- They started maybe a little less than a year before I met Becca,-

**Mel:** Yeah.

**Mike:** -which is pretty evident in this first episode, which we'll get into.

**Mel:** Oh, I cannot wait. Yeah, this first episode, we're going to cover the first episode of Pod and Prejudice. And we want to make it clear that we're not covering any of the Jane Austen content. We are specifically covering their podcast. Specifically, yeah, their first episode, which is called *Pride and Prejudice*, Chapters 1 through 4 that aired on October 19th of 2019.

**Mike:** Yeah. Okay. So, yeah, so that would have been just a few months before Becca and I met. Becca and I met February 1st of 2020. So, [00:03:00] it's so great. [laughs]

**Mel:** It's so good. So, I'll start by reading their episode description that is on their podcast page, wherever you listen to it. So, it says, Becca has read all of Jane Austen's work. Molly literally does not know who Mrs. Bennet is. Together, they venture into Austen's world of romance, biting satire and class struggles. Like Austen, interested in a modern take, this is the podcast for you. What do you think about that description, Mike?

**Mike:** It pretty much nails it. I think it's so funny thinking about having listened to all of it, going back to a time where Molly doesn't even know who Mrs. Bennet is. Do you like the fact that they don't know their first names? I still don't think they know their first names. I've never heard it uttered.

**Mel:** That's amazing. I love that. I will say this episode, for me, it started with an ad for a show that happened a few weeks ago. So, my first note is to like, "Let's remove that ad. Let's get rid of it. Nobody's showing up to a show that happened a few weeks ago." So, that's my first critique of this episode.

[laughter]

**Mel:** [00:04:00] Molly needs to remove the ad for the rip bodice show, which was excellent, by the way. We were both there, and it was a brilliant show. But I just think that's false advertising, and we shouldn't give the people the wrong idea.

**Mike:** [laughs] Right. But you should go to the next live show whenever that's going to be.

**Mel:** Yeah.

**Mike:** My criticism is there should be a live show every day of the week from now until forever.

**Mel:** I have the exact same criticism. I'm glad we're on the same page. So, then after the ad that shouldn't be there anymore, we get theme music. And theme music, maybe we could replicate it real quick. It was like--

**Mel and Mike:** [replicating the theme music]

**Mel:** I thought it was great. It really put me into the time period. Suddenly, I was transported to the Regency Era. I felt like theme music was perfect. What did you think?

**Mike:** Yeah. No, this is like the iconic Pod and Prejudice music.

**Mel:** I've heard theme music in more recent episodes, and I'm glad that they didn't pull a boy meets world on us and change theme song every season, because that would have been a bummer. This is a perfect theme song.

**Mike:** [00:05:00] Yeah.

**Mel:** Okay. So, then it kicks off with a quote from Becca, which she says, "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife." Now, I had no idea what this meant, to be honest. I was like, "I don't know what Becca's talking about. What is she saying?" And then they make it clear. Molly says, "And thus begins *Pride and Prejudice*." So, I'm assuming that's how the book starts.

**Mike:** Wait, so you actually don't know? You've never heard this before?

**Mel:** I think I've heard that quote offhand from Molly and Becca but-- And maybe in-- Oh, I think I watched one of the movies on a plane once with Molly. But maybe that's how the movie starts. I don't know.

**Mike:** Well, so this is like the famous introduction to *Pride and Prejudice*. This is the famous opening lines of the book.

**Mel:** Yeah.

**Mike:** So, to also start the podcast off that way, it's such a testament to the legacy of both the book and the podcast.

**Mel:** [00:06:00] It was a cool intro, because then right after that, we get the iconic, this is Becca, this is Molly, and we're here to talk about Jane Austen, which I think is still how they do their episodes today.

**Mike:** Consistent.

**Mel:** Consistent.

**Mike:** Consistently throughout the whole series. And again, this is something where you see most podcasts change up the formula and switch things around. Molly and Becca knew exactly what they wanted from this podcast from day one.

**Mel:** And I love that they also give a mention to the Patreon that doesn't exist yet, which now has hundreds of people contributing. So, it's really cool to know what it grew to and then to see how it started. But yeah, they introduce it. Molly says she's never read it. And she also mentions, there's a lot of things she's never read or saw or listened to. And they get into a conversation about Taylor Swift's new album at the time, which I think was *Lover* in 2019.

**Mike:** I have no idea. But yeah, I also took note of this. [laughs]

**Mel:** Yes. But I love this. And then I specifically noted a quote from Molly that she says, "I only know the top hits of things," which if you know [00:07:00] anything about Molly, this is false. She claims in the podcast that she knows the top hits. And if you play her any top hit of an artist that you think she will undoubtedly know-- She will not know it. She'll know the song, maybe, but she will not know the artist, and it's really quite astonishing.

A couple examples of this are, I played *Heya* for her. I think she thought it was Justin Timberlake or something. It was completely off. [Mike laughs] She thinks every rock song is Green Day. She thinks every pop female song is Katy Perry, no matter how iconic the song is. So, I just want to say that that was a very funny quote to hear her say.

But yeah, Becca says she grew up on Jane Austen. She's like a bit of a superfan. Her mom got her into it. You kind of get their background on it, which I think is a really nice way to introduce us to who they are and their relation to Jane Austen. Becca says she feels very honored to be introducing Molly to the Jane Austen experience, which I called the JEA. Do we [00:08:00] think that's going to stick? Maybe the JEA is going to be like-- It should be on a T-shirt.

**Mike:** Jane Austen. JAE

**Mel:** Oh, JAE.

**Mike:** Yeah, JAE.

**Mel:** What? Wow. Okay. The JAE.

The Jane Austen. [laughs]

**Mike:** That sounds like some sort of [unintelligible [00:08:13] like highway like, "Oh, yeah, I have to just take the JAE to get here. I was on the JAE the other day, and some guy flipped

me off because apparently, I had a good fortune and was in want of a wife, some guy just flipped me off on the JAE."

**Mel:** That should be like an interactive video game where you're driving down a highway, but it's all like Regency Era things that keep popping out at you, and you have to dive out of the way. That's so funny. Okay, but then it's about four minutes into the podcast, and they dive right into the recap, which, hey, I love getting right to it.

**Mike:** I think what's so special about Molly and Becca's relationship is that it doesn't take long to gauge what it is. You know what I mean? Like, you can tell from right up front just from those opening words like, **[00:09:00]** who these people are, what their friendship is like, what this podcast is going to be like. And just going back to that consistency, it's been like that for now almost, yeah, four and a half years of just nonstop engagement with these two. And you just really see that friendship right off the bat, that loving relationship. It's so spectacular. Yeah, so for them to just go straight into the material, you know what's good. You know what's about to happen.

**Mel:** Yeah.

**Mike:** You know you're about to experience. It's so lovely.

**Mel:** Yeah. There's so many podcasts that have two people who have similar interests, but they're not really friends in real life, or they just know each other through the thing that brought them together. You can tell, especially in those early episodes of those podcasts, that it's like a little awkward, they're finding their footing, they're figuring out what flows and all that. And this one, you're right. Right off the bat. It's like, "Oh, it's clear these people are friends and that this is something that they've been wanting to do." And that Molly's so excited to dive into this world, and Becca's so excited to show it to her. It's really sweet.

**[00:10:00]** I did make a note that in the beginning of the podcast, before they dove into the content, they were like-- I don't want to say low energy. They were just like a more chill vibe where they were just talking about it, giving their story. And then as soon as Molly starts recapping the book, I think she goes up a whole octave. Like, her energy just heightens so much where she just gets so excited. I think she likes it, because she's like "Okay, here we are. So then, then this happens." And then I was thinking this and I was like, "Wow, she really like found her recap voice immediately."

**Mike:** Like I said, Becca and I met in February of 2020. So, they were in the middle of reading *Pride and Prejudice* when I first met Becca. I remember the fear being, "What if Molly hates it? Like, what if Molly just hates the book, hates Jane Austen, hates all of it?" But you can tell just right off the bat, right from the first episode that she is **[00:11:00]** in. The only thing she hates about *Pride and Prejudice* seems to be Mr. Darcy. Boy, how much of that has changed over time?

**Mel:** She hates him so much in this episode. Like, every time he is mentioned, she makes threats to him.

**Mike:** She makes open threats. But we also get on the other side of that, the early signs of Daddy Bennet.

**Mel:** We do. You're right. Hey, I don't know what Daddy Bennet is. I think it's something that happens later in their podcast and becomes a thing. But this is my first-time diving into this season of Pod and Prejudice.

**Mike:** You'll see.

**Mel:** I'll see. But I do know that she loves Darcy, and that perspective has also changed for her. And I will say, I think Becca does such a good job. Obviously, she has to keep Molly

spoiler free. But just because that is true, it doesn't mean she can't chime in on her thoughts. But she does such a good job of giving her thoughts from that moment without [00:12:00] spoiling too much of what's about to happen, even with her opinion of people. And she just gives additional commentary and asks Molly about predictions in such a savvy way that it's like she's still so much involved with this podcast and these episodes with the recap, but knows how to direct Molly, the right way.

**Mike:** Having known Becca for a little over four years, I can honestly say that she is a master poker face. Because we've watched so many tv shows together where I'll ask a question thinking like, "Oh, I got her. Like, she's got to answer this." And she just goes stone face. She's just like, "Oh." The famous Pod of Prejudice line, which you'll come to learn, Mel, is "I will neither confirm, nor deny." She pulls that on me all the time. We were watching *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. And she all the time, "I will neither confirm, nor deny."

**Mel:** Oh, how frustrating. But so good. [laughs]

**Mike:** So good. So good.

**Mel:** So good. So, Becca says that Jane [00:13:00] Austen stands marrying for love, and then she says, "That brings me to a fun fact about Jane Austen." And then there's almost a little pause, and Molly says, "Ooh, fun fact?" And I was like, "Maybe this is going to be a recurring segment on Pod and Prejudice of like--" Because she was like, "This brings me to the fun facts section." And I was like, "Maybe it's going to get its own sound effect later on." So, I don't know the answer to that, but I'm really hoping that fun facts with Becca about Jane Austen becomes a recurring segment on this podcast.

**Mike:** I will neither confirm, nor deny.

**Mel:** [laughs] Perfect. The fun fact, by the way, was that Jane Austen was only proposed to once when she was in her late 20s. And she accepted. But the next day, she broke it off. And my question to you, Mike, is that a fun fact?

**Mike:** Well, it's fun in retrospect. I imagine at the time, it wasn't fun for Jane or the person proposing.

**Mel:** Oh, yeah. But for us.

**Mike:** But for us. Yeah. [00:14:00] A few solid centuries have gone by, I think we're okay to have a good chuckle at it. Yeah.

**Mel:** I thought it was a fun fact and I hope this segment continues on in their podcast. I enjoyed it. Now, this gets them into a conversation about the first thing we wanted to hit on, which we find hilarious is their opinions about dating. And Becca says, "Nowadays, you have to show that you don't care. You got to be so casual with dating, and you can't put too much energy into it." And Molly says, "I wish that I would get brownie points with people I like by showing how much I care." And then Becca says "Her love language is walking up to people and being like, 'Hey, I don't feel like hiding this anymore [laughs] and being direct.'" And then she says, "Just kidding. I could never." I think she said her love language is actually staying at home in sweatpants eating Chinese food, which is also my love language Becca. But I thought this was a fun peek behind the curtain of who they were before they met us of their opinions about dating, which we get a lot more later on in the episode.

**Mike:** [00:15:00] This is hysterical to me. This was the funniest bit for me to go back and relisten to, because it's so funny hearing Becca just talk about how like, "Oh, my love language is staying at home in sweatpants and eating Chinese food." I'm like, "Oh, no. I'm not that direct." I can say based on our first date, because I'm someone who loves directness, like, "Just be direct. Say what's on your mind. Speak your intentions. Say what

you're thinking and just openly communicate." And that's really what has made Becca and I work so well is the fact that we're both like that. We're both just like, "Yeah, this is--"

I remember on our very first date, she's like, "Hey, I'm going to be going away for an internship in Worcester, Massachusetts in six months. So, just a heads up." And I was like, "Cool. I appreciate you not hiding that from me. That would have been really weird to hide that from me and then spring it up on me last minute." And obviously, [00:16:00] everything worked out splendidly. So, yeah, It's funny to hear her be like, "Oh, no, I'm so shy. I don't speak--" No, she's very direct.

**Mel:** Yeah. Oh, that's great. You guys are the cutest.

**Mike:** Oh.

**Mel:** Oh. So, after this moment, they talk about-- They go on a lot of tangents, which now I can say, even just recording this with you, it's impossible not to. So, you know what? That's not a critique, because the tangents are fun and it's just fun to hear where their brains go. But they talk about how they got bagels to record this episode and then they said, "Next time, they'll get ice cream and wine." I don't want to spoiler here, but I'm just saying that I hope for the next episode, they have their ice cream and wine, because I do think that would be enjoyable to listen to them recap the next few chapters with a little bit of wine in their system.

**Mike:** Yeah. I don't think it's a spoiler to say that there are many food engagements that come up in the Pod and Prejudice world. There are many meals that are shared. I would love to-- Oh, that'd be a fun project [00:17:00] if someone could go through every episode and tally up how much wine gets drank throughout the entire series. I imagine they're probably in the dozens worth of wine bottles.

**Mel:** I think when I came into the picture, it was a lot of Sunday morning records. So, it was a lot of bagels or breakfast tacos. But hey, before I met Molly, it might have been a completely different world with this podcast. So, that would be very fun to get that tally.

**Mike:** [chuckles]

**Mel:** This brings us to another segment of Molly pulling what I call a classic Molly, where she's talking about a movie. She thinks she saw a long time ago that was a version of *Pride and Prejudice* and she was like, "It has Keira Knightley and Colin Firth." And Becca was like, "Hmm, that's not possible. They're not in the same movie," which, of course, I don't know that. So, I was like, "Yeah, that sounds right to me."

**Mike:** [laughs]

**Mel:** But this is such a classic thing with Molly. Then she starts describing the movie she thinks she saw. And this is very common where she'll be like, "I've definitely seen that movie. I know exactly what happens." And then we'll watch that movie and she'll be like, "I've never seen this. I think I was thinking of [00:18:00] something else." [laughs] It happens a lot. We talk about *The Little Rascals* versus *The Goonies*. And every time we mention *The Little Rascals*, she's like, "I love *The Little Rascals*." And then I talk about *The Little Rascals*, she's like, "That's not familiar," and she's actually thinking about *The Goonies*. That's just one example.

But this happens a lot. I hope this happens more during this podcast with other adaptations where she's like, "I think I've seen that." And then she's like, "Oh, no, I was just thinking about *A Walk to Remember*."

**Mike:** Well, this is maybe a slight spoiler for more recent Pod and Prejudice episodes, where they visit some of these film adaptations. But Becca has the opposite problem, where she'll

go, "No, I've never seen that movie. No, I don't remember it. I've never seen this." And then we'll be in the middle of watching and she'll go, "Oh, I've seen this. Yeah, I remember all of this. And then this is the scene when the-- And then that's the scene where--" And I'm just like, "Then why? Okay, I guess we'll just turn it off and watch something else." She doesn't remember watching [00:19:00] something until we're in the middle of watching it.

**Mel:** I feel like that's common though, because some people space the first half of something until you really get into it, and then you're like, "Oh, I just chose not to remember the beginning."

**Mike:** Oh, yeah.

**Mel:** That's very funny. Okay, then we get another great quote from Becca that made me happy for you. And the quote was, she said, "I recently broke up with someone, and my mom said, I'll kill him. Tell him who I need to murder." And I was just like, "Thank God, Mike is safe," because if your relationship had gone another way, her mom would be out for blood.

**Mike:** Yes. I have developed a wonderful relationship with Becca's mother. She loves me. I love her. It's a very loving family that Becca comes from, and I'm very appreciative of that. But I also am fully aware that if I had ever done anything to break Becca's heart, I would be dead. My face would be on milk cartons across the country, because they would never find the [00:20:00] body.

**Mel:** Is that still a thing?

**Mike:** No.

**Mel:** I hope that's still a thing. You would think with social media, that wouldn't be a thing. But I hope that is still a thing.

**Mike:** My question is, was it ever a thing? [laughs]

**Mel:** Hey, that's the question. Okay, back to Pod and Prejudice.

**Mike:** Back to Pod and Prejudice.

**Mel:** Okay. So, around 16 minutes in, Becca does another thing, which I do hope will be a recurring segment. I do like how she talks about moments in the podcast where she's like, "This is the time in the podcast where as if it's happened before in a previous episode." But it's the first episode, so I'm just hoping she's planting the seeds. And she says, "This is the time in the podcast where I bring up the kinky nature of their relationship." And again, I was just like, "Is there going to be a kinky segment every episode?" I hope so.

**Mike:** I will neither confirm, nor deny. But what I will say is that-- This is something that [00:21:00] comes up a lot in Pod and Prejudice. There are a lot of Jane Austen podcasts out there. Some of them are pretty raunchy and some of them pretty fun. But I think for the most part, when you're engaging with this kind of literature, the conversations tend to be pretty traditional, almost conservative, where it's like, "Ah, yes, let's talk about the finer, meticulous points of literature." But with Becca and Molly, they pull out the some of the funniest, silliest things. They really take the book and put it in such a modern context. So, what I will say is, yes, there will definitely be more kinky conversations, some more conversations about sexuality and the [00:22:00] nature of romance and lust in Jane Austen. Jane Austen After Hours.

**Mel:** Ooh. Kinky.

**Mike:** [laughs]

**Mel:** I love that. I love that they don't shy away from that and that they're really putting in the effort to make it modern and it doesn't feel forced. It doesn't feel like they're just putting in modern lingo to be like, "We need to give a modern take." Or, you feel like this is what they're finding, enjoyable and what they're, yeah, getting joy from. So, it's really fun to listen to that and make it relevant to today. That's awesome.

Okay. And then here's the part in my notes where I wrote, as I recap their episode in my notes, I wonder how Molly decides what to take notes on and not just recite the entire book back to us. I found myself just typing everything they were saying back and forth, and I was like, "How does she--?" Recapping is a skill and note taking as a skill and walking us through what happens in the timeframe of an hour episode for four chapters worth, I was like, "Props to Molly. This is actually pretty difficult for me to [00:23:00] recap this in a concise way."

**Mike:** And it's such a profound skill that both Molly and Becca have. Their brains really do work like computers. It's incredible the way that they organize this information in a concise way, in a way that's digestible and understandable. Again, it's such a match made in heaven because they are just so compatible with each other in terms of having these sorts of conversations where they can have these really deep and serious conversations, but then also go off and talk about the silly nature of things and how much we hate Mr. Darcy. But you know, "Oh, but daddy Bennet." It's such a delicate balance, and they walk that line so perfectly together. It's really, really fantastic.

**Mel:** Totally. I couldn't agree more. Then we dive into Chapter 2. They start loosening up [00:24:00] as hosts and as whatever like, Off the bat, Becca's like, "Chapter 2 where Mr. Bennet is still having a lot of fun fucking with his wife." [Mike laughs] And I was like, "This is just great." I don't know, it just felt very fun. Okay, so I said, "Chapter 2, we're loosening up." Molly says, "Mr. Bingley, that's a stupid name," which just made me laugh. I thought that was funny. Oh, and here's another moment that made me laugh. And I don't know what was true back then, but Molly says, "I'm going to make a note for our editor to insert this line from before into right here in this moment." And I wrote, "Isn't Molly, the editor?"

**Mike:** Yeah. [laughs]

**Mel:** She is now. She edits all their podcasts content wise, and she'll be the one splicing stuff together. So, I was like, "Did she just say that to make it seem official, or did she not know who the editor was, or did she know it was her?" I don't know, I was just like, "Hmm, that's interesting."

**Mike:** Yeah. So, I don't know to what extent, because I know Graham was definitely involved at that point. So, I'm thinking maybe she was referring [00:25:00] to Graham.

**Mel:** Maybe.

**Mike:** But yeah, Molly is the editor of the podcast, and then Graham does the sound design and everything. So, I'm like, "Maybe it was just to make it seem like to add some legitimacy to it." Like, "Yeah, I'll run this by the editor."

**Mel:** [chuckles] Our producing team.

**Mike:** Our producing team. Right. Exactly.

**Mel:** Yeah. Okay, then they get Mr. Bingley confused with Mr. Bennet. Molly keeps getting the two of them confused, and she's like, "I can't even write Mr. B in my notes, because they have the same initial." And then I thought, what if somebody takes what we're doing right now a level further and does Pod and Pod and Pod and Prejudice and reviews this episode of us reviewing their first episode? My thought was they would have the same issue because we're both Ms. So, in their notes, it would be like, "M." Yeah,



**Mike:** Yeah.

**Mel:** So, bummer. And someone's going to do it. Like, it's inevitable, right? Somebody's going to cover this episode.

**Mike:** [00:26:00] Well, because you can't even-- Yeah, that's obviously going to happen at some point. We're going to blow up after this. But yeah, because even with Molly, it's MMM. Becca's the only one that you can shorthand. She makes it easy for you.

**Mel:** She does. Thank God for Becca.

**Mike:** Thank God for Becca.

**Mel:** Okay. So, then, I don't know if yours got interrupted. Mine got interrupted with another ad or a promo I'll say for a different podcast called Hot & Bothered, which I know the host, Vanessa. They recently did an episode with-- So, it was just a spliced in ad. And my thought on this was-- I thought it was a good time to get an ad, so I had no issues with where it came. But I did notice that the mic quality improved significantly. So, just putting two and two together, I was like, "Molly must have gotten a new mic setup sometime between this first episode of Pod and Prejudice and now." Hey, I'm hoping that their podcast was successful and they had money to put into the pod and get themselves some new tech, because it sounds great now. It didn't [00:27:00] sound bad then, but I noticed it when the ad came on, I was like, "Whoa, the mic quality improved significantly."

**Mike:** Well, I will neither confirm nor deny. You'll have to listen along to see when that change happens and how successful they get. Yeah, these were clearly ads that were added in post. Advertising was not something that they had in the earlier episodes. They were still starting off fresh. They only had, like they said, a few listeners, some friends and family members. The goal, obviously, was to eventually get some revenue and build some advertising. But this is what I mean when I say like, these are two people who are just so compatible, because-- Especially like Molly just has this innate talent to just organize all this stuff, get everything together, reach out to the right people. It's a podcast that [00:28:00] so speaks to both of their strengths. Both Becca and Molly, they're both such talented people.

**Mel:** 100%. They make a great team. Okay, so after this ad, I will admit I had to skip, so I could stay spoiler free on *Harry Potter*. They get into a tangent about *A Cinderella Story* with Hilary Duff. And Becca was like, "Did you know that Rupert Grint was supposed to play the other lead? But then he was busy filming a *Harry Potter*," or whatever. And Molly freaks out. She's like, "I had no idea. I'm so torn up about this." And then as soon as they mentioned Ron Weasley, I had to skip to when this was over, because I am staying spoiler free on *Harry Potter*, of which I've been in the first few chapters of book four now for four years, because then J. K. Rowling became a monster, and I stopped reading it.

**Mike:** Is Molly also making you ready the *Harry Potter* books?

**Mel:** Well, she was. But then J. K. Rowling got back on her bullshit again, and we were like, "We can't support this." Even though we have the books [00:29:00] and we're not giving more money, it just felt wrong. I was doing a similar thing to Pod and Prejudice, where when I was going through them for the first time in 2020, I was live updating on my Instagram stories, like my thoughts and my predictions and very similar to Molly with this, saying what I thought. It was so fun. But then once everything else started happening with J. K. Rowling, and I was like, "I don't want to be putting this out as entertainment," and that was half of the fun for me. So, anyway, it's on pause. But I skipped the Ron Weasley spoiler.

And then we get right into how much Molly hates Mr. Darcy. And thus begins her rant about how much she hates him. This is an interesting moment, because Becca says, "If you like hearing about how much Mr. Darcy sucks, you're going to love a good chunk of this book." And Molly without really taking that in, she just says, "Yup," and just moves on. I was like, "I

wonder if Becca is being strategic and being a good chunk of this book." Not the whole book, a good chunk.

**Mike:** [00:30:00] Well, and this is what I mean when I say Becca is an expert at spoilers, because she's so clever in the way she uses her language. She has such an economy of language that she uses to really avoid those really specific spoilers, or saying something that's true while not necessarily giving away the whole bag. She's so smart.

**Mel:** Yeah. And it makes it fun to go back. Like, if they ever go back and listen or if their fans ever go back and listen knowing what they know now about Molly and Becca, it was fun for us to hear those little Easter eggs and be like, "Oh, that was so savvy, the way she just slipped that in." Okay, here we get a great quote from Becca where she says, "Love yourself a Bingley. We all stan a gentle beta male." Did she predict the future, Mike?

**Mike:** Listen, I would love to sit here and pretend like I'm deeply offended by being called a beta male. But it [00:31:00] is true that Becca did find her Charles Bingley, to the point where if you actually look at the BBC master version of *Pride and Prejudice*. The guy that they cast to play Bingley could easily be my brother.

**Mel:** Incredible.

**Mike:** He looks just like me. And so, I remember watching that and being like, "Yeah." Because she also mentions like, "Oh, yeah, Ron Weasley is just everyone's stupid boyfriend." Literally, Becca has found her Charles Bingley, her Ron Weasley, her dopey little beta male.

**Mel:** Could not be more spot on. They talk about how Bingley's sisters, like Jane and that Bingley had to go to them for approval. And Molly says she relates that she needs 12 peoples opinions before she can date anybody and needs all of her friends to approve. So, I'm just wondering now, as the person dating Molly like, what that process was like for her [00:32:00] in terms of getting me approved to the board of friends.

**Mike:** I can speak to that experience, because I was there for that process.

**Mel:** Was there a Google form? Was there a survey that was sent out?

**Mike:** [laughs] Yes, it was a rigorous process. There were multiple interviews about-- No, I don't remember like the first-- I vaguely remember the first time that we had met, but I just remember it was just very casual. Molly was like, "Sweetest thing [unintelligible 00:32:32]" And we were like, "Molly, she's fucking great. What are you talking about?" I remember one of Becca's first opinions about you was, "Yeah, Molly, she's just like lady version of Mike."

**Mel:** Oh, yes. This I knew. And Molly was like 100%-- Molly was like, "I'm dating the female Mike."

**Mike:** Yeah, she's like, "Does improv, drinks craft beer, does running." [00:33:00] It's just literally the same person.

**Mel:** I love that. Oh, and true. We look the same right now. We got the same glasses going on.

**Mike:** The curly hair is going on.

**Mel:** The curly hair. You're right. We are one. Mike and Mel are one. Hey, if you guys like this podcast, smash the subscribe button, because we can keep this going, you know? Mike and Mel for the win. We're taking over.

**Mike:** What are you talking about? The plan is to do every episode of Pod and Prejudice?

[laughter]

**Mike:** I don't know. I don't know why you would question that.

**Mel:** Yeah, it's so weird that we wouldn't just keep going.

**Mike:** [laughs]

**Mel:** Okay. So, then fast forward, they get to Becca's study questions. And now, I have listened to some newer episodes, so I do know that the study questions remain a thing for all of their episodes. So, we'll go through their study questions and obviously review their podcast. But then I know you have also brought some study questions for me about their podcast. It's so great. Okay.

So, Becca asks Molly what her thoughts on the first line of the book were. And Molly said she still hates Darcy, but she loves the passion, which I think is a classic Molly answer.

**[00:34:00]** Oh, this is where they get into a great conversation about relationships. Becca said, "This book is very, very old, and I think it's wild that we still have these issues of people being like, 'Oh, you're single. Are you okay?'" And Becca says, "I'm fine. I have great friends, and I'm working on my life, and I'm super successful, and I like myself." And Molly says, "It's the first time in her life that she hasn't wanted to be in a relationship," and she was like, "My best friend started dating someone, and my mom and her mom and her have all said, 'You should start dating someone. You'd feel less lonely. You should find a significant other.;" And then she found herself dating, just because someone told her to.

And then here's potentially my favorite line from this episode. Becca says, "We don't need to date people. No man is going to have to support me." And I said, "Yes, Becca, yes," with my emoji hands in the air. Now, of course, we know how this turned out for both of them.

**Mike:** Truth be told. It's still true for Becca. There is no man supporting her.

**Mel:** Totally.

**Mike:** Not to say that she supports both of **[00:35:00]** us, but we are both independently supporting ourselves-

**Mel:** Yes.

**Mike:** -while just supporting each other emotionally.

**Mel:** Totally. And I think when I started dating Molly, I had this perspective on dating my whole adult life was like, "I'm good. Like, I have a great life. I must be in a relationship to feel fulfilled." So, I love that they brought this conversation to the forefront, because a lot of people can relate to this. And also, it was interesting relating that back to *Pride and Prejudice* which some of the same ideals are happening where the moms are like, "When are you going to get married?" And we're all like, "We're fine." But yeah, same.

When Molly and I met, she was not dating anybody, and it was very much like—I just, one night, was watching *The Lord of the Rings* and decided to activate bumble and just see, and then we just like happened to connect that night and had that not happened that night, like, who knows. So, they both are still very like their own people. I think we can relate that we are too, and that like-- We complement each other, **[00:36:00]** but we're not like saving them from the single world of loneliness and doom. [laughs]

**Mike:** Definitely not. No, it's about enhancing each other and finding the strengths in one another and building on that, you know, building the-

**Mel:** I love that.

**Mike:** -relationship on that.

**Mel:** Oh, enhancing one another. That's really sweet. Okay, great. So, Molly asks or Becca asks Molly's thoughts on the Bennet sisters. And Molly says, "Lydia might be gay, or maybe I just want her to be gay." That was the one quote I pulled, because I said, of course, Molly would. I imagine this podcast is going to have a lot of potentially gay characters that Molly is really pining for to be gay. I know you can't confirm or deny.

**Mike:** I cannot. I will neither confirm nor deny. I will not as to whether or not.

**Mel:** I understand.

**Mike:** Nope. Can't do it.

**Mel:** Here's where we get sweet Becca. She said she's talking about Colin Firth, and she's like, "We love Colin Firth as a human. We would love for him to be on our podcast, and so [00:37:00] would our three and a half listeners." And that just made me really happy for where their podcast has grown to. I think at this point, they're almost at a million downloads, which is absolutely wild-

**Mike:** Unbelievable.

**Mel:** -and have like, I don't know 15,000, 20,000 followers on Instagram and so many listeners per episode. So, to hear that they like weren't doing the podcast for that reason-- They were happy with their three and a half followers, and they were like, "We're just happy to be doing this," made me really proud for 2019 Becca and Molly.

**Mike:** They're so great. They're doing so great. We love that.

**Mel:** We love that. Becca asks for the funniest quote, and Molly has two. I think these are quotes. She said, "I'm sick of Bingley." I think that was maybe a quote. [Mike laughs] I might just be quoting Molly. Molly said, "I really like it when we just rail on Mr. Darcy." And then she quotes something that Darcy said that she was like, "I hate him so much." She really spent 40% of this episode talking about how much she hates Mr. Darcy, which is-- [00:38:00] She should go back and listen to this if she hasn't. It's very funny. The big question going forward was, what does Mr. Bingley see in Darcy? So, again, very Darcy, hatred driven. And then who wins the chapter? And they agreed that Mrs. Bennet won the chapter.

And at that point, Molly just says that she's staying spoiler free. She doesn't want spoilers. Becca is taken over the Gmail account, so if anybody has feedback or questions, send it to her. Molly said she had to unfollow the SparkNotes Instagram, which I didn't even know existed. So, I'm now following the SparkNotes Instagram. And then they ended by saying, "Until next time, stay proper and find a husband." And that's just Becca. Becca says that whole thing, which I think in future episodes, I'm curious where the shift happens, Becca just says, stay proper, and then Molly finishes it, or vice versa.

**Mike:** Yeah, that's one of the ones that develops over time, usually based on whatever they're talking about. But again, just one of those running jokes that just stuck all the way through, and the fans [00:39:00] love it. If you were at any of the live shows, you could hear everyone chiming in along with all the jokes and the bits.

**Mel:** yeah.

**Mike:** Yay, Pod and Prejudice.

**Mel:** Yes, Pod of Prejudice. Okay, so that ends my recap of it. Now, I know you as the Becca figure of our podcast have some questions as well.

**Mike:** Yes. So, I'm not as good or as organized as Becca is. So, I don't have any. I only have the standard ones that I stole from Becca. But I am curious though, just in terms of the relationship between Becca and Molly. You've seen it then, because we're going back in time and listening to this first episode. And being close with them now you see it now. Are there any changes? Are there any differences in the way that they approach the subject matter or even approach each other that you have seen change? **[00:40:00]** Yeah, anything that you've noticed or picked up on.

**Mel:** Honestly, I was really impressed and surprised by how close to now it all was. The only section that was a little bit different was there was those first five minutes where the energy-- Like I said, it wasn't low energy. It was just a more cautious energy, which I think now they come in at 100 every episode where they're like, "This is Becca. This is Molly. We're here to talk about Jane Austen," blah, blah, blah, and then they're off. Where this one, they were just like, they did the quote from *Pride and Prejudice*, and they talked about it, and then we got theme music, and then we got them introducing themselves in just a very casual way and then the energy flew up as soon as they started doing the recaps.

So, my only thing that I really think has changed is from the episodes I've heard and from their relationship is just like, they're always coming at 100 now. Like, they know their vibe and there's no caution. But in terms of the bulk of the episode, I was like, "That's them. That's the two of **[00:41:00]** them as friends. That's the two of them as podcast hosts." They really knew who they were right off the bat and knew what this podcast was right off the bat. I don't think they've really changed very much, which is really impressive.

**Mike:** No, absolutely. I think those opening few minutes is just really them trying to find their footing, trying to figure out what this podcast is going to sound like, what the beats are going to feel like. But yeah, even since day one, their friendship has just remained so special and so pleasant. It's really, really nice to see that the early-- Becca and Molly knew each other before the podcast. I think they've both said independently that the podcast is really something special that has brought them both together in a very special and meaningful way. So, I'm glad you picked up on that.

**Mel:** Yeah. The only other change I've seen is that they're way less single now.

**Mike:** They're way less single now. Becca, even more so less **[00:42:00]** single. She's got a ring on it.

**Mel:** She got a ring on it.

**Mike:** She's got a ring on it.

[laughter]

**Mike:** Okay. So, now I will go through the standard-

**Mel:** Okay. Great.

**Mike:** -Mike study questions. What was the funniest quote?

**Mel:** I think I have two, just like Molly did. One is from Becca. One is from Molly. Becca's to me was, "No man is going to have to support me." Which, again, I took this not as like super financially, but just as like emotionally in a relationship. I was like, "There's going to be a man, Becca, and this is very funny to listen to." [Mike laughs] And the other one, I'll quote was Molly saying, "I only know the top hits of things and songs."

**Mike:** [laughs] Because it's just not true.

**Mel:** That made me laugh out loud, because it's just not true.

**Mike:** I think one of my favorite quotes was Molly saying, "Mr. Bennet has game." [Mel laughs] Again, it's one of those early morsels of a joke that will just keep [00:43:00] developing as we go along. And it was just really, really fun to see the early onset of that and also the "Oh, all of our seven listeners."

**Mel:** Yeah.

**Mike:** That's changed over time. Any questions moving forward?

**Mel:** Oh. Hmm. Yeah, I think my questions are all related to when certain shifts happen. I am very curious now knowing that Darcy is a loved character and just is flawed and whatever that like, I am curious for their podcast to hear when that shift happens in the book and when that shift happens with Molly, and to hear Molly's reaction to when Molly goes from despising him to loving him, I feel like it is going to be such a fun episode. So, going forward, I'm excited to hear that. Yeah, and I'm excited to hear them cover some of the [00:44:00] movies and see which movies in fact Molly has or has not seen, because I feel like her predictions were off.

**Mike:** Yeah. Just a little bit. Just a little bit. Yeah. And then last but not least. Who won the episode?

**Mel:** Oh, who won the episode? I think Mr. Darcy won this episode of Pod and Prejudice. [Mike laughs] Because I think he played Molly so hard, right?

**Mike:** He really-- Jane Austen knows what she's doing in writing a character and setting the expectations. But it is genuinely funny how in the early offset-- Like, Molly did not know where this was going at all. I had never read *Pride of Prejudice* front to back, but I knew the story. I'd seen maybe bits and pieces of some of the adaptations. I knew Mr. Darcy is the good guy in the end. [00:45:00] It's so funny, and you'll see this as you listen along, it's so funny seeing Molly hate him so much and so deeply when the rest of us know that's going to change

**Mel:** Yeah.

**Mike:** That's going to change. You're going to have some different opinions either. But that's all-spoiler territory. So, we won't go into it, because obviously, we have so much more of Pod and Prejudice to cover it, you and me. We're going to do it all. So, how do you feel? So, what's going on in the noggin?

**Mel:** Nothing. Should we do the final tagline or do we have more to cover?

**Mike:** I don't know. I'm just sitting here realizing how talented Becca and Molly are at making all these transitions so smooth, because I don't know how to do that. [Mel laughs] Shoutout to Becca and Molly and everything that they're doing. Yeah.

**Mel:** [00:46:00] Yeah. I rate this podcast five Regency Era dresses out of five.

**Mike:** Yeah, I'll rate it five hand flinches out of five.

**Mel:** I don't know what that means.

**Mike:** It's a future reference.

**Mel:** [laughs]

**Mike:** That's a future reference. Stay tuned to learn what that means. [laughs] But yeah, in the meantime, until next time, stay proper.

**Mel:** And go cover your partner's podcast without them knowing you're doing it.

**Mike:** Yeah. And if you're Molly and you're listening to this, April Fools.

**Mel:** April Fools.

**Mel and Mike:** Yay.

**Mike:** We love you, Molly. [laughs]

**Mel:** Should we say that at the beginning? Hey, should we tell our editor to splice that in at the beginning?

**Mike:** Oh, yes. We should tell our editorial team, our production assistant [00:47:00] folks, people that we have.

**Mel:** All right.

**Mike:** All right. Okay.

**Mel:** Great. We've done it. Okay, transition out. Bye-bye.

[music]

**Molly:** Pod and Prejudice is edited by Molly Burdick and audio produced by Graham Cook. Our show art is designed by Torrance Browne. Our show is transcribed by SpeechDocs Podcast Transcription. For transcripts and to learn more about our team, check out our website at [podandprejudice.com](http://podandprejudice.com). To keep up with the show, you can follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, [@podandprejudice](https://www.instagram.com/podandprejudice). If you love what you hear, check out our Patreon at [patreon.com/podandprejudice](https://www.patreon.com/podandprejudice) to see how you can support us or just drop us a rating and a review wherever you listen to podcasts. Thanks for listening.

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