

ELIZABETH

And that you flatly refused to take the situation that you inherited and were compensated accordingly.

WICKHAM

That is not wholly -

ELIZABETH

Come, Mr. Wickham, we are brother and sister now. Let us not quarrel about the past.

*LYDIA and JANE join them.*

LYDIA

Is my husband not a charming man? (*WICKHAM kisses LYDIA*) Now go have your tea and work your charms on father. Do not distress yourself, my dear husband. I shall join you shortly! (*WICKHAM exits*) I should like it of all things for my sisters to come to Newcastle to see us. We shall be there all the winter, and there will certainly be balls, and I will take care to get good partners for you. I dare say I shall get husbands for each one of you, Mary included, before the winter is over.

ELIZABETH

Thank you for my share of the favor, Lydia, but I do not particularly like your way of getting husbands.

LYDIA

La! You are so strange! What girl wouldn't fancy a whole regiment of handsome young soldiers seeking her favor? I should have wished Wickham's whole regiment at our wedding, but strict Colonel Forster refused to spare a single soldier from his duties. I don't see why. It's not like England is under *attack!* Or is it? Anyway, at the end it was just Aunt and Uncle Gardiner and Mr. Darcy and the parson, of course!

ELIZABETH

Mr. Darcy!

LYDIA

Well *someone* needed to stand up for Wickham! I'd have much rather it had been - (*Catches herself.*) Oh! Gracious me, I quite forgot! I was not to say a word about that. It was to be a secret! Silly me. Silly, silly newlywed me!