

Molly: Hi, everyone. Before we begin, we're excited to share that we're sponsored this week by the Ballarat National Theatre's *Pride and Prejudice* podcast. The Ballarat National Theatre is a small Australian theatre company who, like most theaters during this pandemic, have had to adapt their performance style to fit into this ever-changing world. They wanted to bring the joy they get from Austen to others, so they created the *Pride and Prejudice* Podcast. They're reading the entire book, start to finish, chapter by chapter, with actors performing the different characters. It's somewhere between an audiobook and a radio play. The actors bring the story to life with a level of detail you won't find in other adaptations because nothing is cut out. We are so excited to be partnering with Ballarat because we think this podcast is an awesome companion piece to *Pod and Prejudice*. If it's been a while since you've read the book and you want a refresher, this is a great way to follow along with the story.

New episodes of the *Pride and Prejudice* podcast are released weekly. Currently, they're up to Lydia receiving an invitation to go to Brighton. To listen, head on over to ballaratnationaltheatre.buzzsprout.com. That's B-A-L-L-A-R-A-T National Theatre with an R-E or wherever [00:01:00] you listen to podcasts.

Hey everyone, it's Molly. Just wanted to give a few housekeeping notes before we start the show today. First off, we recorded this episode a little bit before Thanksgiving, so don't be surprised if you hear a few references to Thanksgiving in there. Second, we wanted to thank our newest patrons, Amy, Zachary, Nicole, and Alice. Thank you all so much for all the support you've been showing us on Patreon. Thanks to all of you next week, we get to pick out our brand-new microphone. We're not going to be sitting huddled over the same microphone anymore or recording into our headphone microphone like I am right now. Anyway, thanks so much again and enjoy this week's episode.

Molly and Becca: What a to-do to die today, at a minute or two to two. A thing distinctly hard to say, but harder still to do. We'll beat a tattoo, at twenty til two a rat-tat-tat- tat-tat-tat-tat-tattoo and the dragon will come when he hears the drum at a minute or two to two today, at a minute or two to two. What a to-do to die today, at a minute or two to two. A thing distinctly hard to say, but harder still to do. We'll beat a tattoo, at twenty til two a [00:02:00] rat-tat-tat- tat-tat-tat- tat-tat-tattoo and the dragon will come when he hears the drum at a minute or two to two today, at a minute or two to two.

[Pod and Prejudice theme]

Molly: I hope you enjoyed us singing.

Becca: That wasn't singing.

Molly: Warming up.

Becca: That was because I realized one of our episodes, we did a vocal warmup beforehand. And when I listened to the final product, I realized our articulation was far better in that episode than in every other episode.

Molly: You know what they teach you in college about vocal warm-ups, it's real. Theater-- **[crosstalk]**

Becca: **[with a British accent]** The theater! We are both a trained **[with a British accent]** Shakespearean actress.

Molly: [with a British accent] Shakespearean!

Becca: [with a British accent] Shakespeare! Speaking of the classics.

Molly: Jane Austen!

Becca: What a segue--

Molly: Very good segue.

Becca: --from our pretentious theater education to our podcast on something [00:03:00] totally unpretentious.

Molly: Yeah, totally.

Becca: Just 18th and 19th century literature.

Molly: Yeah. Today, we are beginning Volume, The Second.

Becca: Volume, The Second.

Molly: You can't really say it like Volume, The First, you have to say The Second without an accent.

Becca: [crosstalk] [with a British accent] --Volume Two.

Molly: [crosstalk] Volume Two.

Becca: You got the liquid ooh.

Molly: Oh my God, we're getting back to our pretentious theater education.

Becca: Sorry. I live on my brain. I can't say any of the vocal warmups without immediately diving right back in.

Molly: Yeah. Volume, The Second, Baybee! is how I began my notes.

Becca: Lit!

Molly: For our listeners, we'd been doing like Chapters 1 through whatever chapters like 20 through 23. Now we're back to Chapter 1--

Becca: Of the Second Volume.

Molly: --of the Second Volume.

Becca: Yes, we are.

Molly: So, just to clarify when we say we're on chapter one, we're not-- Yeah, you know. They get it.

Becca: They know what we mean.

Molly: You're intelligent. We trust you.

Becca: The question is, how will we title these episodes, but we will have to figure that out.

Molly: We're going to figure that out. That's mostly why I was saying that out loud. [00:04:00]

Becca: So, yeah. Anyway.

Molly: Chapter 1, just to recap you all where we were at, when we left off, the end of Volume 1. What has befallen is that all of the men who we originally were like, "Oh, these are the single men in want of wives" have kind of splintered off. Bingley and his sisters and Darcy have all gone away for the winter.

Becca: Yeah, they've all left.

Molly: They've all left Netherfield. What's his name, Collins, has proposed marriage to Charlotte.

Becca: And Lizzie has characterized this as being a borderline friendship-ender with Charlotte.

Molly: Wickham is around, I guess, and Darcy is off with Bingley. So, that's where our men stand.

Becca: Where do our ladies stand?

Molly: Jane's feeling sad that Bingley left. Lizzie is having a moment over it all.

Becca: I would say Lizzie is incredulous about the entire situation.

Molly: Yeah. She's just shell-shocked.

Becca: Disbelieving.

Molly: Yes,

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Mrs. Bennet's falling apart.

Becca: Yeah, I would say Mrs. Bennet is in [00:05:00] shambles.

Molly: Yeah. In the last episode, I believe I said that she was rapidly disintegrating.

Becca: I think that was apt.

Molly: Yeah, she's falling. She's a little pile of ashes on the ground. Mr. Bennet is okay.

Becca: Chillin'.

Molly: He's chillin'.

Becca: Kidia, still thriving.

Molly: Kidia will always be thriving and we left Mary alone in her room.

Becca: Where we left her. Yeah.

Molly: And that's all for that. So, let's move on to Chapter 1 of Volume The Second. First things first, Jane receives a letter from Caroline that solidifies that the Bingleys will in fact not be returning for the winter and that Charlie is especially sad that he didn't get to say goodbye to his friends at Hertfordshire. Now, I like to think that he is friendzoning her in this instance.

Becca: That does seem to be what's happening. It is so weirdly dismissive of--

Molly: Awful.

Becca: --the last few months.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: To basically be like, "Oh, I had fun."

Molly: "Sorry, I didn't get to say goodbye."

Becca: It's like, "Oh, thanks for being such a good [00:06:00] friend." It's that way that you do it that makes the other person feel crazy for thinking there's more there.

Molly: Yeah. And that's exactly what Jane does. She spirals. She's like, "Oh, I was all mistaken." So, that's sad. It says in the book that "Hope was over, entirely over."

Becca: Very dramatic, but that is exactly what happens. And as a reader, I'm curious, because I don't think I've ever read these books, not knowing what happens. Were you expecting any of this?

Molly: For them to leave?

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: And for them to say what they say? No. Long story short, no, because it's so clear what Bingley was feeling.

Becca: It's not even just that that was what Jane perceived. There is a sense in which Austen is a third voice in the book the entire time.

Molly: Yeah, everyone knows. Everyone's been watching them. The third-person narrator noticed.

Becca: Yeah, and the third-person narrator sometimes says stuff like Collins wasn't really into Lizzie, but he decided he'd be into her.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: There's a [00:07:00] cognitive dissonance between the actions and what was clearly there.

Molly: Yeah. So, no, I wasn't expecting him to just up and leave. And I wasn't expecting that letter, that last letter, to say that he was courting Georgie Darcy, that was a big shock to me.

Becca: Yeah, that's a whole yikes.

Molly: And this new letter that Caroline has sent, just the whole time is talking about how they're all so happy to see Georgie, and how great she is and accomplish and all of these things, basically, making it clear to Jane that this is who they want their brother to marry, which is gross. And they say that now that Charles is staying at Darcy's house, he and our baby girl are getting so close.

Becca: Ugh!

Molly: It mentions that Darcy is considering getting new furniture. What does that mean?

Becca: I don't know. I actually didn't even see that line.

Molly: Maybe it's not important. [00:08:00]

Becca: I think I just skated over it. But I think her including that in the letter is her way of making small talk, how rich people even today are like, "Oh, I'm thinking of redecorating my house," or like, "Oh, I think I'm redoing the kitchen." And it's like you have to have the time and the money to commit to that sort of project. So, it's like a real rich person's project. I think that's just basically rich person small talk.

Molly: Got it. So, at the end of this letter, Lizzie is upset at Charlie for being such a pushover and that he's just doing whatever his sisters say.

Becca: Yes, I have a quote that I highlighted in my copy that I thought was really apt in this situation. "She could not think without anger, hardly without contempt, on that easiness of temper, that want of proper resolution, which now made him the slave of his designing friends, and led him to sacrifice his own happiness to the caprice of their inclination."

Molly: Mm-hmm.

Becca: I wanted to bring this up. You have been saying from Episode One that Bingley-- [00:09:00]

Molly: He needs 12 opinions on everything.

Becca: He does, and that is such a fault in him.

Molly: It's so bad.

Becca: And it's so clear in this moment how big a fault that is.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: I was thinking back to when we were reading those sass chapters in Episode Three where they're talking about Bingley and his-- First of all, there's some great foreshadowing that I did not want to give away.

Molly: They're such a foreshadowing in Episode Three!

Becca: Where he basically Darcy says, "You brag about the fact that you could just leave Netherfield tomorrow."

Molly: Oh, we didn't even catch that one.

Becca: Yeah, that's why I kept asking you about Bingley's character in that moment.

Molly: I didn't even-- there's a lot of foreshadowing that I've caught on listening to our earlier episodes. The fact that he talks about leaving Netherfield in five minutes, I didn't even process until this moment that that's what he has done.

Becca: Yes, he has, and then there's a whole conversation about how it would be to the person who you're leaving. [00:10:00] The friendship at stake. Jane Austen is so smart, guys.

Molly: So smart.

Becca: She's so good at weaving a tale.

Molly: Oh my God.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: Wow.

Becca: But back to these chapters. I really just wanted to draw your attention to that very consistent trait in Charles Bingley.

Molly: Yeah. Additionally, at this point, Lizzie doesn't doubt his feelings for Jane. And she thinks that they can still come back-- that he would still come back for her, but she's pissed that he would sacrifice Jane's happiness.

Becca: Yeah, it's really thoughtless--

Molly: It's terrible.

Becca: --to think of it only in terms of like, oh, my sisters, oh, this that, when you're going to break someone's heart.

Molly: Right.

Becca: Yes.

Molly: So, a few days passed before Jane is able to talk about it. Mrs. Bennet finally leaves her alone with Lizzie. She says to Lizzie after a particularly long tirade of their mother's, she's like, "Oh, mom doesn't know what pain she's causing me by talking about this. But it's all going to be okay soon because she'll forget about Charles Bingley." [00:11:00] Which is sad. Lizzie looks concerned and Jane starts defending herself for once.

Becca: And she's like, "Hey, I'm going to be fine. It's going to be fine."

Molly: But she can't fully finish her sentence, she kind of peters out at the end. She's like, "I'm going to be better."

Becca: She's putting on a really brave face, but it's one of those situations where she really doesn't have a choice but to put on a brave face. What you're going to do? Like run off and have a tirade like her mom? It's not going to change anything.

Molly: You know, cry about it.

Becca: Well, that's true, but she's very British.

Molly: Yeah. And at the end of this, Jane says, "At least she knows that this is all just a mistake on her part. And she just saw love where there was none. And she's the only one suffering right now." And Lizzie is like, "Jane, you're too good." Jane's like, "No, I'm not." And Lucy says, "That's not fair. You say the rest of the world is good and respectable. But the minute I try to compliment you, you deny it." And yeah, that isn't fair. It's also kind of annoying, but she doesn't know how to take a compliment.

Becca: I mean, it is, and Jane [00:12:00] is modest to almost a fault. But I would say there is something very galling about receiving compliments when you feel so bad about yourself.

Molly: That's for sure, for sure. But I also worry that her compliments that she pays other people might sometimes come off as insincere. If she's like, "Oh, you're so good and kind," and all of these things, and someone's like, "Oh my gosh, so are you," and she's like, "No, I'm not. Shut up."

Becca: I get what you're saying, I don't--

Molly: That person can be annoying.

Becca: Yes, definitely. I get what you're saying.

Molly: I'm not trying to throw shade at Jane. We love her.

Becca: We love Jane. This is a particularly aggravating set of chapters until the end, just because it is so obvious what Caroline is doing. And the refusal to see it is a little bit--

Molly: Ignorant?

Becca: Ugh, yes.

Molly: Lizzie says that the more she sees the world, the more she believes she can't trust anyone, and she's met two instances of this lately. **[00:13:00]** "One I will not mention, the other is Charlotte's marriage." I want to know what's the one that she will not mention. Is she talking about Caroline here?

Becca: I think she's talking about Bingley. And the reason she won't mention it is--

Molly: Is because she doesn't want to talk ill of him?

Becca: It's because Jane doesn't want to talk about it.

Molly: Yeah. And Jane defends Collins at this point, saying, "Consider Mr. Collins's respectability and Charlotte's prudent steady character."

Becca: So, we know Collins sucks, but I do think that Lizzie is just way too harsh on Charlotte at this moment.

Molly: She's being way too hard on Charlotte, but she's not being way too hard on Collins.

Becca: Fair enough.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: But I do think there is something to Jane's want for that to be civil, Collins is family. Charlotte is their friend.

Molly: Becca is trying really hard right now.

Becca: I'm defending Jane's defense. I'm not defending Collins.

Molly: Great. That's good. Yeah, no, I get that. And **[00:14:00]** It's true that the match makes a lot of sense for Charlotte, and Jane encourages Lizzie to take into account the possibility that Charlotte might actually like Collins. She says that if Lizzie spends all of her time with negative emotions, it will ruin her happiness, which is true.

Then, Lizzie says she thinks it would be worse if Charlotte actually did like Collins because then she would think of her, think that Charlotte was dumb, and we don't want to think that Charlotte is dumb. She says that Jane should not for the sake of one individual, even Charlotte, change her meaning of principle and integrity. Which is interesting to me because she's saying that Charlotte's done something

that if anyone else did it, you wouldn't defend it. And you can't change your principles just because it's Charlotte, just because it's our friend.

Jane hopes that Lizzie will change her mind though, when she sees them happy together. And she mentions the second instance that Lizzie noticed of this situation, but we were talking about with Bingley and Jane is like, please don't pay me by thinking ill of that [00:15:00] person, meaning Bingley. She says that they can't think that all of this pain was intentional that her vanity made her think that Bingley loved her when really he only admired her and that women in general think admiration means more than it does. Lizzie says that men take care that they should, men lead them on.

Becca: That is a very resonant thing in today's world.

Molly: Yeah. And she clarifies that she's not saying that he's scheming to cause Jane pain, but she does think that he fucked up, he was thoughtless, he lacked resolution, which is his main fault. And she says that if she goes on, she will say bad things about people Jane loves and she says, "Stop me whilst you can." But Jane says, "Please do go on." And Lizzie admits then that she believes that Charles has been influenced by his sisters and Darcy. Jane doesn't understand saying that they only wish for his happiness and if he loved her, then nobody else would make him happy.

Becca: Which is very [00:16:00] sweet, but also so stupid because that assumes everyone's a good person, Jane.

Molly: But Jane does assume that everyone's a good person. And Lizzie explains that they don't only wish for his happiness, but, one, for their own happiness, two, for money, connections, pride, and Jane says then it makes sense that they want him to marry Baby D, which I have now dubbed Georgie Darcy.

Becca: Oh, Baby D!

Molly: But it's not for those reasons that Lizzie has listed but rather because they know her better as a person and they love her. And she says, "If they believe him attached to me, they would not try to part us. If you were so, they could not succeed," which I love. Then, they stopped discussing it because Jane is just too sad. But Mrs. Bennet won't stop discussing it. And Lizzie tries to convince her mom that Charlie only liked Jane in passing, just so that she'll stop talking about it.

Becca: Saying it in front of Jane.

Molly: Yeah. Daddy Bennet, then-- I wrote down that I need to read this quote verbatim. So, one moment. This is so funny. [00:17:00] He says, "So, Lizzie--" [laughs] I'm sorry, I love him so much.

Becca: This is not something I saw growing over the course of this book, but I am living for this.

Molly: I love him. And we were talking to our friends in a group chat, and we were like, "Listen to our podcast, you'll never guess who Molly has a crush on."

Becca: None of them guessed.

Molly: None of them have guessed so far.

Becca: One of them guessed Collins, and I was insulted on your behalf.

Molly: I was insulted as well. And then, they were like, “Oh, right, Lizzie?” And I was like, “Well, duh.”

Becca: Well, everyone has crush on Lizzie, but go back to your daddy.

Molly: “So, Lizzie, your sister is crossed in love, I find. I congratulate her. Next to being married, a girl likes to be crossed in a little love now and then. It is something to think of, and gives her a sort of distinction among her companions. When is your turn to come? You will hardly bear to be long outdone by Jane. Now is your time. Here are officers enough at Meryton to disappoint all the young ladies in the country. Let Wickham be your man. He is a pleasant fellow and would jilt you creditably.” [00:18:00]

Becca: He is the sass master. He's so unfazed by the heartbreak of his daughter.

Molly: So unfazed, and then she says, “We can't all hope for as handsome a man as Jane has found, I'd be happy with anyone.” And he says, “True, but it is a comfort to think that whatever of that kind may befall you, you have an affectionate mother who will always make the most of it.”

[laughter]

Molly: I love him. I love him. I love him. I love him.

Becca: Oh my God, that's so good. I mean, Mrs. Bennet is out here keening in funeral garb, and Mr. Bennet is just cracking jokes about his daughter's reputations.

Molly: Yeah, it's phenomenal.

Becca: Oh, my God.

Molly: Mr. Wickham is around the house a lot and everyone loves him because with him they can always talk shit about Darcy.

Becca: That's everyone's favorite activity.

Molly: It's their favorite except for Jane who senses at this point that's something else [00:19:00] may be up with that whole situation between Wickham and Darcy, and that's where we leave Chapter 1. [makes ominous sounds] Chapter 2. Collins finally leaves on Saturday. I forgot he was there.

Becca: Well, so did they. He's spending all his time with Charlotte.

Molly: Right. So, it's not so bad. But he knows that soon the day would come, that would make him the happiest of men. Literally, every time he talks about this marriage, he talks about how he's going to be the happiest of men.

Becca: My theory on this is **[in a British accent]** Catherine de Bourgh told him he would be happy as a married man, so that he's just like, "I will be happy."

Molly: Oh my God.

Becca: "When I'm married."

Molly: He's literally a ball of floof.

Becca: Like really sexist floof.

Molly: Yeah. And he just sometimes like when he speaks little floof comes out of his mouth, but it's just floof that people put into his brain. He's like a scarecrow and they just put it in, and it comes out.

Becca: **[laughs]** I don't even know where your metaphor is.

Molly: **[laughs]** **[00:20:00]** I picture like, they put cotton in his brain. It's just like, "Oh, here's an idea." And then when he speaks, it goes, ploop.

Becca: So, what you're saying is that, usually with people, they'll get someone telling them something, it'll process through their brain, they will add their own intelligence and experience to it and it'll come out the mouth?

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: In his case, it just goes in and out. There is no ability to synthesize or analyze and create new thoughts. It's simply just, "Oh, Catherine de Bourgh said this. And so, **[in a British accent]** it must be true."

Molly: Correct.

Becca: Yeah, he a dumb boy.

Molly: Mrs. Bennet's brother comes by with his wife.

Becca: Did you really think we were done with the character meeting?

Molly: I did. I thought we were done with the character meeting.

Becca: You done got played.

Molly: Yeah. Mrs. Bennet has a brother, Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner. Mrs. Gardiner is her brother's wife and she's a favorite amongst the daughters. **[00:21:00]**

Becca: Yeah, I think that actually, it's good to evaluate the introduction of Gardiners because up until this point, we've seen that the benefits are allowed an embarrassing family, except Jane and Lizzie who

have this ability to engage with high society. And this is the first time you start to see that they have any relatives that have this sort of grace.

Molly: It's interesting though, Mr. Gardiner? Well, he has this sort of grace and they say that he's a much superior to Mrs. Bennet. He also is like a man of trade. And it says that the Bingley sisters, for example, would be shocked that he's so well bred, working where he works and living where he lives in London.

Becca: Yeah, I think that to get along in high society is not just about having money. It's also that you have to be able to be polite, know your place. And that's what Lizzie and Jane are really good at because Lizzie and Jane are a part of a family that's not extremely wealthy. Mr. Gardiner is not extremely wealthy, [00:22:00] but they have the ability to go into these situations and blend in and the Bennets in general don't. Especially Mrs. Bennet and Kidia.

Molly: Yeah. And that's why Lizzie and Jane particularly love Mrs. Gardiner, because she's so elegant and holds herself well, and they're best friends. And that's why the younger girls gravitate toward Mrs. Phillips because she's the gossip.

Becca: Oh, yes. And also, I think it's mentioned that Mrs. Gardiner is a little younger.

Molly: Yeah. I picture her being hot.

Becca: Yeah. [chuckles] I'm not going to comment on that.

Molly: Oh, no, I hope she's hot. So anyway, Mrs. Gardiner comes, and she gives everyone Christmas presents. And then, Mrs. Bennet complains and tells her everything that's happened. And she's like, "Oh, Jane isn't to blame, but fuck Lizzie." Basically, she's like, "Jane situation could have happened to anyone. Lizzie is all our fault."

Becca: Well, one of them got jilted and the other one turned down a proposal.

Molly: Right, which to her brain is just unheard of.

Becca: Exactly. [00:23:00] Can you imagine if Lizzie had said yes to Collins in the same timeframe when Jane was available, like the jilting still happened, but Lizzie said yes?

Molly: Mrs. Bennet would be in a very different place.

Becca: She would be very disappointed, but she would be less disappointed. I think she would be able to get out of bed which I think is a struggle for her in these chapters.

Molly: Yeah. And she also probably would have a little less affection towards Jane because she's like, "Well, one daughter can do it."

Becca: "Why can't another?"

Molly: Yeah, she also rails on the Lucases and talks about how shitty they are. But she's so grateful to know that long sleeves are in, because Mrs. Gardiner's very stylish and tells them about the latest fashions. Mrs. Gardiner just kind of smiles and nods, but she already knew everything from Jane and Lizzie writing letters. And later, she's talking to Lizzie alone and she says it's sad that this happened to Jane, but men like Bingley so easily fall in love with a pretty girl for a few weeks and when accident separates them, so easily forgets her, which is real.

Becca: Yeah, I also feel like it's possible [00:24:00] Mrs. Gardiner doesn't get a sense of the situation that well.

Molly: Yeah, she doesn't really see how much they were a thing. Lizzie says that's true, but this is not an accident what's happened. She thinks it's interference of friends for why else would he think no more of a girl who he was violently in love with only a few days before? Then, Mrs. Gardiner calls her out, and I wrote that I just need to read this from the book because Mrs. Gardiner has such a fire response to this. She says, "But that expression of violently in love is so hackneyed, so doubtful, so indefinite, that it gives me very little idea. It is as often applied to feelings which arise only from a half hour's acquaintance as to a real strong attachment. Pray, how violent was Mr. Bingley's love?" That's so real. The words 'violently in love' described like a fiery fling.

Becca: Exactly.

Molly: And I think that Lizzie's idea of love from what she goes on to say, is a little bit romanticized.

Becca: Absolutely, for sure. [00:25:00] But I do think that you have to sort of know Bingley to understand how weird this is.

Molly: Yeah. But I--

Becca: I mean, I get Mrs. Gardiner definitely hits the nail on the head.

Molly: It's weird that Bingleys left, but I also don't necessarily at this point trust that his love was as strong as we all believe it was.

Becca: I'm not going to comment on that.

Molly: Okay. Lizzie's like, "No, no, you don't understand. Charlie would only look at Jane and only talk to Jane and sometimes even I tried to say something to him, and he ignored me. Is not general incivility the very essence of love?" Like being so preoccupied by your person that you don't look at anyone else. No, it's not.

Becca: Yes, it's that very unhealthy show of love.

Molly: Yeah, he's violently in love. You can't focus on anything else, which is like fun for a little while, but again, can't last forever. It's the honeymoon phase.

Becca: Truly though. The honeymoon phase also like I love the phrase 'violently in love' as you've said. [00:26:00] It makes me think of Ryan Gosling in *The Notebook*.

Molly: Yeah, definitely.

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: So, Mrs. Gardiner says, “Well, sure. I guess it just sucks that it happened to Jane because she has a hard time getting over things. It would have been so much better if it had happened to Lizzie because she would just brush it off.”

Becca: Which like, thanks.

Molly: Yeah, true. She suggests then to Lizzie that Jane leaves with them and goes to London for some time. Lizzie thinks that's a good idea. Mrs. Gardiner says there's no way they'll run into each other because we'll be in such different parts of London.” Foreshadowing.

[make ominous, foreshadowing noises]

Becca: The whole thing of them leaving Longbourn is starting to manifest.

Molly: Yeah, in the end of the last episode, I was just editing Episode Seven, so it's on my brain. At the end of the last episode, my question moving forward, I got really excited about the prospect of the story leaving this house and going to London, perhaps or going to **[00:27:00]** Pemberley So, yeah, now we're getting into that. And Lizzie is certain that Darcy would never let Bingley anywhere near the area that the Gardiners live because it's too low class, industrial, whatever. But she secretly hopes that Bingley still has feelings. And Jane is very excited to go to London and hopes that because Caroline is not with Bingley and Darcy that she'll still get to hang out with Caroline sometimes, which is Jane.

Becca: She really doesn't understand *Mean Girls*.

Molly: She doesn't get it. So, during the week with the Gardiners there, the Phillippses and the Lucases and the officers and Mr. Wickham are all over all the time.

Becca: You had talked about wanting Wickham to meet Lizzie's parents.

Molly: He is there.

Becca: They've met.

Molly: They've met but we didn't get to see it happen.

Becca: Well, yeah, it all kind of happened very quickly while Jane was mourning.

Molly: Yeah. So, you know what? I don't think that he's in it for the long haul because otherwise we would get a scene. That's just my personal thoughts on that. Mrs. Gardiner starts watching Lizzie and Wickham **[00:28:00]** because Lizzie told her about her crush, and she sees how cozy they are. And she gets a little anxious and wants to warn Lizzie not to fall in love with him which I said, “Why? What's wrong with Wickham?” Especially because they bond, Mrs. G and Wickham, over the fact that they

both have lived in Derbyshire, and she knew Daddy Darcy very well. She knew him to be a very good man, and Wickham fills her in on our present-day Mr. Darcy, and how much of a shit he is.

Becca: Again, Wickham spends his first interaction with Lizzie being like, “Oh, I could never say bad things about Darcy. I don't like to speak ill of people.” But literally every person he meets, he's like, “Darcy sucks. Yup.”

Molly: And she recalls somewhere in her brain that Fitzwilliam Darcy is a very proud, ill-natured boy. And I think that's the first mention of his first name in this book.

Becca: Yeah, I highlighted it for that reason, because I was like, “Oh my [00:29:00] gosh, finally.” I told you that was his first name.

Molly: Yeah, I know.

Becca: I would call him Fitzy.

Molly: Fitzy? Ooh. I hate that.

Becca: [laughs] What would you call him? Will?

Molly: Darcy. I would call him Darcy and his last name Fitzwilliam. That makes much more sense. I wanted to show you my drawing. This is going to be for our Patreon supporters.

[laughter]

Molly: Because my face looks like and then I drew a little face. I think if you're a \$3 patron on Patreon, you get access to pictures of my book.

Becca: It looks a little bit like a Pikachu meme, like the really small O mouth and the big eyes.

Molly: Except they're tiny eyes also. I was staring at my-- [crosstalk]

Becca: But you drew eyebrows to show that the eyes were wide because-- are those not eyebrows?

Molly: Those are eyebrows. Their eyebrows and they're straight across. So, I'm kind of going--

Becca: Oh, okay. I thought you were going--

[laughter]

Becca: This is a podcast and [00:30:00] no one can see what we are doing.

Molly: Go support us on Patreon and then interpret this photo how you will.

Becca: Yeah, we definitely need a poll of our patrons.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: As to what that means.

Molly: Yeah. Moving on to Chapter Three of Volume The Second.

Becca: This is the juicy chapter from this section because the rest are kind of expositiony. This one is a lot more-- It's a vindication on Lizzie's part that Jane finally realizes that maybe, just maybe not everyone is good.

Molly: Yeah. Finally. It starts out with Mrs. Gardiner warning Lizzie about Wickham and saying, "Don't fall in love with him." I'm still like, "Why?" And she explains that her reasoning is that Wickham has no fortune, which I hadn't even thought about.

Becca: Do you want to do the economy lecture or shall I?

Molly: I think at this point, we all know that Lizzie needs to marry someone with money or else she will be destitute as Charlotte is now marrying her one hope and keeping her estate. **[00:31:00]** So, it makes sense that she's warning her. Otherwise, Mrs. Gardiner says Wickham would be a perfect match, but as it is, She'd better use her good sense and she better not disappoint her father, which I was like, "Yeah, you better not." And Lizzie said, "I'll take care of myself and I'll do my best to prevent him from falling in love with me." Which is an interesting thing to promise. And Mrs. Gardiner worries that she's not really taking it too seriously. But Lizzie assures her that she is that she understands the imprudence of the match, and she curses Darcy for having deprived good, good Wickham of the good, good fortune.

Becca: What a bitch cracker's move on Lizzie's part.

Molly: Lizzie has major bitch cracker--

Becca: Such bitch cracker syndrome.

Molly: But also like, great, one more reason to hate Darcy. I'm on board. And she says that she wouldn't want to disappoint her father, but she also notes that her father is very partial to Wickham and has even told her so. And she doesn't want to make anyone unhappy. But as she notes, young people often go with their hearts rather than thinking about money. **[00:32:00]** She can't promise that she would be any wiser than most young people, which is great. Yeah, Lizzie. And she promises simply not to be in a hurry. She says, "I won't be in a hurry to believe that he likes me. I will not wish for anything when I'm with him. And I'll just do my best." So rational, so realistic. She's not promising anything outside of her ability. I love that for her.

Becca: Yeah, it's really such a cordial advice giving and taking session.

Molly: Yeah. And Mrs. Gardiner says, "Okay. Maybe also discourages coming here so often, or at least stop reminding your mom to invite him." And Lizzie's like, I did. And she's like, "Okay."

Becca: Have you ever had a friend who is hung up on a guy and you're like, "Don't go to his social media. Don't text him." And then you just know that she's like--

Molly: And you see that they liked it?

Becca: Yeah, exactly. And you're just like, "Oh, you were on it." That's the callout here.

Molly: Yep. And Lizzie reminds Mrs. Gardiner that he's only really been there so often this week because her mom really wants to entertain the guests, [00:33:00] so she keeps inviting company over. And it says, then, as you said, "They part happily, a wonderful instance of advice being given on such a point without being resented." Which is nice.

Becca: It also speaks to how much she respects Mrs. Gardiner's opinion.

Molly: Yeah, totally.

Becca: Because that's just not advice she would have necessarily taken from her mother.

Molly: Oh, if her mom said anything of this sort to her-- [crosstalk]

Becca: She would elope.

Molly: Yeah, she'd be like, "Mom, shut up." But it's funny because Mrs. Gardiner started the conversation by saying, "Lizzie, I know that you're not the type of person who would go fall in love just because I said don't fall in love." And I was like, yeah, most people would. But Lizzie, she's going to take it seriously from you. Not from her mom. Her mom said it, she would be like, "Great. I'm going to fall in love now."

Becca: Oh, yeah. No, it's because Mrs. Gardiner's legitimately so rational and would not say it for any reason other than the fact that it's totally true.

Molly: Wow. We really love to talk about *Pride and Prejudice*. You know who else wants to talk about *Pride and Prejudice*? [00:34:00] Our sponsor, The Ballarat National Theatre. They've created the *Pride and Prejudice* podcast where they're reading the entire book from start to finish, chapter by chapter. And the best part is that they have real actors reading all the different characters making it super easy to follow along with the story. So, if you just can't get enough *Pride and Prejudice*, which like same, check them out at ballaratnationaltheatre.buzzsprout.com or wherever you listen to podcasts. You can also follow them on Instagram at [@balnattheatre](https://www.instagram.com/balnattheatre), that's B-A-L-N-A-T, theatre with an R-E. Now, let's get back to the podcast.

So, Collins comes back after the Gardiners and Jane leave, but he stays with the Lucases instead. So, it doesn't really matter that he's there. Mrs. Bennet even says that she wishes that they might be happy, but she says this in an ill-natured tone.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: They're getting married on Thursday.

Becca: Yep and very sudden.

Molly: So, on Wednesday, Charlotte comes to say goodbye, and Mrs. Bennet is very salty towards her. So, Lizzie feels bad and she walks her out for a private goodbye. They agree that they're going to write often. **[00:35:00]** Charlotte asks Lizzie to come to Hunsford with her father and sister in March, and Lizzie's first like, "No, I'll see you when you're here." And she's like, "Please, I might not be back before then." And Lizzie agrees to go.

The wedding happens Charlotte leaves, and they write as much as they always have, but that it should be equally unreserved was impossible because all the trust is gone.

Becca: It really is. And it's so sad. We love female friendship on this podcast.

Molly: We do.

Becca: This female friendship in particular, although we had very little time with it, speaks to such a kindred spirit friendship.

Molly: Yeah, I mean, it was the most important friendship in the book. I mean, besides Jane and Lizzie, but they're sisters. Lizzie and Charlotte was the first friendship that we were introduced to.

Becca: Yeah, and you really get a sense of equals in wit and the fact that they're now so alienated from each other over a boy, not even a man, a boy.

Molly: A dumb boy.

Becca: A dumb boy, is upsetting.

Molly: Yeah, **[00:36:00]** so Charlotte's first letter arrives and it basically speaks as everyone expected to very positively of Hunsford and basically it's Collins' glowing descriptions of Hunsford rationally softened, so she gives an accurate description of how pretty it is but it's not the best and how Lady Catherine de Bourgh is a nice woman, but she's not the best.

Becca: Yeah, I think it's that you've been getting Collins being an idiot and describing things like an idiot and then you have Charlotte being like, "Oh, he's right. It is nice, but I'm just going to say it better."

Molly: Right. And Jane also writes to say that she'd already been week in town and hasn't heard from or seen Caroline but she assumes that the letter to Caroline saying that she was going to be in London was lost in the mail.

Becca: It is quintessential "Oh my God, I am just seeing this text now. Sorry."

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: You know what I'm saying?

Molly: Oh my God, exactly like that!

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: [00:37:00] The next day, Mrs. Gardiner is going into the area where Caroline's, so Jane is just going to hop along and drop in on Caroline.

Becca: I feel like there's a tiny piece of Jane doing this to try unseemingly. I mean, I know it's mostly to see Caroline and she's genuine about that. But I do think she kind of wants to just get a glimpse of him.

Molly: She really does.

Becca: Oh, Jane.

Molly: It's sad. She goes to their house and she writes again. She says that Caroline seemed very happy to see her and was all, "Oh, why didn't you tell me you were going to be here?" Like you said, "I just saw this text now." Jane thinks she was right about her letter being lost in the mail. I sincerely doubt that but Caroline tells her that she hardly sees her brother because she obviously asked after Bingley. And she said Ms. Darcy is coming to dinner, Baby D, so Jane has to leave. So, Jane left. And she's sure that they're going to call on her soon.

Four weeks pass, still no Bingley, but Jane is mostly [00:38:00] sad now that Caroline is intentionally avoiding her. She's finally come to that conclusion after two weeks when Caroline comes back, and her manners could deceive her no longer. The book says, "The letter which she wrote on this occasion to her sister will prove what she felt." I had a question here about the narrator because I got an image at this line of Jane Austen sitting in a library in a rocking chair reading this to me.

Becca: I love that image of the narrator because there are, throughout the book, little cheats and asides, where you get to hear about something that the characters don't know about.

Molly: Right, because usually I'm like, "Oh, the narrator is Lizzie's brain."

Becca: But sometimes the narrator is.

Molly: Sometimes it is, but sometimes it's Jane's brain and sometimes it's this person who's in a rocking chair.

Becca: Well, if you recall chapter six, which is where you get the first of the Darcy thirst, you remember that was not something Lizzie was picking up on. That was just Darcy standing in a corner with blood rushing to certain places.

Molly: Yeah. [00:39:00] Ew, ew, ew.

Becca: [laughs]

Molly: Yep. So, in this letter, Jane starts the letter by saying, "Lizzie, I know you won't say I told you so.

Becca: I feel like Lizzie would have said I told you so.

Molly: Lizzie absolutely would have, but she starts by saying, “Lizzie, I know you won't. You better not.” She describes Caroline's visit, and she says that Caroline was very standoffish, and she didn't say anything about wishing to see her again.” And Jane decides that she doesn't want to be her friend anymore because how could she want to be friends with someone who doesn't want to be friends with her? And she says even though she pities Caroline, because she knows that she must know she's been acting wrong and she believes that her actions were more motivated by anxieties over her brother. This is where I got a little lost.

Becca: So, I think what Jane is saying is that Caroline was trying to manipulate Bingley out of being with her, but that she must feel bad about it because she knows it's a bad thing to do, because she's assuming Caroline is the type of person who feels remorse or would see this as something bad to do.

Molly: [00:40:00] And the anxieties over her brother are of him marrying someone with money.

Becca: Exactly, like wanting her brother to be better off in the world and it not being personal to Jane.

Molly: I see.

Becca: There is an element of truth to this. It's not necessarily entirely personal to Jane that they don't want Bingley to marry her. It is somewhat societal. But I don't think Caroline feels bad about it.

Molly: No, she doesn't. But then, Jane says we know these anxieties to be needless. What does she know?

Becca: Oh, that Jane's not trying to take advantage of Bingley's money.

Molly: Oh, I see. Okay. So, she then says, if Bingley cared about her at all, they would have already seen each other at this point, so there's no-- Oh, I see. No point in worrying.

Becca: Exactly.

Molly: And she says on her visit it seemed that Caroline really wanted to persuade herself that Charlie likes Baby D, maybe that means that Jane still has some hope that he doesn't really like Baby D, I don't know. [00:41:00] And Jane is almost tempted, almost tempted, to say she senses duplicity in this, almost.

Becca: The duplicity is literally slapping her in the face over and over and over again. So, I'm glad she's sensing.

Molly: Almost sensing.

Becca: I glad she's almost sensing the duplicity.

Molly: Yeah, and she's like, but never mind all that. I'm going to think happy thoughts. By the way, Caroline says they're giving up Netherfield and never coming back. But I'm going to just think happy

thoughts and we shouldn't mention that to anyone else and go visit our friends at Hunsford, which would be Charlotte and Collins. Lizzie is glad that Jane is no longer being duped. But she's lost all expectation of Bingley that he might renew his affection for her. As a punishment for him as well as a possible advantage to Jane, she seriously hopes that he might really soon marry Mr. Darcy's sister as by Wickham's account, she would make him abundantly regret when he had thrown away.

Becca: Oh, yeah, there's a full, you're going to regret what you did situation here because, again, we aren't imagining [00:42:00] what did transpire between Jane and Bingley. We know that. There is something that did happen, how is he going to go off and marry someone, especially someone who by accounts is snotty?

Molly: Yeah, speaking of Wickham, Mrs. Gardiner asks about that. And Lizzie reports that he has a new person that he likes. Since when? What? Who? What? And it's a person who has recently come into 10,000 pounds. Lizzie isn't offended. But the narrator notes that Lizzie might be slightly less clear-sighted in this situation than she was, for example, in Charlotte's situation, but she wishes him happy. Really, does she? And Lizzie's certain that she's never been in love. If she had loved Wickham, she would not now be able to hear his name. She would detest Ms. King, which is the new girl. And as it is, she has no negative thoughts. But here's the thing. Lizzie, I don't think that your idea of love is correct [00:43:00] yet again, because you could still love someone and not hate them after they find someone new.

You could be deeply in love with someone and care for their happiness, and if they like someone else, and you're happy for them. And I think there's a difference between actual material love and what she's calling violent love because I'm not saying that she was necessarily in love with Wickham. But in general, her idea is wrong. And what she's describing is petty, and Lizzie's not a petty person. So, of course, she's not going to be petty about it. Maybe she is a petty person. I don't know.

Becca: But I do think there is something to the fact that you had no description here of the heart drop to your stomach moment you have when someone you like is flirting with somebody else.

Molly: Yeah, it sucks.

Becca: It's terrible. Even if you don't hate the person, which sometimes you do, sometimes you don't. When you really care for someone, and you see them paying attention to somebody else, [00:44:00] it is gut wrenching. And what we're getting here is that Lizzie's gut isn't wrenched. Take of that what you would.

Molly: I don't believe that her guts not wrenched. I'll get into that a little bit more--

Becca: So, you think that Lizzie's hiding this from the narrator.

Molly: I think Lizzie's hiding this from the narrator. I think we're going to get into this a little bit in the next chapter. But the narrator talks away too much about how cordial Lizzie and Wickham are.

Becca: Yeah, that is awkward and weird, isn't it?

Molly: It's super weird. But at this point, she does note that Kidia is probably more upset that Wickham has found someone new. They don't really understand yet that handsome men need money too. He married a woman who has a large sum of money.

Becca: Well, he isn't married to nobody.

Molly: He's not married.

Molly and Becca: He's flirting.

Becca: He's flirting with another woman.

Molly: You're right, he's not even married, but she's a woman whose father has just died and left her 10,000 pounds. Chapter 4. January, February uneventful. So, now we're in March.

Becca: Fun fact, the first piece of this book took place over so little time and now we are zooming through months.

Molly: Yeah. Things are probably happening.

Becca: I mean part of it is that Jane Austen's like, we don't [00:45:00] want to focus on England in the wintertime, that is brutal.

Molly: That's true. March comes around and now Lizzie is excited to go to Hunsford because distance made the heart grow fonder of Charlotte, she misses her. And she's even--

Becca: I think the phrase 'absence' made the fart-- [laughs] fart go on--

[laughter]

Becca: Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Molly: Distance.

Becca: Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Molly: Distance makes the heart grow fonder. [crosstalk]

Becca: Okay. No, because my father has the world's worst joke connected to this.

Molly: What is the joke? You have to tell us now.

Becca: Okay. So, there's this guy and he is working and living his life and he gets a gastrointestinal thing. And it's weird, because every time he farts, his farts just go "Honda, Honda, Honda." So, he goes to several different specialists and they sent him to the leading expert in the world, and he describes what's happening. And the leading expert in the world says, "Oh, you have an abscess. We have to operate [00:46:00] immediately." And it turns out this guy had like an abscess on the verge of rupturing.

Molly: I know where this is going-- **[crosstalk]**

Becca: He's fixed. He's talking to the expert, and he says, "How did you know that it was that?" He goes, "Oh, it's a very old saying, abscess makes the fart go Honda."

Molly: That's a terrible joke.

Becca: It is the worst joke. There's no saving it in any way but--

Molly: Oh, no. Oh, no. The proverb "absence makes the heart grow fonder" describes the feeling of greater affection between friends and lovers who are kept apart. But I said, but-- who told me distance? I mean, it's a phrase too. It's just not *the* phrase apparently.

Becca: I don't know, but I've always heard absence.

Molly: Okay, who said distance makes the heart grow fonder? "The research leads to Francis Davidson's poetical rhapsody in 1602, where the words appear as the first phrase of a poem in addition. However, **[00:47:00]** the author of this poem remains anonymous and the identity of the writer unknown to this day. Absence makes the heart grow fonder: Isle of Beauty, fare thee well.

Becca: So, that's absence.

Molly: I know. This is so weird. Anyway.

Becca: So, distance made Lizzie's heart grow fonder.

Molly: And it made her heart hate Collins less, which is good.

Becca: Yeah, I mean he's one of those people that you can say has some redeeming qualities outside of his presence. But when you're in his presence, you have to concentrate so hard on not strangling him, that you don't see the good things about him which I'm sure--

Molly: Are few.

Becca: --vaguely exist.

Molly: Yeah. She's also excited to get away from her mom and her sisters. Question.

Becca: Yes.

Molly: Do they not go to school?

Becca: No.

Molly: Great.

Becca: Men often went to school.

Molly: Are they homeschooled or did they just--

Becca: Yes.

Molly: Okay. Does Mrs. Bennet homeschool them?

Becca: It depends. It is not clear which Bennet sisters were schooled by whom.

Molly: Is this around the time of Jane Eyre [00:48:00]?

Becca: Um, yeah-ish.

Molly: There's a person who teaches them in that.

Becca: Yeah, it's like women were taught by tutors and governesses. Like, Maria Von Trapp, which is much later, but it's the same concept. And men went to school, you didn't send ladies away quite as often.

Molly: Got it. She's also going to go visit Jane while she's gone. She's only sad to leave Daddy Bennet who tells her to write and he almost promises to answer her letter. How long is she leaving for?

Becca: A while. You go for a while, remember Collins stayed with them a bunch.

Molly: Yeah, but to write and then he might even return her letter?

Becca: Well, think about how long Jane's been gone.

Molly: Oh yeah, she's been gone like over a month. She's been gone like three months. Wow. So then, Lizzie gives a friendly farewell to Wickham, which I was just speaking about. It's so cordial, he reminds her what to expect in Catherine de Bourgh, and is sure that she'll feel the same way he does about her, since they feel the same about everyone [00:49:00] and everything. Lizzie's convinced that whether married or single, Wickham must always be her model of the amiable and pleasing. This isn't a realistic goodbye. And if it is a realistic goodbye, it is very-- they're standing there and they're like, "Hahaha, we're such good friends."

Becca: I'm not going to comment on this.

Molly: I really don't think that it's possible. They're about to just go be best friends.

Becca: So, what do you think?

Molly: Well, I think that-- I guess, I don't know. I mean, who the fuck is Ms. King?

Becca: She's joining in our little love web.

Molly: She is. Well, actually it could be kind of fun if Lizzie and Wickham become best friends who hate Darcy. But then, there would be no drama between Wickham and Darcy who hate each other because if Darcy and Wickham were both courting Lizzie, that would be fun, but if just Darcy's courting Lizzie, but Darcy can't court Lizzie because Darcy is promised to Baby de Bourgh. I don't know. I just think that Lizzie is going to watch Wickham and April King [00:50:00].

Becca: Well, I guess her name is April now.

Molly: Who is April King? [laughs]

Becca: I have no idea. [laughs] I don't know who you're talking about.

Molly: Well, it's might be a *Gilmore Girls* character. Anyway. Maybe she's going to watch him fall in love with this King person and she's going to be sad about it. Unless they become best friends. Then, she goes, and she travels with Sir William and Maria Lucas. And it is a bad traveling situation because they're both dumb.

Becca: And you said Lizzie wasn't petty. I never did.

Molly: Lizzie is so petty. I was so wrong. She just can't stand them. But they reach Mrs. Gardiners house in London and Jane seems great. She has a bunch of little cousins who are really excited to see Lizzie and they're all hiding on the stairs, which is very cute. Then, they all go to the theater and Lizzie sits next to her aunt to get the tea. The tea is, Jane is sad. Mrs. Gardiner thinks that Wickham is being mercenary, and she asks about Ms. King.

Becca: This is interesting a little.

Molly: This is super interesting, this discussion of money here.

Becca: And this is definitely a study question coming up, so we'll get to it. But Lizzie's reaction here versus Mrs. Gardiner's reaction here might tell you a little-- And also Jane Austen's little aside that Lizzie's judgment is clouded on this because of her regard for Wickham tells you a little something about what we think of Wickham versus what we think of women trying to marry up.

Molly: Yeah, there's a great quote on that I believe. Sidenote, whenever I hear the word 'mercenary,' I think it in Carrie Fisher's voice.

Becca: Yes! Do it for us in the Carrie Fisher's voice.

Molly: I need to find a quote from *Star Wars* about the mercenary, one second, because I need to do it right. [in Carrie Fisher's voice] "Your friend is quite the mercenary."

Becca: Oh, that was actually a pretty good Carrie Fisher.

Molly: Thank you. I just watched that movie two days ago.

Becca: [chuckles] Yeah. Molly's a big ol' *Star Wars* fan.

Molly: Yeah. So, Lizzie calls Mrs. Gardiner out on this double standard that you've just mentioned. She says Mrs. Gardiner was so worried about Wickham marrying Lizzie [00:52:00] because it would be imprudent for Lizzie, but now he's being mercenary for marrying up. And Mrs. Gardiner will know what to think. She says, "I'll know what to think" when she knows everything. Lizzie assures her Ms. King is a good person. But Mrs. Gardiner points out that he didn't even know who she was before her dad died and left her the money, so it seems a little indelicate, but Lizzie wonders why they should have a problem with it if Ms. King doesn't. And Mrs. Gardiner says, maybe she's deficient in sense or feeling, basically saying maybe she's a little dumb.

Lizzie gives up then and there's like, "Fine, have it as you choose. He is mercenary and she is foolish." Mrs. Gardiner says she doesn't choose that. She doesn't choose to think ill of a young man from Derbyshire. And Lizzie is so sarcastic here. And she's like--

Becca: Oh, give it to us. You just wrote DOUBLE STANDARD in big letters.

Molly: Lizzie says, "Oh, if that is all, I have a very poor opinion of young men who live in Derbyshire and their intimate friends who live in Hertfordshire are not much better. [00:53:00] I am sick of them all. Thank heaven. I'm going tomorrow where I shall find a man who has not one agreeable quality, who has neither manner nor sense to recommend him. Stupid men are the only ones worth knowing after all."

Becca: What a mood!

Molly: It's such a mood. She's saying like, first of all, who are the men who live in Derbyshire? Darcy--

Becca: And Wickham.

Molly: --and Wickham, and their intimate friends who live in Hertfordshire, literally everyone else, aren't much better. Nobody is good, because all of the men suck, and I'll only talk to the dumb ones. That's Collins.

Becca: Well, I mean, yeah, I think she's mostly just saying, I just need a man who's dumb enough to not be manipulative or gross.

Molly: Oh, yeah.

Becca: Yeah. And also, she's just saying fuck all men at this point. Well, because she's like, "I've liked one dude ever, you keep shitting on him. So, fuck all men."

Molly: Yeah, she's saying like, the only man who anyone has encouraged her to marry so far has been this dumb one. Mrs. Gardiner says that Lizzie's sarcasm is betraying her [00:54:00] disappointment at the fact that Wickham--

Becca: Is flirting with another woman? Yes, exactly.

Molly: Then the play ends, and I realized that they were having this entire conversation during a play.

Becca: Yeah, as an actor, I was not keen on that revelation.

Molly: Yeah. I think that there's something about the time period, I mean. Yeah, but I like to picture the whole thing was whispering.

Becca: Oh, I'm sure it was.

Molly: Yeah. Then, Mrs. Gardiner offers Lizzie the proposal of coming with them on a trip, like a road trip where they go to the nature, the countryside, the lakes. And Lizzie gets very excited about this and she goes on a rant about how they will be great travelers and remember every single thing that they do, and it's a very weird speech. She just goes on about how they're going to take it all away, and everything. But there's one really good line in it, which is, "What are men to rocks and mountains?" Basically, she's going to forget all about all of this trouble.

Becca: Which is such a mood. I want to go to the country. We live in New York City, as I'm sure [00:55:00] you've learned from every single time we've mentioned it in this podcast, but I would kill to just go off into the countryside for a month and just be at one with nature and not think about the New York dating scene.

Molly: Oh, yeah. Well, I'm excited to go home for Thanksgiving and just stay there for a little while and just be in my hometown.

Becca: So nice. My parents live in New York City as well.

Molly: Ah, yes.

Becca: So, I will be here.

Molly: Becca's parents are on vacation without her right now and she's salty.

Becca: It's pretty devastating. I mean, I'm dog sitting my dog which is amazing because he's the best thing that's ever happened to the universe.

Molly: We do love dog.

Becca: This dog is the most perfect angel.

Molly: Becca's dog holds hands, and it's nice.

Becca: It's really sweet. And he just loves a lot, but my parents are in Maui.

Molly: Yes. Fuck that.

Becca: And I am not. I am in law school finals. It's terrible.

Molly: So, shall we move on to--

Becca: The study questions?

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: I have several. I actually want to start with my last on this **[crosstalk]** right now.

Molly: Oh great.

Becca: Which is, how **[00:56:00]** does Volume The Second differ in tone from Volume The First?

Molly: Oh, well, it's a lot more fast paced.

Becca: It is.

Molly: For starters, as you mentioned.

Becca: We've had transition from Volume The First and the entire, like mini microcosm of a story that happened there, to immediately transitioning into setting up Volume The Second. That means simultaneously wrapping up Volume The First and setting up for Volume The Second, so it's chock full of info.

Molly: Yeah, it's less introductory, because Volume The First was like, "This is this character. Let me tell you about this character." "This is this character. This is their relationship to everyone else." And now, we know all of that, aside from the Gardiners, so now we're getting more into their relationships, the drama, the plot. It's getting more intricate and harder for my brain to comprehend.

Becca: Well, I'm glad we're going through it at this rate, because I feel like we're layering everything so well, that we're catching all the things. So, you're ready for this at this point. **[00:57:00]** Do you feel ready?

Molly: I feel ready.

Becca: Good. I'm so proud.

Molly: I feel ready. I feel hyped to find out what happens next. My brain is starting to make up really wild, endings to this story.

Becca: I'm so going to ask you about those but we're going to go through my other study questions first. So, I wanted to talk about the loss of two suitors in this chapter in different ways. We have the loss of Bingley, which is kind of like a rug pulled out from under the story, the reader, Jane, Lizzie, Mrs. Bennet, mostly Mrs. Bennet. But you also have Wickham who's not exactly lost right now, but there's a--

Molly: Wickham is lost to me. He's dead to me.

Becca: Oh, why?

Molly: He's found someone new for money.

Becca: Okay. Yeah. So, I wanted to talk about how these losses, these breakups are similar and how they're different. [00:58:00] I think the connecting factor between the two seems to be money.

Molly: Money. Bingley is being manipulated by other people to marry up. Well, not to marry up but to marry equal, not to marry down. Wickham is also trying to marry up, but it seems like this is happening on his own accord. I don't think anyone externally is pulling any strings because it seems like everyone we know would be rooting for it, except Darcy. Darcy wouldn't be rooting for it. Darcy is rooting for--

Becca: Well, Darcy is rooting for somehow getting to hold Lizzie Bennet close to his-- like deeply uncomfortable body.

Molly: Right. So, this is what I'm saying is that everyone else that we know would be rooting for Wickham and Lizzie aside from Mrs. Gardiner, but she wouldn't have pulled any strings.

Becca: So, you think Wickham's acting on his own accord?

Molly: Unless Darcy did something.

Becca: Yeah. I also think there's something to be said for the fact that the buildup with Wickham has been significantly less than with Bingley.

Molly: Right. We got like a chapter.

Becca: Yeah. I also wrote, RIP Jingley. [00:59:00] Well, we'll get to that though.

Molly: Yeah, that's one of my wild theories for the future.

Becca: I am so excited. You are building up anticipation within these study questions themselves.

Molly: It's not that exciting. It's just like-- for me, it's wild to contemplate.

Becca: Okay. So, the next question I had was actually about Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner, because, bitch, you thought you'd heard all the characters in this book so far. You keep getting surprised.

Molly: I do. I love Mrs. Gardiner.

Becca: She's fabulous, isn't she?

Molly: She's my favorite character aside from Daddy Bennet.

Becca: I am so happy to hear that. She is such a good choice of character. She is awesome.

Molly: Thank you. She's so good. She's the only person who talks reasonably, I was like, "Oh my God, someone is saying the things that I've been thinking this whole time." Someone is like a 21st century woman popping in here.

Becca: She is so self-possessed, so secure in herself, so confident. She's also so in tune with her own time in terms of etiquette and society and what her expectations are [01:00:00], and what her peers' expectations are. She's great. And there's a common thread in other Austen books as well, of a slightly older companion, who's sort of set in the world, but is really good confidant. She's not as big a character as others may be in other books.

Molly: Ooh.

Becca: But she really is that. She's got no skin in this game other than the happiness of her nieces because she's pretty comfortable in herself at her own life at this point.

Molly: Yeah. It makes me excited to hopefully learn more about Mr. Gardiner, because I feel like they'd be a hot couple.

Becca: All we know at this point is Mr. Gardiner seems pretty chill. And he's a tradesman.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: So that he's like-- I think that's like-- [crosstalk] No, no, no, not that kind of tradesman. Think more like lawyer class.

Molly: Oh, okay.

Becca: No, we're not in the underclass again. You will know when Jane Austen is writing about someone who's deeply underclass. Wickham is so [01:01:00] far the poorest person, I think, of this story.

Molly: That's wild.

Becca: And Wickham is still a pretty well-respected military man. All right. Charlotte versus Wickham. We talked about this a little because we had Lizzie being told not to marry Wickham because he was poor. We also have Charlotte literally marrying Collins for her livelihood. And then, we have Wickham and people who are looking down on Wickham flirting with this woman. Granted, it does seem pretty soon after her dad died, which is not great. But I wanted to talk a little bit about this partially because I have talked a lot about the income of women related to the romance and I have not talked about the income of men related to romance.

So, many women have dowries. That's again how they consolidate power in the upper classes and also the reason men want to score a rich lady because if women marry, then they get their money kind of. But Mrs. Bennet's money is not enough to sustain her children [01:02:00]. So, basically, the difference we will see here between Wickham and Charlotte, and Mrs. Gardiner's advice to Lizzie, is that women are expected to marry for money. Men are not. Men are expected in the gender roles of this society to be the provider of the money.

Molly: Yeah. But then he's kind of stuck, isn't he?

Becca: Yeah, because of the Darcy situation. When I say that it ruined his life, it's not an exaggeration, necessarily.

Molly: Yeah. He's fucked him over royally. And Lizzie says that too.

Becca: Yeah, if he had money, he could have boned Lizzie Bennet.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: Think about that. Think about what he's lost.

Molly: He's lost the best-- Yeah, but here's the thing.

Becca: The best lady in the Shire. Yes.

Molly: Yes. The thing is, though, that nobody-- I mean, [01:03:00] people do think, "Oh, Charlotte did pretty okay for herself," but also, they're mad at her for the situation.

Becca: Lizzie's mad at her.

Molly: Lizzie's mad at her and Mrs. Bennet is mad at her.

Becca: Everybody else is pretty chill.

Molly: That's true.

Becca: They're all mocking her a bit --

Molly: He's stupid.

Becca: --because she's old and he's stupid. So, there's something ridiculous to the match, but they actually--

Molly: But it was about time.

Becca: Yeah, but when Bingley and Jane were flirting, that wasn't what people were saying. People were like, "What a good match for her! Oh my God, looks like she was pretty enough to get really rich!"

Molly: Yeah, and it's totally different. Wickham is hot, but what Mrs. Gardiner has basically said is that like, "You can't marry a guy like that."

Becca: Yeah, Wickham is hot.

Molly: Hanukkah.

Becca: He is not quite yet. But Wickham is hot! And he's charming and he's smart. I did want to just point that out. I also think there's something to be said for the fact that men have a little bit more choice in how they get money, generally. I mean, it's not easy to play the class [01:04:00] game in England in this time period, but it's not impossible unless you're a woman. So, there is this notion that Wickham could figure something out on his own. But it's so frowned upon for him to be trying to look for someone to marry for money. That's not something men are supposed to do. Anyway. I said, we have travel in this chapter.

Molly: We do.

Becca: You were wondering if we were going to leave Longbourn.

Molly: Yeah. And we did.

Becca: We did.

Molly: We went to London. Well, through letters.

Becca: Well, now we are in London.

Molly: Oh, yeah. Lizzie just went to London

Becca: And she's headed to Hunsford and she got this little countryside travel planned with Mr and Mrs. Gardiner over the summer.

Molly: I really need to see that.

Becca: I'm not telling you whether or not. I'm just saying that Lizzie is adventuring in the world.

Molly: Lizzie is adventuring in the world. Oh my God, maybe she'll meet a mountain man.

Becca: Oh, man. Somebody who is stupid enough for Lizzie to deal with him as she is now [01:05:00] sworn off smart men.

Molly: [chuckles] Yeah, we got travel these chapters. It's exciting. London seemed like it was going to be a time since they're like, "Oh, they're definitely not going to run into Bingley." Wink-wink. I mean, so far, they haven't, but I imagine that Lizzie might be able to find him. I don't know. And, yeah, I'm excited to be away from Mrs. Bennet. Sad to leave Daddy Bennet, I feel exactly the same as Lizzie.

Becca: What about Kidia and Mary?

Molly: I'm excited to come back to them, but I won't miss them.

Becca: That is fair. I think also you're going to get to see characters traverse new areas. We've been country nice, now we're city nice. Where else will we go? Well, one thing we do know is that we are going to Hunsford, which is Collins and Charlotte's place.

Molly: Oh my God. I can't wait to meet Baby de Bourgh.

Becca: What about--

Molly: Lady Catherine, I'm excited to meet.

Becca: Sorry. Let's say it one more time.

Molly and Becca: [01:06:00] [with a British accent] Catherine de Bourgh.

Molly: Yeah. I'm excited to meet her but I'm really excited about Baby de Bourgh because I want to see Darcy in her.

Becca: So, one of my things I was going to ask is about your predictions.

Molly: For?

Becca: Hunsford?

Molly: Hunsford.

Becca: What's going to go down in Hunsford?

Molly: I imagine some talking down to from the de Bourghs towards the Lizzie. I imagine, Charlotte's got to break. She's got to be like, "This guy is too much for me." So, I want to see that heart to heart. I want to see how William Lucas and Catherine de Bourgh interact because I feel like that's going to be funny pairing. Do we think Darcy's going to be at Hunsford? Oh my God! How would he even be there? He's supposed to be with Bingley, but, oh my God, can you imagine if Darcy was at Hunsford because he had to be with de Bourgh, like they were starting that process? And Lizzie was at Hunsford and they're at Hunsford together. Oh my God, that's exactly what's going to happen. [01:07:00] I'm certain of it.

Becca: I'm not going to confirm or deny that.

Molly: Great.

Becca: Okay. I wanted to take a moment to mourn Jingley.

Molly: Yeah. Rest in peace. So, I'll tell you my wild theory is that, again, I've always thought, I know all the characters in this book, that's it. But what if Bingley just goes by the wayside, and we're done with him? And Jane meet someone new, and we move on to a different man? That to me is a wild theory. I went into this book having the concept of there are going to be four characters, and we're going to know exactly what happens with them at the beginning and it would be very interesting to me if we were just wrong, if I was wrong, and the original pairings just disintegrate and we meet other people and start caring about new people and we stop caring about Bingley. I know it's a thought.

Becca: I'm not going to confirm or deny that either.

Molly: So, RIP Jingley.

Becca: RIP. Just RIP to when she was sick, and he was taking care of [01:08:00] her.

Molly: It was very cute. Oh, come on. You're doing a montage now? Aww.

Becca: Yes. I literally said we're going to do an RIP montage. Graham, this is where we put the sad music. Yeah, okay, here. [sad music] Sad music. Now, we have the meeting at the beautiful public ball, and he dances with her twice.

Molly: Two times.

Becca: Then, he tells everyone he adores her. And then, you have--

Molly: He asks for his sister's opinions on her.

Becca: Then, she goes to have dinner with the sisters, gets sick. He takes care of her. He goes to visit her with Darcy on the horse.

Molly: Oh yes. Together on the horse.

Becca: Together on the horse. And then, they share one last ball together. And then, he left.

Molly: Single tear emoji.

Becca: Graham, you can stop the sad music now. [music stops] Okay, so that leads us to our last three, we do whatever end of episode, funniest quote.

Molly: So, I wrote one down, it's early on, and there were some that [01:09:00] were funnier after that, but I've already said them and I think it'd be fun to do one that I didn't talk about during the episode. So, this one is, in the beginning, in the first chapter, when Lizzie and Jane are arguing about the merits of love or whatever. The context isn't really important. She says, "There are a few people whom I really love, and still fewer of whom I think well," and I thought this was funny because I pictured the few people that she really loves and then even fewer of whom she actually likes. And I was like she loves her mom, but she doesn't like her mom.

Becca: Yeah, that's very true.

Molly: And so, I thought that was funny. The funniest quote was probably when I read Daddy Darcy saying, Daddy-- Oh my God, Daddy Bingley. Daddy. [laughs] Daddy Bennet saying--

Becca: You are missing Darcy and Bingley, aren't you?

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: RIP.

Molly: RIP. But the one that Daddy Bennet said that I was cackling about but this one was a good [01:10:00] second choice.

Becca: Good. Questions going forward?

Molly: Will we ever see Caroline again? And will we see Darcy at Hunsford? Because now I'm excited about the prospects of that.

Becca: Okay. And who wins the chapter?

Molly: Oh, God. Mrs. Gardiner.

Becca: 10 out of 10. I think possibly the easiest win we've had so far.

Molly: Yeah, I don't even really have to think about that.

Becca: Yeah. That was so clear. She nailed these chapters. That is all we have for this first of the Second Volume of *Pride and Prejudice*. We've got a lot of stuff going forward. It's exciting. But until next time?

Molly: Stay proper and--

Becca: Find a spouse of some sort.

[Pod and Prejudice theme]

Molly: Pod and Prejudice is edited by Molly Burdick with art by Torrance 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 [01:11:00] Twitter and Instagram [@podandprejudice](#). We're also on Facebook at [facebook.com/podandprejudice](#). If you like what you hear, check out our Patreon [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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