

From the full length play:

Pride and Prejudice

Adapted from Jane Austen by Tracy Wells

ELIZABETH BENNET, *a young woman trying to navigate love in 19th century England. Has just received an awkward and unkind offer of marriage from the proud, Mr. Darcy.*

ELIZABETH

Let me first say that I am unable to return your feelings, Mr. Darcy. If I were to follow proper etiquette, which as you pointed out I am not likely to do, then I would thank you for your sentiments. But I feel no gratitude for the speech you just made. I am sorry if I have caused you any pain, as it was unconsciously done.

(A long pause, in which DARCY becomes visibly angry)

You believe I have shown a lack of class in my rejection of you? You were clearly trying to offend and insult me in your very proposal! You made it clear to me that you liked me against your will. This alone could account for my supposed impoliteness toward you. But I have other reasons as well. You know I have! Do you actually think that I could possibly accept the proposal of a man who single handedly ruined the happiness of my most beloved sister, Jane?

(A long pause as DARCY is surprised, but says nothing)

It is not merely because of my sister that I dislike you. My opinion of you was decided long ago when I discovered how poorly you treated Mr. Wickham and how you turned him out of the only home he has ever known as if he were merely trash. What do you have to say for yourself now?

To read the rest of this play, please visit <https://www.bigdogplays.com/default.asp>