

**[Pride and Prejudice theme]**

**Becca:** It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.

**Molly:** That is a truth that is often universally acknowledged.

**Becca:** Yep. That's what I found in this current 21st century life that I live. All the men want me to be their wives.

**Molly:** Same.

**[laughter]**

**Molly:** Hi, everybody. Welcome back to Pod and Prejudice.

**Becca:** I'm Becca.

**Molly:** I'm Molly.

**Becca:** We're here to talk about some Jane Austen.

**Molly:** So, in case you're new and didn't hear our first episode, I have never read a Jane Austen book before. And Becca--

**Becca:** I've read several Jane Austen books several times, and am a big fan.

**Molly:** So, we're taking this journey together, Becca guiding me along with some study questions at the end of each episode. **[00:01:00]** In today's episode, we're going to discuss Chapters 5 through 8.

**Becca:** Of *Pride and Prejudice*.

**Molly:** Of *Pride and Prejudice*.

**Becca:** Yeah, so let's get right into it.

**Molly:** I'm very excited about these chapters. In Chapter 5, we meet the Lucases, which are the family that live nearby to the--

**Becca:** To Bennets. And we've heard a little bit about the Lucases so far, but mostly they've just been referred to in the background, like one of the Lucases danced with Bingley. Mrs. Bennet is friends with Lady Lucas, but also dramatically hates her. It's a whole thing.

**Molly:** I was also confused as to why we called them Sir and Lady Lucas in the first episode, I think we talked about that a little bit. Maybe we didn't, but I was like what's the difference between a Sir and a Mister and a Lady and a Missus? In this chapter, we discover that Sir William Lucas was knighted by the king.

**Becca:** Yep. He is a big fuckin' deal.

**Molly:** And they [00:02:00] decided to retire from the public eye and go live at Lucas Lodge, away from the city. He just wants to chill and bask in his own glory.

**Becca:** He does.

**Molly:** And enjoy his importance, but he's not a dick. They make that very clear. Since becoming knighted, he is very good to other people. Is he a philanthropist, what exactly do they mean here?

**Becca:** I think he's just like a good member of the community, just upstanding. He's a pleasure to be around, and the anti-Darcy if you will.

**Molly:** The anti-Darcy because we hate-- Well, I hate Darcy. I don't know if we do on this podcast, but right now, I do. But that's beside the point. So, we talk about him and then Lady Lucas is "not too clever to be a valuable neighbor to Mrs. Bennet."

**Becca:** She's like Mrs. Bennet's friend that she keeps around because she makes you feel like a little better about her. She's like the Gretchen Wieners to Mrs. Bennet's [00:03:00] Regina George.

**Molly:** Oh, I love that. Thank you. I understand now. They have several children, the eldest of which is 27, and is a good friend of Lizzie's. Is Lizzie 27?

**Becca:** No.

**Molly:** Okay, because I was going to say we determined last episode that Bingley is 21 or 22. I assume Darcy is also around 21 or 22. And if Lizzie was 27, I would think that's a little bit strange for this era.

**Becca:** No, first of all, I don't have this confirmed, but I do think Darcy is a little older than Bingley. Second of all-- No, Charlotte is older than Lizzie. And Charlotte is extremely old to be single in this time period.

**Molly:** Is Charlotte single?

**Becca:** Yeah.

**Molly:** Ooh. Okay.

**Becca:** Yeah, that's why she's still a Lucas because she's Ms. Lucas.

**Molly:** Right. At the beginning of this chapter, the Lucas girls come over to discuss the ball and Mrs. Bennet is [00:04:00] also there.

**[chuckles]**

**Molly:** Mrs. Bennet just really wants to tell them all or have them all tell her how much Bingley likes Jane. She's like, "Charlotte, you were his first choice I noticed." And Charlotte's like, "Well, he liked his second choice better." And Mrs. Bennet's like, "Oh, you mean because he danced with her twice? Oh, I didn't know." I think that it's Lizzie who jumps in with this, but it's like, "Oh, didn't I mention to you that he told Mrs. Robinson that the eldest Bennet was the prettiest in the assembly without a doubt." Mrs. Bennet is like, "Oh, I didn't know that. Oh, I think that that you might have mentioned something along those lines." And because Charlotte--

**Becca:** She's milking this.

**Molly:** She is really milking it. Then, Charlotte says, "Well, Lizzie, my overhearings were a little bit more to the point than yours." Charlotte overheard what Darcy said.

**Becca:** Oh, yes. Yes, she did.

**Molly:** And to remind everyone, Darcy said that [00:05:00] Lizzie was tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt him. She brings that up. Then, they all talk about how he sucks anyway, and Lizzie is not really missing out. Mrs. Bennet says, Mrs. Long said she sat by him for a while and he didn't say anything to her. So, asshole. Then, Jane tries to jump to his aid and says, "That's weird. I thought I saw them talking to each other."

**Becca:** Yeah, I think there's a little bitch cracker syndrome with Mr. Darcy in the community. For those of you who don't know bitch cracker syndrome, is all about this is one of the greatest inventions in the universe. It is actually credited to our friend Nikki [unintelligible [00:05:44]]. Bitch cracker syndrome is a syndrome when someone really annoys you, and they do so much that annoys you that it gets to a point that everything they do annoys you. So, they literally could be in a corner eating crackers and you'd be like, "Look at that bitch sitting over there eating crackers." [00:06:00] I use this all the time. Nikki told this to me, I think, six years ago, and I still say it all the time and I am here to spread this gospel.

But, yeah, this community has little bitch crackers for Darcy. So, they're just willing to believe everything he does is terrible.

**Molly:** I love that.

**Becca:** Yeah.

**Molly:** That's amazing.

**Becca:** And it goes again to Jane being like, "Oh, well, he's not that bad," because she's willing to see the best in everyone. And Darcy is not coming off well to the rest of community right now.

**Molly:** And she also says that Bingley's sister said that he never really talks too much anyway, unless it's to a really close friend. So, she's trying to help. I thought, "Hmm. Is Darcy shy?" Maybe he's just shy, but don't be a dick. But maybe he's shy. I don't know.

**Becca:** Something to unpack later, I suppose.

**Molly:** Then, one of the Lucas daughters says, “Honestly, he has every right to be proud. He's rich and young.” And Lizzie says, “I could easily forgive his pride [00:07:00] if he had not mortified mine.” And that's the first sign that we get that it actually has stuck with her.

**Becca:** That's what I'm saying. He really did just put this little thing in her brain where from now on, she's just going to be like, “Oh, wow, this guy is the worst and he saw this terrible thing in me.” And it is partially just a really righteous anger but there is a piece of it that is a little of an ego bruise to Lizzie.

**Molly:** Yeah. Then, Mary says the most Mary thing that Mary could say.

**Becca:** Oh, yes.

**Molly:** I think I just wrote in the margins, Mary. Mary says, “Pride is a very common human failing, but pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves, and vanity to what we would have others think of us.” I think what she's saying is that Darcy is vain, as opposed to proud, maybe?

**Becca:** Well, I think that's a real question because which is worse, because being proud, proud [00:08:00] means that you think very highly of yourself, whereas vanity means that you want people to perceive you as great.

**Molly:** Right. And it's like, is vanity falser?

**Becca:** Yeah. And I also think that it gets to the fact that Darcy is many things, but he is not beholden to the opinions of others, for the most part. I don't want to give spoilers.

**Molly:** She's saying that he's just proud and not vain. All right. Well, I'll give him that then because you're right, he doesn't--

**Becca:** Give a shit.

**Molly:** He does not care what people think. I wonder if Bingley cares what people think. I really like Bingley. I was just trying to play the devil's advocate and be like, “Hmm, I wonder if anyone's vain here?”

**Becca:** I choose not to comment on this at this time. What I will say is, this is sort of a little nudge-nudge you get [00:09:00] to the title of the book as well.

**Molly:** *Pride and Prejudice!*

**Becca:** Yeah. So, you didn't get that?

**Molly:** Becca just looked at me-- I looked so surprised, and Becca just looked at me so surprised while I was-- [crosstalk]

**Becca:** I was like, “Oh, this title-- this chapter is like a little boring,” but--

**Molly:** Titular line.

**Becca:** It's got that titular line in it. And it's going to be really moment of wisdom and everything. We were going to talk about it. She was like, "Wait, it's in the title?"

**Molly:** I probably had that realization and then forgot.

**Becca:** Oh, yes.

**Molly:** *Pride, Pride and Prejudice*. Let's think about that.

**Becca:** Well, we found the pride. We haven't found the prejudice yet.

**Molly:** Oh, my God, is--

**Becca:** I'm not going to say anything.

**Molly:** Okay.

**Becca:** Wait, wait, wait. I want to hear your prediction.

**Molly:** Is Lizzie prejudiced against him? I'm not going to look at you. Someone's prejudiced against him because he's a dick, which I think is probably justified. Anyway. That's my thoughts on that right now. Nobody replies to Mary's comment on pride and vanity, but a Lucas son [00:10:00] who just came with for fun, says if he was as rich as Mr. Darcy, he would keep a pack of foxhounds and drink a bottle of wine every day. And then, he and Mrs. Bennet argue about alcoholism and the drinking age for a while. And that's the end of that chapter.

**Becca:** I would also get dogs and wine if I were rich.

**Molly:** Same. And chocolate.

**Becca:** Oh, yeah.

**Molly:** Lots of chocolate.

**Becca:** Tons of chocolate. I want chocolate right now.

**Molly:** Same.

**Becca:** But we're going to talk about *Pride and Prejudice* instead.

**Molly:** We're going to talk about my favorite chapter in this book so far.

**Becca:** Oh, yes. We're about to head into Chapter 6, which is an iconic game-changing chapter.

**Molly:** This is not what I was expecting when I signed on for this. All right, let's go. The ladies start visiting each other, so the Bingley sisters are visiting the Bennet sisters. They don't like them.

**Becca:** You mean the Bingleys don't like the Bennets?

**Molly:** Correct.

**Becca:** Do you get which Bennets they don't like though?

**Molly:** Yeah. So, the [00:11:00] Bingley sisters hate the parents and the younger Bennet sisters. But they wanted to get to know Jane and Lizzie.

**Becca:** There's a sense that Jane and Lizzie are these pretty girls who are super polite and pretty sharp, and really fit in well in the high society if they want to, but that the rest of the family doesn't do as well.

**Molly:** Yeah. They found the mother to be intolerable and the younger sisters not worth speaking to.

**Becca:** Gross.

**Molly:** Which is gross, just ugh. Anyway. Jane eats up the attention that these sisters are showing her and Lizzie because she likes their brother, obviously.

**Becca:** Also, just because Jane's like, "Oh my God! People are being my friends It's so nice."

**Molly:** Yeah. She's so genuinely good and doesn't seem to see the bad in people. And Lizzie still doesn't like them. Lizzie noticed that Jane was rapidly falling in love with Bingley but notes that it will go [00:12:00] unnoticed by the outside world because Jane is very good at keeping her emotions in check.

**Becca:** That is absolutely a mood because I've been told that when I like someone, I'm really not obvious about it, and that it becomes a problem for me, personally when I'm like, "Oh no, I do like you." And they're like, "What? You like me?"

**Molly:** Right. Charlotte, the Lucas girl brings this up and says, "Well, she better not keep her feelings too on the down-low or else Bingley won't notice either and he'll give up on her." She says something that I liked was that, basically, it takes two to tango. She says, "Very few of us have hearts enough to really be in love without encouragement." If you don't sense it coming from the other person, you're going to give up and not love them.

**Becca:** Yeah, we haven't talked about this yet. Charlotte's dope.

**Molly:** Charlotte's awesome.

**Becca:** She is great. She's the only person who can keep up with Lizzie in the books.

**Molly:** Yeah, she really is. I get why they're friends. Though in this bit of the chapter, she says something I disagree with [00:13:00] but that is funny and very of the time.

**Becca:** Oh, yeah. Hit me with some.

**Molly:** Well, first she says this thing about Bingley will give up on her if she doesn't show him how she feels. Lizzie says that he'd have to be really dumb to not notice. Like I've noticed. And Charlotte says, "You know, Lizzie--" you know, fuck! Starting over.

**Becca:** There are a lot of white girl names here, so it's like not that bad.

**Molly:** Yeah, Lizzie says, "You'd have to be an idiot not to notice." Charlotte says, "He doesn't know Jane like Lizzie does yet." And she says, "Since they only ever see each other in large groups, Jane really has to show how she feels when they're together." And she says, "Once she is secure of him, there will be leisure for falling in love as much as one chooses." Basically, hook him first, then you can get to know him, is what she's saying. And she also says something about marriage.

**Becca:** Well, she says a thing about how you could get married [00:14:00] tomorrow or in a year.

**Molly:** Yes, oh, I'd bring that up.

**Becca:** It won't make a difference in whether or not you're actually happy. Though on one hand, I am a big believer in time in a relationship before you make any big commitments, I think it's extremely important. On the other hand, there is that line from Ron Swanson in *Parks and Rec*, for those who watch *Parks and Rec*. Do you not watch *Parks and Rec*?

**Molly:** I've watched some *Parks and Rec* but if we've learned anything about me so far, is that I am still spoiler-free despite having seen episodes of it.

**Becca:** He's talking about how when there are-- a certain couple gets married pretty early in a relationship in the show.

**Molly:** What's the name of the cute nose and--

**Becca:** Who on *Parks and Rec* has a cute nose?

**Molly:** Ben?

**Becca:** No, I'm not going to spoil anything. Wait, wait, Adam Scott's nose is cute to you? That's like the piece of Adam Scott you like--

**Molly:** He has nice eyebrows. He kind of looks like an elf.

**Becca:** He does look like an elf, but I would say he has nice hair or eye-- [00:15:00] Nose?

**Molly:** I don't know.

**Becca:** Eyebrows? Oh, what a handsome brow on that actor.

**Molly:** I'm gay, look at eyebrows.

**Becca:** [laughs] Regardless, Ron Swanson says, "I dated my ex-wives for a long time, and both of them ended in bitter divorces." And he says basically, you meet someone you like and you roll the dice and there's really not much more to that. Timing only plays a certain amount of a role. And I do think that Charlotte is onto something there. However, four dates is not marriage time.

**Molly:** Four dates is not marriage time.

**Becca:** Even in the Edwardian times. I know in the Edwardian times, it's probably marriage time, but I can't.

**Molly:** Yeah, and well, she says she danced four dances with him at Meryton. She saw him one morning at his own house and has since [unintelligible [00:15:54] company with him four times. This is not quite enough to make her understand his character.

**Becca:** That's Lizzie, and then she says-- [00:16:00] Charlotte's all like, "Well, yeah, she dined with him. But she also spent the evenings with him."

**Molly:** And then I said, "They've spent four evenings together, Jane Austen?" Then, I'm immediately not-- [crosstalk]

**Becca:** They're like sitting and having an aperitif and chillin' by the fire.

**Molly:** "Spent the evening together."

**Becca:** That's what I do when I spend the evening with a man.

**Molly:** Oh, me too.

**Becca:** Yeah.

**Molly:** Then, Charlotte says the thing that happiness in marriage is just a matter of chance. That makes me think a lot about Mr. and Mrs. Bennet, and I wonder if they were in love when they got here.

**Becca:** I don't think it's expanded upon. I could be wrong.

**Molly:** Spin-off series.

**Becca:** That would be a great prequel.

**Molly:** Jane Austen, where you at?

**Becca:** Very dead. She's dead.

**Molly:** I know. I know. Just so everyone's clear, I know.

**Becca:** Oh, dear.

**Molly:** I know she's dead. Anyway, Lizzie just laughs at this. Oh, because Charlotte says that it's better not to know the faults of your husband before you marry him. [00:17:00]

**Becca:** So, that I don't agree with. Know what, like [unintelligible [00:17:04] before you buy it.

**Molly:** You've got to know if he snores. You've got to know. That would be such a deal-breaker for me. I'm sorry.

**Becca:** Really? It's snoring?

**Molly:** I'm like, I have to be able to sleep next to you.

**Becca:** I can't sleep next to anyone anyway. I don't know if anybody else relates to this, but men are furnaces. It's just like being enveloped in a damp heat blanket the entire night and I can't sleep. No matter how comfortable I am in the rest of the bed, unless I'm curled up on one side and he is all the way on the other, there's just no chance that I will ever sleep.

**Molly:** I'm just very aware of the presence of another human being. I can feel they shift, or they breathe.

**Becca:** Same with cats too, and dogs. I can't sleep with anything.

**Molly:** Yeah. Well, I can sleep with my dog, like comes up next to me and cuddles up next to me. But if she's at my feet twitching, I'm like, "Amy!"

**Becca:** I'm the opposite. If the cat is chillin' at the bottom of the bed, I can [00:18:00] make it work. But one of my cats from my childhood home, she likes to sleep on your chest and she's five pounds, so she's not heavy. But if I turn in my sleep, what she'll do is she'll walk up the side of me and plant on the side. She somehow finds a way to balance on me and wakes me up every time she moves, and every time I move. Men are so much worse than that because they're just large and sweaty. Sorry, I'm sure some of you guys are not at all large or sweaty. But my personal experience with men is that when you sleep in the same bed as one, there's just no comfort because you're just overheated the entire time no matter what time of year it is, no matter how hot the room is.

**Molly:** Becca's being really riled up.

**Becca:** This has been my rant about sharing beds. I just want a Ricky and Lucy situation in my later life.

**Molly:** We're dancing around the fact that at this point--

[laughter]

**Molly:** At this point in the book, on page 24 of my copy from [00:19:00] Barnes & Noble on page 24.

**Becca:** It's a 400-page book.

**Molly:** At this point where we just got to know Mr. Darcy, all of a sudden, they just throw in our face that Darcy has a big old crush on Lizzie? I'm so upset.

**Becca:** So, yeah, our first interaction with Darcy is, God, she's just not cute enough for me to care. The second interaction is, "Shit. That woman is so hot."

**Molly:** Lizzie is too busy figuring out Jane and Bingley's whole dynamic that she would not have time to even consider that she might be the object of Darcy's affections.

**Becca:** What I'm reading here from Jane Austen, I think this passage is one of the funniest passages in the book.

**Molly:** I read over it like six times. I wrote next to it just, "hot!"

**Becca:** [chuckles] So for me, it's like when it's she's talking about Darcy's affection, she is not saying he loves her right now.

**Molly:** No.

**Becca:** What she is saying is that this guy is realizing as he's hanging out with her more, how he's got this weird [00:20:00] boner for her. It's like a real negging situation at this point. He decided she was worth nothing and he doesn't care about this town, but he finds himself so unbelievably attracted to her for a random reason. Have you never had that kind of crush?

**Molly:** No, I totally have, and I hate it.

**Becca:** It's so distracting.

**Molly:** And they go into in such detail the things that he hated about her. Now he's like, "Oh, wait." Like her eyes for example. He's noticed that her face is rendered uncommonly intelligent because of the beautiful expression of her dark eyes, where before he couldn't find anything good about her. And he also has some other equally mortifying realizations is how it's described in the book.

**Becca:** Which is a little mean, but also is incredibly relatable. You know what I mean?

**Molly:** Oh, yeah. I love it. "Her asymmetrical form is light and pleasing. Her manners, while not for the fashionable world are very playful." [00:21:00] One thing he didn't know is that he was the only man to ever not make himself agreeable to her and to ever not want to dance with her.

**Becca:** Well, yeah. We already talked about the fact that Jane's a biddy. Jane is hot. Lizzie is also hot. She's not as hot as Jane apparently.

**Molly:** Really unconventionally beautiful?

**Becca:** Not even like-- to give you an impression, in the Keira Knightley version, you know who plays Jane?

**Molly:** Who?

**Becca:** Rosamund Pike.

**Molly:** How do you spell that?

**Becca:** R-O-S-A-M-U-N-D. Also, Rosamund, if you have any interest, there's an open invitation to come on this podcast.

**Molly:** Please do.

**Becca:** Please speak to our three and a half listeners. Yes, she plays Jane Bennet in the Keira Knightley version.

**Molly:** She's pretty.

**Becca:** She a stunner.

**Molly:** She's a stunner. I just want to look at pictures of Keira Knightley.

**Becca:** You poor little gay girl. They're obviously [00:22:00] both way more beautiful than any of us have seen in real life. I think it's just that these two Bennet sisters are supposed to be these pretty girls. Lizzie leads with her brain. Jane leads with her heart. Jane is more classically the most-- seen as attractive, but Lizzie is definitely not frowned upon by anyone. Again, we are both serious feminists and we do not condone the objectification of women. Even Keira Knightley and Rosamund Pike are both beautiful actresses. They're both extremely talented as well. But it is true that in this time period, we are talking about a love story and all these boys are noticing how pretty these girls are. So, we're just taking evaluations and congratulating these girls on being fuckin' fierce.

**Molly:** So good.

**Becca:** Yes. We have Darcy having this weird boner for Lizzie.

**Molly:** And so, his way of expressing this is-- in social situations, he started standing near her and listening to her conversations. It's so weird.

**Becca:** Darcy has his faults, but the level of inability to socialize on him is so apparent.

**Molly:** So [00:23:00] relatable, honestly, because if I could just be as bold as him as to just stand near the person I like and listen, then I probably would as opposed to actually trying to talk to them.

**Becca:** Yeah, just stand and stare until they say something.

**Molly:** Yeah, unless what they say is what Lizzie says, which is-- she's with Charlotte at this party. And she had just been talking to a colonel. Darcy was standing nearby, and she was like, "Charlotte, why is he standing there?" And Charlotte's like, "Lizzie, don't do it." And Lizzie's like, "I'm going to do it." She goes up to him, and she says, "Did you not think Mr. Darcy that I expressed myself uncommonly well just now when I was teasing Colonel Forster to give us a ball at Meryton?" He says, "With great energy, but it is a subject which always makes a lady energetic." And basically, Charlotte is like, "Lizzie, why don't you play us a song on the piano?"

**Becca:** This is a very Jane Austen thing. For some reason, they're all hanging on. They're like, "Hey, one of you pretty young girls, play something for us in the piano." And it's one of those skill sets that all girls had to have [00:24:00] back then. Everyone had to be good at sewing. Everyone had to be good at piano.

**Molly:** Get into that, too.

**Becca:** Oh, yes, absolutely.

**Molly:** And Lizzie is not that great at the piano. Then, she turns to Charlotte and she's like, "If I were good at the piano, and if I were vain about it--" She says, "If my vanity had taken a musical turn, you'd be really useful friend to have her on because you always ask me to play for people, sing for people. But as it is, I don't really want to."

**Becca:** She's just fine, right?

**Molly:** She is just fine. My favorite thing about this, though, is that she turns to Darcy and she says, "There's a very final saying which everybody here of course is familiar with. Keep your breath to cool your porridge." And I shall keep mine to swell my song." And then she walks away. I love that. She's basically telling him, "Shut up and listen to me, play the piano."

**Becca:** She's like, "I'm done talking to you now. Goodbye."

**Molly:** She goes and she does fine. She's fine at the piano and then she stops. And Mary comes to play after her. And poor little Mary.

**Becca:** Poor little goth middle child.

**Molly:** She is [00:25:00] the only plain one in the family. So, she works really hard for people to acknowledge the accomplishments that she does have, one of which is being pretty good at the piano.

**Becca:** So, it's hard to tell Mary on the piano, but it's supposed to be kind of embarrassing whenever she tries to play.

**Molly:** Really?

**Becca:** Yeah.

**Molly:** [crosstalk] --wrong.

**Becca:** Well, I don't know if she's bad or not. But I do think she's not great. It's the way she plays and the sloppiness with what she plays would even not be great if she were more talented than she was.

**Molly:** Oh.

**Becca:** People do start to dance though. But she's overcompensating.

**Molly:** It does say she's always impatient for display.

**Becca:** Yeah. I think she's not bad, but I do think it's this embarrassing thing. It's those friends.

**Molly:** It's like, "Oh, Mary."

**Becca:** We both come from theater. It's like Mary's a musical theater girl who is always getting up on a chair and singing and she's deece but she doesn't breath support or-- and she's always trying for the really high belt note. **[00:26:00]** And so she's like, "Girl, no one asked, please stop."

**Molly:** People start dancing to Mary's playing. And this makes Darcy really upset because as we know, he hates dancing. And Sir William Lucas comes over and sits with him in his--

**Becca:** Curmudgeonly state.

**Molly:** Curmudgeonly state. He's also curmudgeonly because people are dancing because, because, because, because, because, because **[both in chorus]** because that means he can't spy on Lizzie anymore.

**Becca:** Oh my God. He also just wants to hear her talk because she's so fuckin' clever. She's just witty.

**Molly:** I have a crush on Lizzie too.

**Becca:** I mean, don't we all?

**Molly:** Yeah. William Lucas comes over and says, "Hey, Darcy, you should be dancing. It's fun." And Darcy doesn't want to dance. Lizzie starts walking over in that general direction, not necessarily coming over to talk to them. I doubt she was coming over to talk to them actually. But Sir Lucas is like, "Oh, why don't you dance with each other." And he says to **[00:27:00]** Darcy, "You cannot refuse to dance. I am sure when there's so much beauty before you."

**Becca:** Which like, yeah.

**Molly:** Which is true.

**Becca:** She's fuckin' fierce.

**Molly:** She is. She's fuckin' fierce. He reaches for her hand to give it to Darcy and I'm almost really mad because he's just a man trying to give a woman to another man to dance.

**Becca:** But then.

**Molly:** But then, Lizzie pulls her hand away and is like, "I definitely don't have any intentions of dancing. Please do not assume that I came over here to beg for a partner."

**Becca:** Ooh.

**Molly:** Which is hot. Then, Darcy is quietly, "Can I actually dance with you?"

**Becca:** Which is just beautiful. It's so good.

**Molly:** Yeah. How exactly did Mr. Darcy with grave propriety requested to be allowed the honor of her hand but in vain.

**Becca:** Woo. **[both at once]**

**Molly:** Lizzie was determined and did not want to dance. Sir William tried to get her to dance with him. **[00:28:00]** He's like, "Oh, you're so good at dancing. I'm sure Mr. Darcy generally doesn't like dancing, but he could have no objection to oblige us for one-half hour." To oblige us, uUs? She did not ask.

**Becca:** Oh, well, I think it's the room should see two such handsome young people dancing together.

**Molly:** She's like, "Mr. Darcy is all politeness."

**Becca:** I love the idea that she just is so passive-aggressively, like, "Mr. Darcy is all politeness."

**Molly:** Yeah, it's like that. It's sarcastic because he's clearly not. She walks away. Then, Ms. Bingley comes over.

**Becca:** Oh, yes.

**Molly:** Our friend Charlie's sister and tries to commiserate with Darcy about how boring this party is saying like, "I'm sure I know what you're thinking about. You're thinking how could we be having fun right now. This dancing is horrible. This party sucks," blah, blah, blah. And he says, You're quite wrong. I was just thinking about the pleasure a pair of fine eyes in the **[00:29:00]** face of a pretty woman can bestow." Ms. Bingley is like, "Who are you talking about?" And he immediately is like, "Oh, Elizabeth Bennet." And I wrote, "I'm shook," because he's just being so open with this crush all of a sudden.

**Becca:** Well, I think he and Caroline Bingley know each other quite well.

**Molly:** They're good friends.

**Becca:** So, it's like you're at a party with your friend and you're like, "Oh, I'm having a good time. That girl is so hot."

**Molly:** But everyone knows what he said about her-- maybe not everyone knows about what he--

**Becca:** No, I don't think so. I think that was really just a moment. Here's what I perceived to have happened. One Lucas girl heard it and one Bennet girl heard it, and they told their families. So, the families know and they're just like, "Fuck that guy." But I think Ms. Bingley knows that he didn't find her attractive before because they were bitching about the last fall together.

**Molly:** Right, but now she says, "When am I to wish you joy?" Meaning--

**Becca:** When is the wedding?

**Molly:** Yeah, when's the wedding basically. And I laughed out loud. **[00:30:00]** I genuinely did, because she just jumps right to it, right to the point. Darcy calls her out on that and says, "That's exactly what I thought you were going to say. A lady's imagination is very rapid. It jumps from admiration to love from love to matrimony in a moment. I knew you would be wishing me joy." Ms. Bingley is like, "Oh, no, no, no, it's absolutely settled if you like her, you're getting married," and she just like rambles on and he is like, "I'll let you talk," which is pretty cute.

**Becca:** What?

**Molly:** Argh.

**Becca:** Oh, what? Say it again.

**Molly:** I said it's cute.

**Becca:** Oh my gosh. Well, looky here at that. Who found something endearing about Mr. Darcy?

**Molly:** I hate it. The reason I say that's cute is because I think that Lizzie and Darcy have similar views on love and marriage.

**Becca:** Interesting. **[00:31:00]** Why do you say that?

**Molly:** The way she talks about Jane not thinking about marriage when she's talking with Charlotte, when Charlotte says the thing about, she just got to get married first, Lizzie brings up, that would be well and good if I thought that Jane was looking to get married, but I think that Jane's falling in love and not really thinking about marriage. And that's something that Lizzie I think also feels and the way he's not thinking about Lizzie in a marriage way, but just admiring her. So, they both feel that love doesn't necessarily have to mean marriage.

**Becca:** I think they also both feel that one need not rush into marriage for economic reasons or societal reasons because right now, Jane and Bingley are flirting crazy and they're dating-ish because they keep going to dinner together. But everyone else is like, "Oh man, those two are going to get married!"

**Molly:** But they're **[00:32:00]** not thinking about it that way.

**Becca:** Well, I think they probably are, but they can't help it because society is making them. Whereas Lizzie and Darcy both have an active rebuke of this where they're like, "Whoa, whoa, whoa! Take a moment to get to know a person."

**Molly:** Right. And they both manifest it differently.

**Becca:** Which is what I take you meaning to say that you still aren't super into Darcy yet?

**Molly:** I am not into Darcy yet. I think he's being weird.

**Becca:** I love the idea of him hovering behind her the entire time. It's so good.

**Molly:** Chapter 7. First, we learn that all of Mr. Bennet's fortune is being left to a distant male relative. Mrs. Bennet doesn't really have that much to give. So, this is what we were talking about earlier with them, these girls actually needing to marry rich for their own future.

**Becca:** This isn't really a spoiler. This is a huge recurring theme in Austen's work. A lot of her heroines are women of mostly female families [00:33:00] or all female families where they don't have a person who's going to inherit and take care of them because they're not going to inherit any money and they're used to a certain lifestyle. And so, there is this panic for marriage. It's very much resonant with Austen and her life and not something we obviously deal with today. But it really does form stakes of her books differently than modern-day romcoms because we're not just talking about falling in love for the sake of falling in love. We're talking about women who will fall into poverty without that. Or either that or they're going to be spinsters who live as leeches off of distant relatives and on very little. It's tragic in a way that women are put upon in this way. And that's part of why, regardless of how ridiculously obnoxious she is, and she is obnoxious, Mrs. Bennet is pretty sympathetic.

**Molly:** Yes. We learned that they have an aunt in Meryton. Am I pronouncing that right?

**Becca:** I think so. We'll have to ask Keira when she comes on the podcast.

**Molly:** Yeah. [00:34:00] Hit us up, Keira. Meryton is one mile away and the girls frequently go to visit their aunt and go to the hat shops. Kitty and Lydia, the youngest two, go the most frequently because in the words of Jane Austen, their minds are more vacant than their sisters. And they need to fill their time with long walks and gossip. So, they go to their aunt's house and get all the gossip from town. Right now, the gossip is that the militia regiment is in town and is staying there for quite some period of time. And they want to know about all of the officers, and I think this is very Chekhovian.

**Becca:** Oh my gosh, it is so Chekhovian.

**Molly:** This is like the three sisters. The militia comes in, and they're all of a sudden, like, "Where are the officers?" I must marry an--

**Becca:** Just like push up the boobs. And the thing is, Kitty and Lydia, they're kind of thinking marriage but really like--

**Molly:** They just want to look at them.

**Becca:** They want to dance with them and shit. They want [00:35:00] to flirt and have fun.

**Molly:** I stan Kitty and Lydia.

**Becca:** I love Kidia.

**Molly:** Kidia!

**Becca:** They're a mess for their family because that is not what women are supposed to be doing in that time period. They're supposed to be husband shopping and you see Mrs. Bennet say, "Oh, yeah, it's fine. Then, maybe they'll find husbands."

**Molly:** Yeah, I still don't know how old they are. But, yeah, Mrs. Bennet does say that. So, Kitty and Lydia are talking to their parents like, "Oh my God! Oh my God! Oh my God. Here's the man! Here's the man!" "This is this guy." "This is this guy." And the dad is-- Mr. Bennet is like, "You guys are the silliest girls on the planet." And he means that in a mean way.

**Becca:** Oh, yes, definitely.

**Molly:** Mrs. Bennet is like, "How could you call your girls silly that way?" And he's like, "They're filling their heads with nothing but these men in this gossip," and whatever. And Mrs. Bennet's like, "You can't really expect them to be as wise as two fully grown adults. These are children." And honestly, I used to like myself an officer too, and [00:36:00] maybe one of them will want to marry one of them.

**Becca:** Listen, we all had weird posters on our walls when we were teenagers.

**Molly:** These are some huge fan girls over here.

**Becca:** I used to have a pillow that was fluffy and said "I heart Ashton" on it, so I can't really judge them.

**Molly:** My friend had an Orlando Bloom pillow. It was just his face.

**Becca:** Oh, I'm into that though, I would still take that in heartbeat.

**Molly:** Yeah. In the rush of having these officers in town, they've forgotten about Bingley, they don't care anymore. The other girls.

**Becca:** Oh, yes.

**Molly:** [crosstalk] still cares about Bingley. While they're in the discussion of these men, a note comes for Jane from the Sisters Bingley saying that if Jane does not come to dine with them today, they will bite each other's heads off. It basically says that. And I thought this is very much playing into like, women don't have anything to do with if they're not around men, they will fight. It's like a catfight stereotype.

**Becca:** Well, the Bingley sisters, they have like sort of [00:37:00] *Mean Girls* vibes to them. They're the very popular girls.

**Molly:** They're not even sort of. They're 100% the *Mean Girls*.

**Becca:** Oh, fully. And they have this like, "Oh God, we just hate each other but we love Jane. Don't we love Jane?"

**Molly:** "We love Jane so much." [crosstalk]

**Becca:** She is so cute. You're like really pretty.

**Molly:** "I love your bonnet. Where did you get it?"

**Becca:** "Oh, my God. That's the ugliest effing bonnet I've ever seen." All right, this has been a brief *Mean Girls* interlude, but the Bingley's sisters definitely have this air of wanting Jane around because they're bored and she's pretty enough to be friends with them. And she likes to be around them partially because she likes everyone but also because she gets to be around their brother, who she just adores. Don't we all?

**Molly:** But right now, the brother isn't there. He's dining with the officers. When she reads that part out loud, Lydia is like, "How come my aunt didn't tell me about that?" Weird.

**Becca:** Lydia just wants to be with the officers all the time.

**Molly:** She really does. [00:38:00] Mrs. Bennet says that dining out is unlucky. I don't know what that--

**Becca:** It's just mostly Mrs. Bennet being dramatic because she--

**Molly:** Oh, he won't be there.

**Becca:** Yeah.

**Molly:** I understand. Jane asks for the carriage to go over and Mrs. Bennet says, "No, it's supposed to rain. If you go on horseback and it rains, you won't be able to come back. You'll have to spend the night."

**Becca:** This is such a fucking bruise.

**Molly:** It's so wild!

**Becca:** It's so fucking funny!

**Molly:** She literally sends her daughter on horseback and it rains, and Jane gets sick.

**Becca:** And she's like, "Perfect. She's there."

**Molly:** "She's there." And Jane sends a letter back the next day being like, "They simply won't have me leave until I'm better. So, I'm here for the time being." And Mrs. Bennet's like, "Great." Mr. Bennet is like, "Well, I'm so glad that if Jane ends up dead, it'll be because she was in pursuit of Mr. Bingley and on your orders.

**Becca:** Mrs. Bennet is like, "Oh, of course, she won't die. She'll just get sick enough to win over." [00:39:00]

**Molly:** Exactly. It's buck wild.

**Becca:** I just love the image of Mrs. Bennet being like, "No, this is going to work." And Jane's like, "Oh, oh, mom, I don't really--" "No, honey." "Okay." And then she's just like, tentatively, like on the horse going--

**Molly:** It's pouring, and she's like, "It's all for love."

**Becca:** She's like, "Mom said this is a good idea. I'm sure it's going to be fine." And then, she's just sick in front of her boy.

**Molly:** So sad. And then, when this letter comes the next morning, Lizzie is like, "I have to go see her." And they won't give her the carriage either. So, she walks.

**Becca:** Lizzie is a fucking badass. First of all, that's a long walk.

**Molly:** It's three miles. It's like an hour and a half, two hours if you're walking in those boots?

**Becca:** Yeah.

**Molly:** And that's not heard of in this time period, I'm guessing, based on their response to her exercising.

**Becca:** So, they do go on walks all the time in Jane Austen--

**Molly:** But it's muddy.

**Becca:** Yeah, that's the thing. [00:40:00] It's not that she walked there necessarily, she could walk there, although it's a little strange. I think it's more that it's disgusting and there was no easy way for her to walk there without getting completely fucked up.

**Molly:** Right. It's muddy, and I'm guessing it's kind of hot. It's like that humidity after the rain. [crosstalk] She's trekking through some unpleasant weather. Lydia and Kidia-- Kitty and--

**Becca:** Kidia.

**Molly:** I said, Liddy and Kidia.

**Becca:** I like referring to them as Kidia.

**Molly:** Kidia is like, "Welcome with you as far as Meryton, then we're going to go see the officers. One of them's leaving for London today and we want to catch him before he goes." So, they go with her. They break off after the first mile and she goes on for two more miles by herself through the mud, and she shows up.

**Becca:** I just think men would walk more I guess than women.

**Molly:** Yeah. And she has this big skirt on, it's like her petticoat is showing.

**Becca:** Yeah, I'm trying to think of all the walks people take in Jane Austen because they do take a lot of walks. They're very wealthy and they need to fill their time. So, they go on a lot of walks, but this walk really fucks up all the Bingleys. **[00:41:00]**

**Molly:** Yes. She shows up sweaty and gross and covered in mud and her face is all red and her hair is all over the place, and she shows up. And everyone looks up. She's in their parlor, and the sisters are very surprised to see her. I like everyone's reactions. The sisters are surprised that she should have walked so long so early in the day in such weather and by herself.

**Becca:** That's the other piece of it. It's that she walked by herself. So, women didn't do that. I'm remembering this now. Women walk in pairs.

**Molly:** Yeah. Mr. Bingley is like, "Oh, that's so sweet of you to come." Just a genuinely nice person.

**Becca:** He's a li'l munchkin.

**Molly:** He's a little munchkin.

**Becca:** He's a li'l nugget.

**Molly:** Mr. Darcy was divided between admiration of the brilliancy which exercise had given to her complexion and doubt as to the occasions justifying her coming so far alone. Mr. Hurst is just thinking about his breakfast. Mr. Darcy is like, "Damn, she's hot when she's sweaty."

**Becca:** This is **[00:42:00]** a little tawdry for Austen, is that she's like her hair's wild, her face is red, she's out of breath.

**Molly:** She is "hot and bothered."

**Becca:** Yes, she's looking like postcoital right now. And Darcy's just way distracted about it. I love this because they talk about Jane being quiet about her feelings, but Darcy is just staring, stone faced and being like, "Yeah, that's so hot."

**Molly:** Or he's got his mouth open a little bit, and is like **[drooling noises]**

**Becca:** I think that's internal though because it's such a Bingley move. I'm seeing Darcy just staring at her with the pursed lips, like **[enacting pursed lips]**

**[laughter]**

**[crosstalk]**

**Becca:** **[crosstalk]** --you're softening like this much on him that I can hear it.

**Molly:** And I have to remind myself that I hate him. Yeah.

**Becca:** Oh, yeah.

**Molly:** It's only chapter 6, at a time.

**Becca:** Yes, we do.

**Molly:** Jane is really happy to see Lizzie there. She kind of wanted her to come when she sent that letter. Lizzie starts to **[00:43:00]** like the sisters because of how they are with Jane. She sees that they're tending to her needs and all of this. So, she's like, "Well, maybe they're not so bad." Then, she's like, "I guess it's time for me to go."

**Becca:** And Jane wants her there, which is so sweet.

**Molly:** Jane says, "Can she stay?" And they offer her a room and she stays over, which brings us to chapter 8.

**Becca:** Which is just Lizzie at a party she does not want to be at.

**Molly:** She's so uncomfortable.

**Becca:** I don't know what I'd do in that situation if I were her.

**Molly:** I would leave. I would leave my sister. I would say, "Bye."

**Becca:** I would not leave my sister, but I might just show up my sister the entire time.

**Molly:** Yeah. Which is kind of what Lizzie does.

**Becca:** And then when she sleeps, Lizzie's just like, "Oh, God, I guess I'll read."

**Molly:** Yeah, we've basically just summed up the whole chapter.

**Becca:** That is the chapter. But there's a couple conversations, some of which make you remember how much you dislike Darcy.

**Molly:** Yes. At dinner, Jane is still upstairs. So, everyone's downstairs and the only person who seems genuinely concerned about Jane is Bingley. Everyone else is like, "Oh, how is she doing? Oh, okay." **[00:44:00]** And then that's the end, but Bingley's actually concerned. His anxiety for Jane was

evident and his attentions to herself most pleasing and they prevented Lizzie from feeling herself so much an intruder as she believes she was considered by the others, which is sweet.

**Becca:** It's so sweet. Also, Darcy don't think she's an intruder. Darcy still thinking about how she looked all out of breath and covered in mud.

**Molly:** Oh, God. Something I wanted to point out and that I loved is that, "The sisters' indifference towards Jane when she was not immediately before them restored Elizabeth to the enjoyment of all her original dislike." I love that.

**Becca:** It's so [crosstalk] to dislike people.

**Molly:** That's what gossip's all about. That's what media is about.

**Becca:** Absolutely.

**Molly:** It's dumb, but it is fun.

**Becca:** It definitely plays on our human instincts. Also, again, the *Mean Girls* of the Bingley clan just being like, "You're so cute. Oh my God, we're going to take such good care of you," blah, blah, blah. And then' they're like don't give a shit about her when she's not immediately. I think *Mean Girls* need to be smarter, especially these, because if you're going to be bitchy [00:45:00] about someone or at least drop your act about someone, you really have to wait until her bestie/sister is out of the room to do that.

**Molly:** Speaking of when her bestie/sister leaves the room, as soon as Lizzie goes upstairs to tend Jane some more, the sisters start railing on her. It's terrible. They joke about how good a walker she is and how terrible she looked when she arrived. Bingley comes to her aid and that it shows that she cares about her sister a lot. Then, Ms. Bingley, is this Caroline Bingley?

**Becca:** Yes. Just for the sake of the book, the other Bingley girl is not named Bingley anymore.

**Molly:** She's named Mrs. Hurst.

**Becca:** She's Mrs. Hurst. When it refers to Ms. Bingley, it is referring to Caroline, but we'll get into that later.

**Molly:** Yeah. So, Caroline starts teasing Darcy very openly. She was like, "Well, of course, you noticed that she looked kind of disheveled."

**Becca:** He's like, "No, my boner's grown for her. [00:46:00] I want her even more now."

**Molly:** Yeah, he basically says exactly what you just said. She says, "Oh, I can tell that her walking so far really affected your admiration for her fine eyes," basically trying to be like, "So, you don't like her so much anymore now, do you?" And he says, "Actually, her eyes were brightened by the exercise."

**Becca:** For those of you who can't see what's happening like I can, Molly just facepalmed.

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Becca:** So, we agree that it is hilarious that Mr. Darcy can keep his shit together over a woman who's out of breath.

**Molly:** And everyone else at the table just blinks three times also, and then moves on to talk about how Jane is very sweet. But with her family being how they are, there's just no chance, which is so rude.

**Becca:** It's so pointed because no one's dumb. Everyone knows what Bingley is gunning for with her, and they're clearly just trying to get at him, [00:47:00] which is rude because Bingley doesn't deserve that.

**Molly:** He doesn't, and he tries to stand up for them. He's like, "Oh, well, they have an uncle in Meryton," which is, I guess a nice town. And then one of the sisters says, "Yes, and they have another one in Cheapside," which is apparently a very unfashionable commercial town in London. And Bingley says he doesn't care, and Darcy says, "It would lessen their chance of marrying men of consideration in this world to have a family that are poor."

**Becca:** I'm telling you that pedigree is everything in the Austen world.

**Molly:** Yeah. And then, the sisters keep being mean about their "dear friends" vulgar relations.

**Becca:** Yes. And this is where we get to where Kidia and Mary and Mrs. Bennet do no favors for Lizzie and Jane. And it's stupid because--

**Molly:** It's so stupid.

**Becca:** -we have talked already on this podcast about how these girls are actually-- they're just teenagers. They're a little silly, but who isn't at that age? And Mrs. Bennet is high-strung as shit and classless. [00:48:00] But she also cares so much about her daughters and their wellbeing, which is why she is the way she is. So, fuck you, Bingley sisters.

**Molly:** So, then later when Jane has fallen asleep, as you say Lizzie finally is like, "I guess I have to go downstairs." So, she comes down and everyone's playing cards and they invite her to play, but she suspects they're playing high, which I think means betting for money.

**Becca:** I think it means playing high stakes. Yeah, so that means like playing for a lot of money.

**Molly:** She asks for a book instead. And Ms. Caroline makes fun of her for doing nothing but reading, saying she has no other hobbies, but she's a great reader. And Lizzie says, "I'm not a great reader. I like reading but I also have lots of other hobbies." I'm glad she's defending herself against this bitch. Then, Mr. Bingley says that she takes pleasure in tending to her sister which he thinks is very sweet and she thinks is very sweet as well and she is a fan of Bingley.

**Becca:** I mean you can't not be. Charlie is so cute.

**Molly:** He's so cute. [00:49:00] Anyway, he tries to give her a book and says he's sorry his collection isn't bigger. And then, Caroline says very loudly, "Oh, Darcy, don't you have such a huge collection of books at your beautiful home?" and very loudly starts talking about how great Darcy is. And this conversation attracts Lizzie's attention, and she ends up coming over to watch the game of cards. They continue to talk about how wonderful Darcy's sister is and how good she is at the piano. And Bingley says that he's astonished at how accomplished all young ladies are and how patient they must be to do all of these things.

And I think that this maybe a reason why he and Jane are good for each other because he also is just astonished at the pure magnitude of human accomplishment.

**Becca:** It's a very sweet thing. So, the two of them are dissimilar in that Bingley is so loud and outgoing and friendly, and Jane is quite modest and [00:50:00] shy, but they do have this shared optimism, which is just really sweet. And you don't see couples like that often. You know what I mean?

**Molly:** You don't.

**Becca:** Couples where both people are bright and shiny. There's a lot of sunny people who date like, dark people, and those are cute too. But it's nice when two people are nice to each other that are just like happy. You're like, "Oh, you're a sweet couple. We love you."

**Molly:** Yeah. He goes on to list all of the things that all young ladies can do like piano and whatever. Piano is an important thing.

**Becca:** It's really a lot of piano, but it's also like sewing and painting and dancing, and all this stuff.

**Molly:** Yeah. And Darcy says, that's all basic, but that doesn't really make them accomplished. He says, "An accomplished lady has to go above and beyond." And Lizzie says, "You must comprehend a great deal in your idea of an accomplished woman." And Caroline is like, "Yeah, she must be able to--" and then does this really long list of [00:51:00] all of the things that a woman must be able to do beyond the basic items. And then, Darcy says, "Well, that's all true. But really, she must expand her mind by extensive reading." And this feels very pointed.

**Becca:** Yes. He likes a sharp lady.

**Molly:** He likes a sharp lady who literally was just talking about reading and was just reading.

**Becca:** What do you think Lizzie is aware of in terms of Darcy's crush?

**Molly:** I assume she still thinks that he hates her.

**Becca:** Yeah. So weird, right?

**Molly:** She's probably taking this as a dig. And he's probably really awkwardly trying to figure out how to be like, "You're hot." But it's just there's a disconnect here.

**Becca:** There's a huge disconnect.

**Molly:** They're just like flying by each other. Then, Lizzie says nobody is accomplished as all that. Nobody can do all of those things. And then some, and I'm surprised any accomplished women at all. And the other two, the Bingley and Hurst ladies, they're very offended that she would say that and they're like, "We know lots of accomplished ladies, [00:52:00] and we're accomplished," and blah, blah, blah. And then, Mr. Hurst, a very simple man is like, "Can we please get back to the game?"

**Becca:** You see what I mean when I say Mr. Hurst is just like meh?

**Molly:** He's super meh.

**Becca:** So meh.

**Molly:** Lizzie leaves, goes back upstairs, and Caroline says, "Eliza Bennet is one of those young ladies who seek to recommend themselves to the other sex by undervaluing their own. And has a very mean heart." She does not like Lizzie. She also is assuming here that she's trying to recommend herself to the opposite sex. Meaning, she's assuming that because Darcy likes her, she likes Darcy, and is trying to be like, "I'm not all that great." That's what I'm getting from this, but obviously that's not true.

**Becca:** I think it's also they're claiming she's one of those, I'm not like other girls girls.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** Which, I mean, anybody who's been around a girl who's like, "I am not like other girls. I'm not dramatic." I'm not this and that, and like, "Oh, I don't really have any female friends." Don't trust that girl. But girls like that [00:53:00] often do so to impress men. And what they're teasing Lizzie up here, and I think that's a real misunderstanding of what she was saying.

**Molly:** She wasn't saying that all. She was saying, "You expect too much."

**Becca:** She's saying basically, "Wow, you don't know anything about women because women are human beings and can't be perfect."

**Molly:** Exactly.

**Becca:** Yeah.

**Molly:** But when they say mean, do they mean like small?

**Becca:** Yeah, like gross, crude.

**Molly:** And then, Darcy says, "There's a meanness in all arts which ladies employ for captivation." Meaning that he's not trying to do courtship and he doesn't enjoy--

**Becca:** He don't play no games.

**Molly:** He really doesn't like games. Lizzie comes back down to say that Jane is worse. So, they all decide that the doctor will come in in the morning. And Bingley is just distraught. And the sisters claim to be distraught, but they're fine after they do some duets after supper.

**Becca:** And that's the end of chapter 8. All right. That brings us to some of our study questions for the episode. So, let's pull those up for a second. I wanted to hear your thoughts on the distinctions between vanity and pride, [00:54:00] and what we thought of the way in which Mary characterizes those. Do you agree?

**Molly:** I think I agree. I think there have been times that I'm very proud of myself. I think that it's okay to feel pride. But I also think that pride can come to a fault if it's misplaced if you're proud because you're rich, as we are seeing Darcy is, I feel like that's-- I don't like that. I don't like Darcy. I'm just going to keep saying that so that I can believe it.

**Becca:** Well, I think there's two sides to pride. There's the sort of the proudness of believing you are better than others, is a bad way to be. But the pride in disbelieving that you are less good than others, the pride in believing you are something special is not bad. It depends in a lot of ways on whether or not it's above others or not. And I think that's a closer distinction in my opinion than the difference between vanity and pride.

**Molly:** Well, vanity, I think is a totally different thing-- [00:55:00] or at least in Mary's distinction. Mary is saying that vanity is how you want yourself to be believed by others, like they are portrayed by others.

**Becca:** And I never thought of that before but when I think of vanity, I think of being unable to look away from yourself in the mirror or obsessed with the way your hair looks or something. I guess, for me, it's different because vanity is skin deep in a lot of ways.

**Molly:** I think it's in wanting praise.

**Becca:** Yeah.

**Molly:** Where pride is more coming from--

**Becca:** Praising yourself.

**Molly:** --praising yourself, yes.

**Becca:** So, it'll be interesting moving forward how that plays into the story. So, what do you think of Darcy's shift? How it happened, why it happened, and what it says about Darcy?

**Molly:** It honestly has me speechless. I don't know when it happened, because when were they hanging out that he was able to make this distinction? I think we missed some parties in between. It's very sudden, in the book at least. [00:56:00] It's like, blah, blah, blah, and then Darcy had a crush on her.

**Becca:** Meanwhile, Darcy is slowly but surely developing an unquenchable thirst for Lizzie Bennet.

**Molly:** Yeah, this is like the original, he's mean to you because he likes you thing. I don't know. Sometimes, your first glance is wrong and then you look back and you're like-- Wait, do you think that realizing that she's very smart and witty had something to do with his shift in perception about her physical appearance?

**Becca:** I actually do, yeah.

**Molly:** Because I think that when you start to like a person, they become hot to you.

**Becca:** This is another problem with dating in the modern world, but it's really difficult to just see someone physically and understand whether or not you're attracted to them. It doesn't account for chemistry and it doesn't account for the way someone's face lights up when they're speaking about things they love. That was way cheesier than I meant that to be. **[laughs]**

**Molly:** **[crosstalk]** That was cute, **[00:57:00]** Becca.

**Becca:** But really, I think about the guys that I've genuinely developed feelings for in my life, and I'm sure you can relate for the people who you've developed feelings for, but they're not people I always immediately thought were super attractive. Sometimes, they're people who when I heard them speak about things they love or speak about their views on life, I realized were somehow deeply appealing as human beings.

It's one of those things where women, and famously, if we're going by heteronormative binary codes, which are not always accurate, men tend to be a little bit more shallow, but I think Jane Austen is getting at the fact that maybe that's bullshit. Maybe men do that too. I think that is super significant that Darcy realize she is this witty woman who just does not give a shit.

**Molly:** Yeah. And I think he thinks that's hot. And I think that what we learn about Darcy as a result is that he's looking for something more. I mean he's not only actively seeking something more, **[00:58:00]** it seems to me. I think that he's not seeking marriage right now. That's pretty clearly stated when he has that conversation with Caroline, but he's not opposed to catching feelings. Woo! **[both simultaneously]** I hate that I'm smiling about it.

**Becca:** **[laughs]** Oh God, #anti-Dizie?

**Molly:** Anti-Dizie still.

**Becca:** Oh, yeah, but pro-Jingley.

**Molly:** Still pro-Jingley. **[crosstalk]** Bingley with myself.

**Becca:** Fair. So, my next question is what we're learning about Jane Austen and her perceptions of love, which we touched on earlier when we talked about how Lizzie and Darcy feel about love.

**Molly:** Yeah, love is not equal to marriage in her eyes. And you told me about that story about that boy that she was engaged to be married and then she broke it off because she was like, "I don't actually want to marry you." I think because she realized she didn't love him. I think that's **[00:59:00]** super

revolutionary for her time to not equate love to marriage and to not equate catching feelings to falling in love also. Maybe I just want to flirt **[crosstalk]** I think novel.

**Becca:** Everyone should watch *Fleabag* because there's a scene in *Fleabag* where a woman talks about how important it is to fucking flirt.

**Molly:** We love to flirt.

**Becca:** Oh God, this podcast stands flirting. Colin Firth, if you're listening, you're still welcome on this podcast.

**Molly:** Always.

**Becca:** I know you're married, but this is a flirting podcast. Just a heads-up. Then, my next question is about Lizzie trekking through the mud to see Jane. We've talked a little about this, but it's so clear from the moment she does it that it was unconventional and weird that she did. And also, it says a lot about Lizzie.

**Molly:** Yeah, that she's just willing to go the extra mile for the people she cares about. The extra mile literally, or the extra two miles. **[01:00:00]** The thing it shows the most about is her friendship and relationship with Jane.

**Becca:** Yeah, it does say something about her heart under her sharper exterior.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** It's very nice.

**Molly:** She's like a turtle inside of a shell.

**Becca:** I wouldn't have gone with that metaphor, but I get what you're saying. **[laughs]** I was thinking more like a hard chocolate with a creamy center.

**Molly:** We did just talk about how we were craving chocolate.

**Becca:** I want chocolate so badly. We're going to go eat so much chocolate right as soon as we're done here.

**Molly:** Sounds like a great idea.

**Becca:** Oh my God. We talked a bit about how Mrs. Hurst and Ms. Bingley are separate characters. Have you distinguished them at all?

**Molly:** We've really only gotten to know Caroline, I think. Mrs. Hurst, when she does speak is more of a bitch, I think. Caroline speaks more or has so far, but she's also kind of cute with Darcy and how she's a friend to him and wants to gossip and support him in his love endeavors and **[01:01:00]** etc. She's a funny bitch. Mrs. Hurst haven't said anything nice yet. I don't think she said much of anything at all.

**Becca:** So, what you're perceiving is Caroline is more talkative, more charming, and closer to Darcy.

**Molly:** Mm-hmm.

**Becca:** I think those are all accurate things. Do you have any predictions moving forward about these Bingley sisters?

**Molly:** I definitely originally, was like, I feel like they're going to fuck shit up, messin' where they're not supposed to mess but I don't know in what way. I think they'll definitely somehow try to sabotage Jane and Bingley. Oh, I feel like they're going to do something that make him think that she said something bad or did something bad or cheated on him or I don't know. They're going to fuck shit up. That's my opinion because they don't want her to come into their family. They don't want to have their family associated with her family.

**Becca:** I am not going to comment on that. We got just the briefest glimpse into Darcy's life outside of this interaction with him where he's here with the Bingleys. We got a little bit about his house, a little bit about his [01:02:00] sister's, just the tiniest touch. I would love to hear your thoughts on the tiny touch and things you picture about Darcy's life.

**Molly:** Yeah. So, the things that I've got from the tiny touch that his house at Pembroke?

**Becca:** Pemberley.

**Molly:** Pemberley? Is gorgeous and huge. But that's his family home, right?

**Becca:** Yeah, but I believe he's the patriarch now.

**Molly:** Okay. And he has a sister, one, who's younger. He has a lot of books that I imagine he's never read. I want to say he's never read. But as it was coming out of my mouth, I was like, he's probably super smart.

**Becca:** [laughs] Can't confirm or deny.

**Molly:** And I imagine he's got beautiful grounds with servants and stuff. But all things that he didn't work for. Therefore, he is proud, but of something he has no right to be proud about.

**Becca:** In this podcast, we still dislike Darcy. I love it. All right. Let's talk about the progression of Jingley. Let's get the thoughts on the budding romance.

**Molly:** I [01:03:00] love it. He cares so much about her. She's sick and he keeps her there. I think the sisters are the ones that are like, "Oh, gotta keep her here," but to keep up appearances of being kind and etc., but he actually cares about her, and he wants to rush her to the hospital and all the stuff but they're like, "Let's wait till tomorrow and bring the doctor here."

**Becca:** He's such a gentle boy.

**Molly:** He's such a gentle boy. I feel we haven't gotten to really see Jane and him together yet. We've heard about them together and that they've dined together and all of that, but in this time that she's at his house, we don't actually really see them together, but I'm still pro Jingley.

**Becca:** #TeamJingley.

**Molly:** #TeamJingley.

**Becca:** What was the funniest quote from this section?

**Molly:** My God. The one that I laughed the longest about is definitely the one about Darcy. "Occupied and observing Mr. Bingley's attentions to her sister, Elizabeth was far from suspecting that she was herself [01:04:00] becoming an object of some interest in the eyes of his friend." I just wrote, "God Darcy, that was fast."

**Becca:** [chuckles] Good choice of quote. What's a big question for you moving forward?

**Molly:** Well, this is in retrospect, I'm sure we're going to find out more, but it's like why? Why did he change his mind?

**Becca:** Whoa. Okay, yeah.

**Molly:** And also, will she be receptive to it at all if he ever comes up and says it to her?

**Becca:** All right, I'm going to comment on that. Who wins the chapter?

**Molly:** Out of all four of these chapters, my favorite winner is Charlotte.

**Becca:** I thought so too. I love Charlotte. Also, that speech she gives is just so funny and practical.

**Molly:** Yeah, she's so good. And she's older.

**Becca:** Oh, yeah, she's 27.

**Molly:** I love her.

**Becca:** We love Charlotte.

**Molly:** I think she's a good role model to have because she is not marrying [01:05:00] outside of love. Even though she says it doesn't matter, she hasn't gotten married yet. So, we'll see. We'll see about Charlotte.

**Becca:** Well, that's all the time we have. But until next time, stay proper and find yourself a husband.

**[Pride and Prejudice theme]**

**Becca:** Thanks to our newest patrons.

**Molly:** Judy.

**Becca:** Ben.

**Molly:** Dolores.

**Becca:** Cari.

**Molly:** Hannah.

**Becca:** And Kara.

**Molly:** Pod and Prejudice is edited by Molly Burdick with art by Torrence Browne. Special thanks to our audio producer, Graham Cook, without whom we would sound like garbage fire. To keep up with the show, you can follow us on Twitter and Instagram [@podandprejudice](#). We're also on Facebook at [facebook.com/podandprejudice](#). If you like what you hear, check out our Patreon at [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.