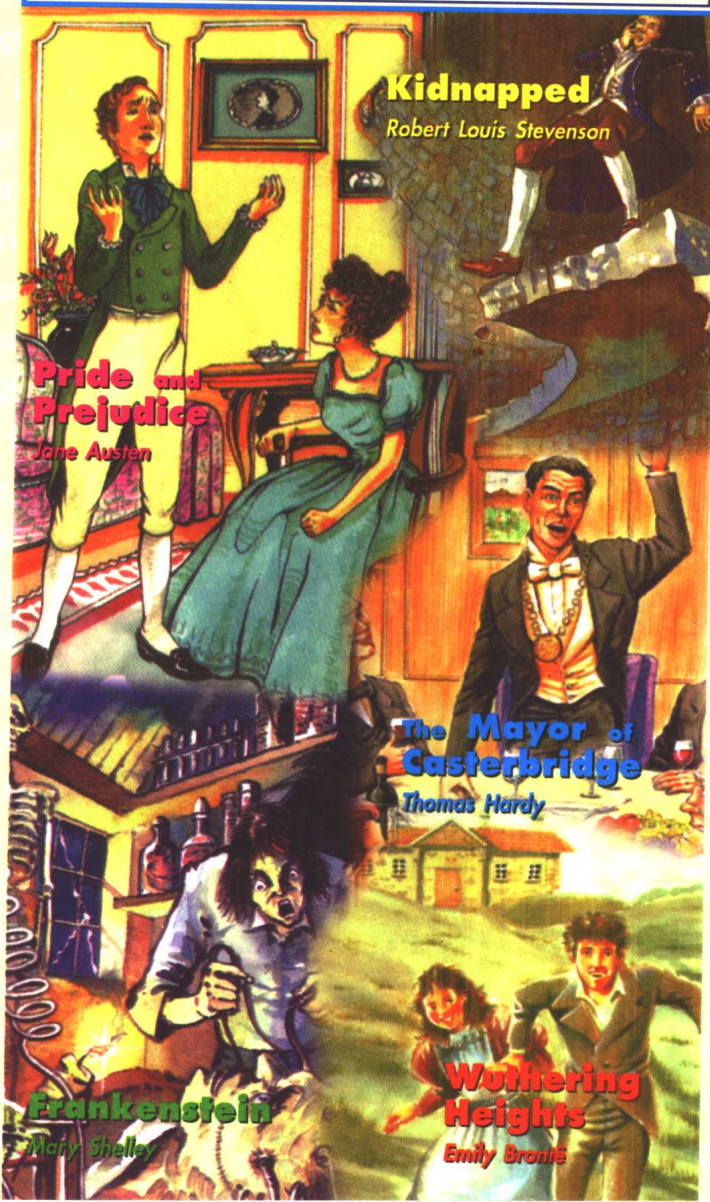


Oxford Progressive English Readers

# 上外—牛津英语分级读物

## 第五级

上海外语教育出版社 牛津大学出版社



**Pride and Prejudice**  
**傲慢与偏见**

**Jane Austen**  
**Syllabus designer: David Foulds**  
[注释] 薛 浩

上海外语教育出版社  
牛津大学出版社

## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

上外—牛津英语分级读物. 第5级=Oxford Progressive English Reader / (英) 哈代(Hardy, T.)等著.

—上海: 上海外语教育出版社, 1999.2 (2000重印)

ISBN 7-81046-513-9

I. 上… II. 哈… III. 英语-语言读物, 文学

IV. H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(1999)第54462号

出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社  
牛津大学出版社

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电话: 021-65425300 (总机), 65422031 (发行部)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

责任编辑: 王金鹤

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印刷: 常熟市印刷二厂  
经销: 新华书店上海发行所  
开本: 850×1092 1/32 印张 24 插页 4 字数 550 千字  
版次: 1999年2月第1版 2001年8月第5次印刷  
印数: 8 000 册

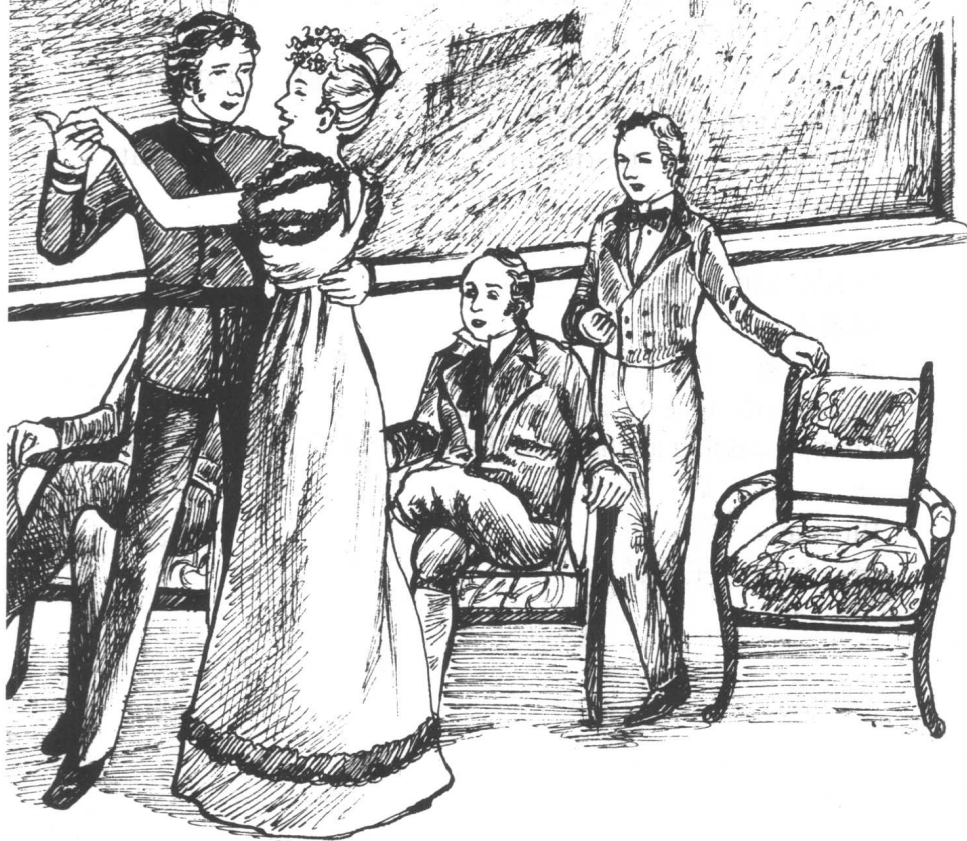
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书号: ISBN 7-81046-513-9 / G · 743  
定价: 30.00 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题, 可向本社调换

# Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen



Hong Kong  
Oxford University Press  
Oxford

Originally published by Oxford University Press  
(China) Limited

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Press (1997)

Chinese text © Shanghai Foreign Language  
Education Press (1998 )

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Pride and Prejudice

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原 著: Jane Austen

Syllabus designer: David Foulds

Text processing and analysis by Luxfield Consultants Ltd

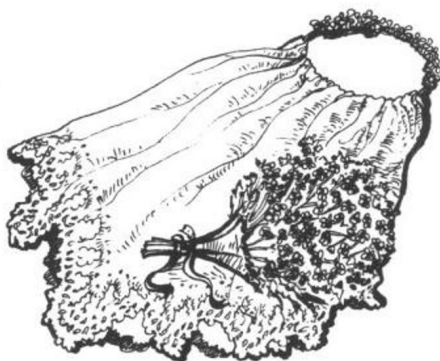
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## THE NEW NEIGHBOUR

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### Mrs Bennet's dearest wish

Everyone knows that a man with a good income who is not yet married must need a wife. When such a man moves to a new neighbourhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the families who live there, that they immediately consider him to be the property of one or other of their daughters. What he himself may think about it is not a matter of any importance. 5

'My dear Mr Bennet,' Mrs Bennet said to her husband one morning, 'did you know that Netherfield Park has been let at last?' 10

Mr Bennet replied that he did not.

'Well, it has. Mrs Long has just been here and she told me.'

Mr Bennet said nothing. 15

'Don't you want to hear who has rented it?' cried his wife impatiently.

'You want to tell me and I have no objection to listening.'

That was enough for Mrs Bennet.

'My dear, Mrs Long says it has been rented by a young man with a large fortune. He came down on Monday to see the place and was so delighted with it that he plans to move in before the end of this month.' 20

'What is his name?'

'Bingley.' 25

'Is he married or single?'

'Oh, single, my dear! A single man with a very good income, four thousand pounds a year. What a fine thing for our girls!'

'However does it affect them?' 30

'My dear Mr Bennet, how can you be so annoying! What I mean is that he might marry one of them.'

'Is that his reason for renting Netherfield Park?'

'His reason? Of course not! Still, it is very likely that he will fall in love with one of them, so you must visit him as soon as he arrives.'

5 'I see no need for that. You and the girls can go, or you can send the five of them by themselves.'

'But consider your daughters. Just think what a good marriage it would be for one of them! You must go. It will be impossible for us to visit him if you do not.'

10 'I'm sure Mr Bingley will be very glad to see you; and I'll give you a letter saying he has my permission to marry any of the girls he chooses — though I must recommend my little Lizzy.'

15 'You will do no such thing. Lizzy is no better than the others and she is not as pretty as Jane nor as pleasant as Lydia.'

'None of them have much to recommend them,' he replied. 'They are all silly, stupid girls but Lizzy is at least a bit more intelligent than the others.'

20 'Mr Bennet, how can you be so rude about your own children? You delight in upsetting me. You make me so nervous. You don't know what I suffer.'

25 'But I hope you'll get better, my dear, and live to see many young men worth four thousand pounds a year move into the neighbourhood.'

30 Though she had been married to him for twenty-three years, Mrs Bennet still did not understand her husband. She herself was less of a puzzle. She was a foolish, short-tempered, complaining woman who was always imagining herself to be ill. Her dearest wish in life was to find husbands for her daughters. Her only pleasures were visiting and news.

Mr Bennet was one of the first people in the neighbourhood to call on Mr Bingley but his family did not find out about it until after his visit.

35 'I hope Mr Bingley will like your new hat, Lizzy,' he suddenly said to his second daughter that evening.

'We're not going to know what Mr Bingley likes,' said her mother crossly, 'as we're not going to visit him.'



'You forget, Mamma,' said Elizabeth, 'that we shall see him at the Assembly Rooms, and that Mrs Long has promised to introduce him.'

'I'm quite sure that Mrs Long will not introduce him. She has two nieces herself. She is a selfish woman and I don't like her. Do stop coughing, Kitty, for heaven's sake!'

'When is the next ball, Lizzy?' asked Mr Bennet.

'Two weeks from tomorrow.'

'And Mrs Long is away until the day before it,' cried her mother, 'so she won't be able to introduce Mr Bingley. She won't know him herself.'

'Then, my dear, you may introduce Mr Bingley to her.'

'When I don't know him myself, Mr Bennet? How can you talk like that?'

'I agree that one cannot really know a man after two weeks but it would be kind of us to make the introduction, so, if you won't do it, I will.'

The girls stared at their father.

'What nonsense!' said Mrs Bennet. 'I'm tired of Mr Bingley.'

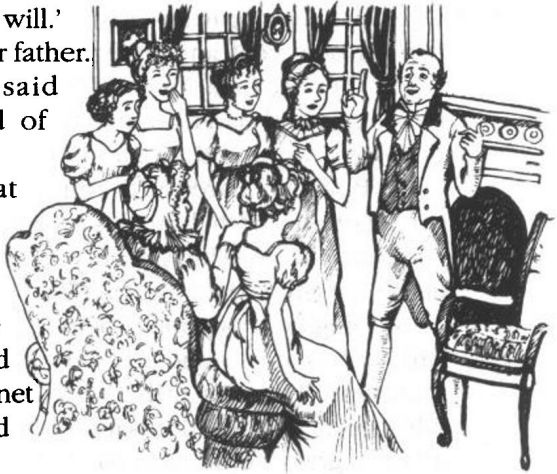
'If I had known that this morning,' said Mr Bennet, 'I wouldn't have called on him.'

His family's surprise was just what he had wished, though Mrs Bennet soon said that she had expected it all the time.

'How good it was of you, my dear Mr Bennet! But I knew I would persuade you in the end. I was sure you loved your girls. How pleased I am! And it's such a good joke, too, that you went there this morning and didn't mention it until now.'

'Now, Kitty, you may cough as much as you like,' said Mr Bennet, and left the room.

'What an excellent father you have, girls,' said his wife when the door closed. 'I don't know how you will ever be



able to thank him enough for his kindness; or me, either. Lydia, my love, though you are the youngest, I expect Mr Bingley will dance with you at the next ball.'

'I expect he will,' said Lydia, 'for though I'm the youngest,  
5 I'm also the tallest.'

They spent the rest of the evening wondering how soon Mr Bingley would come to Longbourn House, where they lived, to visit their father.

'If I can just see one of my daughters happily settled at  
10 Netherfield,' said Mrs Bennet, 'I shall wish for nothing more.'

### The ball

In a few days, Mr Bingley returned Mr Bennet's visit and sat with him for about ten minutes in the library. He had hoped to see the young ladies but saw only the father. The ladies  
15 were luckier: from an upstairs window, they saw that he wore a blue coat and rode a black horse.

Mrs Bennet then invited him to dinner, but he was going to London and had to refuse. The girls did not see him again until they were at the ball at Meryton Assembly Rooms.

20 Mr Bingley entered with four people he had brought back from London with him: his two fashionable sisters, Louisa and Caroline; Mr Hurst, who was the husband of Louisa; and another young man, Mr Darcy.

Mr Bingley was good-looking and charming; a gentleman.  
25 But it was his friend Mr Darcy who seized everybody's attention. He was tall and very handsome and, it was whispered, had ten thousand pounds a year. He was looked at with great admiration for half the evening until he was found to be proud, to think himself too good for them all.  
30 Then, not all his large estate in Derbyshire could save him.

Mr Bingley talked to everybody. He was lively, danced every dance, was sorry when the ball was over and promised to give one at Netherfield Park. What a difference from his friend! Mr Darcy danced once with each of Bingley's sisters,  
35 refused to be introduced to any other lady and spent the rest of the evening walking around the room.

Everyone disliked him. Mrs Bennet disliked him most of all because he had insulted one of her daughters.

Elizabeth had been sitting by herself.

'Come, Darcy, you must dance,' she had heard Mr Bingley come up to him and say. 'I hate to see you standing around by yourself in this stupid manner.' 5

'I certainly shan't. You know how I dislike it, particularly at a ball like this. Your sisters are already dancing and there is not another woman in the room I would dance with.'

'But I have never met so many pleasant women in my life!' cried Bingley. 10

'You are dancing with the only handsome woman in the room,' said Darcy, looking at the eldest Miss Bennet.

'Oh, she is the most beautiful creature I ever saw! But one of her sisters, who is sitting behind you is very pretty and, I'm sure, very pleasant.' 15

'Which do you mean?' Turning round, he looked for a moment at Elizabeth, then said coldly, 'She is not handsome enough to tempt me and I don't want to pay attention to young ladies no other man wants.' 20

Mr Darcy walked away, leaving Elizabeth to laugh about him to her friends. She did not feel friendly towards him, but she delighted in anything ridiculous.

Otherwise, the evening was a pleasant one for the whole family. Mrs Bennet had seen her eldest daughter much admired by Mr Bingley and his party. Mary had been described to Miss Bingley as the cleverest girl in the neighbourhood. And Kitty and Lydia had had a partner for every dance, which was all they yet cared about.

They returned in good spirits to Longbourn. Mr Bennet was still up, reading.



‘Oh, my dear Mr Bennet,’ cried his wife as she entered, ‘we have had a most excellent ball! Mr Bingley thought Jane was beautiful and danced with her twice. She was the only girl in the room whom he asked a second time. First of all,  
5 he danced with Charlotte Lucas and I was so cross. However, he didn’t admire her at all. But he noticed Jane and was introduced to her and asked her for the next dance. Then he danced with Miss King, then with Maria Lucas, then with Jane again, and then with Lizzy, and then ...’

10 ‘If he had had any sympathy for me,’ cried her husband, ‘he wouldn’t have danced so much! I wish he had hurt his ankle in the first dance.’

‘Oh, my dear,’ continued Mrs Bennet, ‘I am delighted with him. He is so good-looking! And his sisters are charming  
15 women. Mrs Hurst’s dress ...’

Mr Bennet refused to listen to any description of dresses and Mrs Bennet therefore moved on to Mr Darcy’s shocking rudeness to Elizabeth.

‘He was so rude and proud!’ she said. ‘He walked here  
20 and he walked there, thinking himself so very great! Lizzy not handsome enough to dance with! How could he say so! Unpleasant man!’

When Jane and Elizabeth were alone, Jane told her sister how much she admired Mr Bingley. ‘I was very pleased that  
25 he asked me to dance a second time. I didn’t expect it.’

‘Didn’t you? I did. He couldn’t help seeing that you were five times as pretty as any other woman in the room. Well, he certainly is very nice, and I give you permission to like him. You have liked many more stupid people.’

30 ‘Dear Lizzy!’

‘Well, you do like people too easily, you know. You never see a fault in anybody. I have never in my life heard you say anything nasty about anyone.’

‘But I always say what I think, Lizzy.’

35 ‘I know you do, and that is what is surprising. You are so sensible, how can you be so blind to other people’s nonsense? And so, you like this man’s sisters too, do you? Their manners are not as good as his.’

'But they are very pleasing women to talk to. Miss Bingley says she will be living with her brother and keeping house for him. I think she will be a charming neighbour.'

Elizabeth listened in silence. She was not so sure. Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley were fine ladies and knew how to please, but she thought they were too proud. Like their brother, they had a fortune, but they chose to forget that the money had come from trade. 5

Mr Bingley had inherited nearly a hundred thousand pounds from his father and, encouraged by his sisters, intended to buy himself an estate. However, at the age of twenty-three, he had heard about Netherfield Park, had looked at it for half an hour, liked it and rented it immediately. 10

Between Bingley and Darcy there was a very steady friendship although they were so different in character. Darcy had the better mind. Bingley was no fool, but Darcy was clever. Bingley, however, was liked everywhere he went, while Darcy was so proud and unfriendly that he was continually offending people. 15 20

The way they spoke about the Meryton ball showed the difference between them. Bingley had never met pleasanter girls in his life, and Miss Jane Bennet was very beautiful. Darcy had seen nothing to interest him: Miss Elizabeth Bennet was pretty but she smiled too much. 25

Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley agreed but, still, Jane Bingley was a sweet girl; they would not object to seeing her again.

Within a short walk of Longbourn lived a family with whom the Bennets were particularly friendly. William Lucas had grown rich from business in Meryton. He had become mayor, for which he had received his title and become 'Sir' William. Now he was retired and lived, with his family, a mile outside the town in a house called Lucas Lodge. 30

He and Lady Lucas had several children. Charlotte the eldest, aged twenty-seven and sensible, was Elizabeth's closest friend. 35

The day after the ball, Charlotte and Maria Lucas came to Longbourn to discuss it.

'You began the evening well, Charlotte,' said Miss Elizabeth Bennet politely. 'You were Mr Bingley's first choice.'

'Yes, but he seemed to like his second choice better.'

5 'You mean Jane I suppose, because he danced with her twice? Certainly that did seem as if he admired her ...'

'But didn't I tell you? I heard someone ask him which lady in the room he thought was the prettiest and he answered immediately, "Oh, the eldest Miss Bennet!"'

10 'Upon my word! Well, that does seem as if — but it may all come to nothing, you know.'

'But poor Elizabeth!' said Charlotte. 'Mr Darcy doesn't speak as nicely as his friend, does he? "Not handsome enough" to dance with!'

15 'No one should want to be liked by such an unpleasant man,' said Mrs Bennet. 'Mrs Long told me last night that he sat by her for half an hour without speaking once.'

20 'Miss Bingley told me,' said Jane, 'that he never speaks much except among his close friends. With them, she said, he is very nice.'

'I don't believe it. If he were so very nice, he would have talked to Mrs Long. But everyone says he is too proud, and I'm sure he had heard that she doesn't have her own carriage.'

25 'Pride,' observed Mary, who took pride in her own clever thoughts, 'is a very common fault, I believe. But a person may be proud without being vain, you know.'

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## FINE EYES

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### Mr Darcy notices Elizabeth

The ladies of Longbourn House soon visited those of Netherfield Park, who then returned the visit. Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley thought the mother dreadful and the younger sisters not worth speaking to, but they quite liked Miss Jane Bennet. They wished, they said, to know the two eldest sisters better. Jane was delighted, but Elizabeth could not like them. They were kind to Jane, she thought, only because their brother admired her. 5

He did admire her, that was clear. To Elizabeth, it was equally clear that Jane was beginning to fall in love with him. 10

'Luckily,' Elizabeth said to her friend Miss Lucas, 'Jane combines strong feelings with such cheerfulness that no one will ever know.'

'But if she hides her feelings equally well from the person she loves,' replied Charlotte, 'she may never get him! Bingley certainly likes your sister but he may never do more than like her if she doesn't help him along.' 15

'Charlotte, Jane is not trying for a rich husband! She is not acting according to any plan. She cannot even be sure yet how much she likes him. She has known him only two weeks.' 20

'If she were married to Bingley tomorrow,' said Charlotte, 'I think she would have as much chance of being happy as if she had studied his character for a year. Happiness in marriage is a matter of chance. And it is better to know as little as possible of the faults of the person with whom you have to spend the rest of your life.' 25

'You make me laugh, Charlotte, but you know it's not true. You would never act in such a way yourself.' 30

Busy watching Mr Bingley's attentions to her sister, Elizabeth did not notice that his friend was beginning to

watch her. Mr Darcy had looked at her without admiration at the ball and when they next met, he looked at her only to criticize. But as soon as he had told himself and his friends that she was nothing to look at, he realized the intelligence  
 5 in her dark eyes. As soon as he had found faults in her figure, he discovered how light and pleasing it was. As soon as he had said her manners were not fashionable, he was charmed by her love of the ridiculous.

He began to wish to know more about her and, as a first  
 10 step, he started listening to her conversation with others. This she did notice.

'Why,' she asked Charlotte at a party at Lucas Lodge one night, 'was Mr Darcy listening to my  
 15 conversation with Colonel Forster? If he does it again, I shall mention it to him.'

Mr Darcy came towards them and Miss Lucas dared her  
 20 friend to do so. Elizabeth could not resist the temptation.

'Don't you think, Mr Darcy,' she said, 'that I spoke well just now when I was urging  
 25 Colonel Forster to hold a ball in Meryton?'

'With great energy. But it's a subject which always makes a lady energetic.'

'It will soon be her turn to be urged,' said Miss Lucas. 'I'm  
 30 going to open the piano, Elizabeth, and you know what you will have to do then.'

'You are a strange friend. Always wanting me to play and sing in front of everybody! I would really rather not, not in front of people who must be used to the best performers ...  
 35 Oh, very well.'

Her performance was pleasing enough but, after a song or two, her sister Mary eagerly took over. Mary, the only plain girl in the family, was always impatient to be noticed.





She had no taste but, still, she played: first, a serious piece and then, at the request of her younger sisters, something lighter. Kitty and Lydia started dancing at one end of the room with officers from Colonel Forster's regiment.

Mr Darcy stood watching them in scornful silence and did not see Sir William Lucas at his side until Sir William began, 'What a charming amusement for young people, Mr Darcy! I consider dancing one of the delights of polite society.'

'Certainly, sir. And it is one of the delights of less polite society, too. Every savage can dance.'

Sir William only smiled. 'Your friend dances well,' he continued, seeing Bingley join the group. 'I expect you do too, Mr Darcy.'

'You saw me dance at the Meryton ball, I believe.'

'Yes, indeed, and I enjoyed the sight.'

Mr Darcy only bowed. Elizabeth moved towards them at that moment and Sir William had an idea.

'My dear Miss Elizabeth, why aren't you dancing?' he called out. 'Mr Darcy, you must allow me to introduce this young lady as a partner. You can't refuse to dance, I'm sure, when so much beauty is before you.'

Mr Darcy, though surprised, was not unwilling, but Elizabeth was determined and turned away. Darcy was still thinking about her when Miss Bingley came up.

'I can guess what you're thinking,' she said.

'I don't think you can.'

'You're thinking how impossible it would be to spend many evenings with such people. And I quite agree with you.'

'Your guess is quite wrong. I was thinking of the great pleasure that a pair of fine eyes in the face of a pretty woman can give.'

Miss Bingley looked at him and asked what lady he had been looking at.

'Miss Elizabeth Bennet,' replied Mr Darcy.

'Miss Elizabeth Bennet!' repeated Miss Bingley. 'I'm amazed. How long has she been a favourite? And when do you intend to marry her?'