

# Monologue Mania!

## Pride and Prejudice

Adapted by Rebecca Gellott

**Male / 20s-30s / Early 1800s**

**About the play:** Four proposals, three rejections, two marriages, and one scandal: this adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* was conceived as a two-act romantic comedy, designed especially for high school, amateur, and semi-professional theatre companies.

This superbly written script restores many popular scenes and conversations from the book, often cut from other screen and stage adaptations. Revisit all your favorite characters here: witty, free-spirited Elizabeth Bennet and her four sisters, including the lovely Jane; Mrs. Bennet, who only wants what's best for her daughters; Mr. Bennet, who has made it his life's work to affectionately make sport of his wife; and of course, the suitors, Mr. Darcy, Charles Bingley, and George Wickham.

**About the scene:** Darcy is smitten with Elizabeth, finding her to be of equal wit and virtue as him even if lower class. Here, Darcy finally musters up the courage to ask Elizabeth's hand in marriage, after which, Elizabeth refuses him quite spectacularly.

\* \* \*

**DARCY:**

Miss Bennet. I... That is, might I inquire... *(Lays his hat down on settee and takes a deep breath. Then, almost businesslike, with words rushing forth.)* In vain, I have struggled. It will not do. You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you. *(ELIZABETH'S jaw drops. She whirls around on DARCY, then in shock, stares out at the AUDIENCE. He continues, fervently.)* From almost our first meeting in Hertfordshire, I have failed to repress my feelings. They are born of such passion that I could hardly find the words to speak in front of you for fear of giving myself away or giving you false hope of receiving my attentions. Your liveliness of mind, Miss Bennet. The severity of your wit. Your eyes... have me utterly defeated. *(ELIZABETH shifts uncomfortably. DARCY*

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(continued)

*continues as if reassuring her. To each of the following objections, ELIZABETH must appear visibly offended.)* I am conscious of your inferiority of station, the degradation I am sure to endure in the eyes of society, and the objectionable nature of your whole family whose condition in life is so decidedly beneath my own. Nevertheless, I have formed so affectionate an attachment as to be unable to conquer it despite my better judgment. I hope now to be relieved of my anxiety and rewarded by your accepting my hand in marriage. *(Ends up beside her, holding his hand out expectantly with a sigh of relief.)*