

MR. DARCY And LIZZY SIDE

DARCY

In vain have I struggled. My feelings will not be repressed. You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you.

*Pause.*

DARCY

I have fought against my better judgment, against the inferiority of your birth, my rank, and circumstances. Please, do me the honor in accepting my hand.

LIZZY

In marriage?!

DARCY

Y-Yes... yes.

LIZZY

I have never desired your good opinion, and you have certainly bestowed it most unwillingly. I am sorry to have occasioned pain to you. It has been most unconsciously done.

DARCY

Is all the reply which I am to have the honor of expecting! I might, perhaps, wish to be informed why, with so little endeavor at civility, I am thus rejected.

LIZZY

I might as well inquire, why with so evident a design of offending and insulting me, you chose to tell me that you liked me against your will, against your reason, and even against your character? But I have other provocations. You know I have. Do you think that any consideration would tempt me to accept the man who has been the means of ruining, perhaps forever, the happiness of a most beloved sister? Can you deny that you have done this?

DARCY

I have no wish of denying that I did everything in my power to separate my friend from your sister. Towards him, I have been kinder than towards myself."

LIZZY

But long before this had taken place my opinion of

you was decided. Your character was unfolded in a conversation many months ago from Mr. Wickham. What can you have to say? In what imaginary act of friendship can you here defend yourself?

DARCY

You take an eager interest in that gentleman's concerns.

LIZZY

Anyone who knows his misfortune would take an interest.--

DARCY

His misfortunes? Yes, his misfortunes have been great, indeed.

LIZZY

You have reduced him to his present state of poverty. You have deprived the best years of his life of that Independence which was no less his due. You have done all this! and yet you can treat the mention of his misfortunes with contempt and ridicule.

DARCY

And this is your opinion of me?

LIZZY

Yes.

DARCY

I thank you for explaining it so fully. My faults, according to this calculation, are heavy indeed!