

ELIZABETH

Then, you must include a great deal in your notion of an accomplished woman.

DARCY

Yes, I do.

CAROLINE

No woman can truly be esteemed accomplished without thorough knowledge of music, singing, drawing, dancing, and the modern languages. And then there is that certain *something* in her air, in her manner of walking, in the tone of her voice, in her etiquette and expressions

DARCY

And more substantially - the improvement of her mind by extensive reading and consideration.

ELIZABETH

I am no longer surprised at your knowing only six accomplished women. I rather wonder now at your knowing *any*.

BINGLEY

I assure you, Miss Bennet, that Darcy's pursuit of his own perfection is every bit as singular.

ELIZABETH

What a great loss that is to me. For I own that follies do divert me and I love to laugh at them whenever I can. But these human failings, I suppose, are precisely what Mr. Darcy is without?

DARCY

That is not possible for anyone. But it has been my aim to avoid those weaknesses that invite ridicule.

ELIZABETH

Such as vanity, perhaps? And pride?

DARCY

Yes, vanity is a weakness. But pride - where there is real superiority of mind, pride will always be under good regulation. I have faults enough, Miss Bennet. My temper I dare not vouch for. It could perhaps be called resentful. My good opinion, once lost, is lost forever.

ELIZABETH

That is a failing, indeed. I really cannot laugh at it.

DARCY

There is, I believe, in every disposition a tendency to some particular defect.

ELIZABETH

And your defect is to hate everybody.

DARCY

*(With a smile)* And yours is willfully to misunderstand them.

CAROLINE

Do let us have some music! If possible, something a touch lighter than the conversation. Miss Bennet, could we prevail upon you to play us a *reel*, or perhaps a *jig*?

ELIZABETH

I must see to my sister. Mr. Bingley, should Jane not be decidedly improved in the morning, it would be best that my mother visit and form her own judgment of the situation.

BINGLEY

Very wise, indeed.

ELIZABETH

I should like to pass this evening in my sister's room should she want for anything.

BINGLEY

I'll see that you have everything you need.

*BINGLEY exits.*

ELIZABETH

Miss Bingley. Mr. Darcy.

*ELIZABETH goes to JANE.*

CAROLINE

If I may mention so delicate a subject, should those bright eyes result in the desirable event of your marriage, endeavor to check in your lady that little *something*, bordering on conceit and impertinence. Meanwhile, let us pray for her sister's swift recovery, if only to escape the company of –