

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE



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On a cruise ship down the Nile...

The first encounter between Elizabeth and Darcy took place at the summer party, which Darcy and Elizabeth's common friend had thrown one warm summer night, during which Darcy accidentally spilled his drink on Elizabeth. Self-important as he was, instead of apologizing to her for his carelessness, he blamed Elizabeth for the accident and as a result, made her upset, not only because of his bad attitude, but also because he ridiculed her in front of everyone. On that day an intense dislike was created between them.

The next day, a wedding ceremony was held on board, in which all the passengers of the cruise were invited. But luck wasn't on Darcy's or Elizabeth's side, causing both of them to meet again on yet another undesirable incident, which configured a bad image of Darcy for Elizabeth. For an unknown reason, Darcy felt really guilty for his behaviour towards Elizabeth and asked for advice from his friend Charles Bingley, to clear out the misunderstanding of the

previous day's accident. His friend advised him that the best option to follow was to go to her and apologise in honesty. As Darcy was walking down the corridor to get to his cabin, he saw Elizabeth with her sisters and friends and immediately went to her to apologise, but she rejected his apology and warned him to stay away from her, leaving him disappointed and angry. He made a bet with himself to find a way to apologise to her in every way possible and not give up, until she accepted it.

Days passed with Darcy trying to convince Elizabeth about his willingness to make up for his behaviour in every possible way: by sending flowers to her room or through her sisters and friends, sending chocolate boxes with forgive me cards, but Elizabeth's stubbornness didn't subside. Yet Darcy was not hopeless and continued with his plan.

On the other side, Elizabeth's friends were teasing her and telling her to take advantage of this opportunity to get closer to him, as he came from a very well-known wealthy family. On hearing that, Elizabeth looked at them in

disbelief and left. Her sisters too, were trying all this time to convince her to forgive him, reminding her not to judge a book by its cover, because there are people in the world, who look hard and rough on the outside, but this is just a defense mechanism, so that they don't let people hurt them.

Elizabeth ignored them too, as she believed that Darcy didn't deserve her forgiveness.

The last day of the cruise came, with Darcy planning something really big in order to finally win her over and confess his affection for her. When the big time came, he took the microphone, gaining everyone's attention and walked towards Elizabeth, asking for the millionth time for forgiveness and admitting his love for her.

During his passionate speech, Elizabeth got furious with his boldness, went to the nearest bar, grabbed a glass full of water and threw it on his face, yelling at him not to come near her or he would have to face the consequences.

Everyone started whispering in astonishment, while Darcy stood dumbfounded, trying to take in what had happened...

After the cruise, Elizabeth returned to her daily routine, and for a while, everything was business as usual. The situation changed dramatically, when she found out that her younger sister had run off with someone, leaving no trace behind. Elizabeth felt desperate and was worried sick about young Lydia. She put everything aside and focused only on finding her sister. Many sleepless nights and stressful days went by, with Elizabeth thinking how her life had changed for the worse since that night on the cruise.

Weeks went by and finally, a dishearten Elizabeth gave up. There was no trace of Lydia or her boyfriend, which left her hopeless.

The following Monday she went back to the company where she worked and found out that during her absence her boss had been replaced and she had to report to the new one, since she had been on leave for so long. He had already informed all employees about the new rules they should follow and Elizabeth was the only one that had missed it. She nodded her head in agreement and went to his office,

knocked on the door and on entering the room, her eyes widened in shock, as she saw the one person she least wanted to appear in her life again! In front of her stood, in all his glory, Fitz Darcy.

The young man equally shocked to see her, moved away from his desk and started to say something, but before he got a chance, she stormed out of the office, banging the door behind her. He shouted her name and without wasting a second, followed her down the stairs. She kept ignoring him, moving as fast as she could, until she felt him grabbing her wrist and making her turn to face him. She removed her hand harshly and turned to leave, but stopped on her tracks when she heard him say that he would help her find her sister, Lydia.

“Only on one condition”, he added. “Go out to dinner with me”, he said. Elizabeth didn’t respond immediately. She sighed in frustration thinking she didn’t have any other option, so she accepted. While she was leaving, Darcy was

looking at her figure slowly disappearing from his sight and a big smile was carved on his face...

The date night came and Darcy was waiting for Elizabeth in his luxurious car outside her house. His eyes widened with admiration, when he saw her looking stunning in an off-shoulders, navy-blue dress and with her long, dark hair fluttering in the breeze. He got outside the car, opened the door for her, went back to his seat and then drove away.

During dinner, there was a dead silence between them. Darcy finally decided to break the ice and ask her about her life, but to no avail. She was absorbed in deep thoughts, looking at the view outside the window, miles away from him and the delicious dinner in front of them. He suggested they went for a walk on the beach, since it was a beautiful night and she nodded in agreement. While they were walking along the shore, a cool breeze was caressing their faces. She finally felt relaxed and calm, surrounded by the peaceful atmosphere. They sat down on the warm sand

admiring the starry night sky and started sharing their struggles and worries and all those sentiments that were kept hidden for so long. She was looking at the gorgeous full moon that reflected on the dark blue waters, while Darcy was admiring her beautiful features, lit by the shining moon above them. Her sparkling eyes with her long lashes, her full cherry lips, everything on her was stunning. She felt his intense gaze on her and turned to look into his eyes. There it was, a deep sentiment growing in her, something she had never felt before. Breaking the eye contact, Darcy spoke in a soft tone: "I have some excellent news. My people have managed to locate Lydia And George. They are coming back tomorrow and you can see them at the company. I offered them both a position with us". Elizabeth's heart skipped a beat as she realised that all this time she had been wrong about him. She knew now that all that initial dislike had turned into a deep and strong love and admiration. As he leaned closer to her face nearing to kiss her...

...giggles were echoing all around the two little girls' bedroom, after hearing yet once more their parents' love story before bedtime. Their mother covered them with a warm blanket and kissed them on the forehead, turning the light off as they drifted into dreamland...

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