

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Mrs. Bennet is really excited by the news about a single rich man in the neighbourhood. Mr. Bingley has arrived at Netherfield, where he plans to temporarily settle with his two sisters, Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst, and his sister's husband, Mr. Hurst. Soon afterwards, Bingley and his close friend Fitzwilliam Darcy, attend a public ball in the village of Meryton. At first, Darcy is admired for his fine figure and income of £ 10.000 a year. However, he is soon regarded as snobbish because the villagers become disgusted by his pride. This is brought home to the Bennets when Elizabeth Bennet overhears that Darcy has declined Bingley's suggestion that he dance with her.

Shortly after the ball, Mr. Collins, a cousin who will inherit the Bennets' estate because of an entail, visits the family. Following Lady Catherine's suggestion, Collins decides to propose to Elizabeth for her future impoverishment but she rejects his proposal. Meanwhile, Elizabeth is introduced to Mr. Wickham, a pleasing officer in the regiment. Wickham informs her that he has known Mr. Darcy his entire life, and that Darcy has disinherited him after Darcy's father's death. After the tale is told, Elizabeth begins to have a strong prejudice against Mr. Darcy.

After having rejected by Elizabeth, Mr. Collins hurriedly marries her best friend, Charlotte Lucas, and Elizabeth is invited to visit the newly weds. While she is staying with them, Darcy visits his aunt, Lady Catherine de Bourgh, at the adjoining estate, Rosings. Elizabeth and Darcy meet each other quite often. Elizabeth's charms eventually make Darcy entranced, and lead him to love and desire to marry her. Surprised and insulted by Darcy's way of proposing, Elizabeth refuses. The next day, Darcy hands her a letter before his leave. In the letter, Darcy justifies his actions regarding his interference in Bingley and Jane's relationship, and reveals the truth concerning Mr. Wickham. The letter sheds a new light on Darcy's personality for Elizabeth and she begins to reconsider her opinion of him, particularly in the case of Wickham.

Later, while on holiday with her aunt and uncle, the Gardiners, Elizabeth is persuaded to visit nearby Pemberley, Darcy's estate, while he is away. She is therefore surprised when she meets him unexpectedly and their relationship starts to melt. While Elizabeth is there, she hears the news that her younger sister Lydia runs away with Wickham, who evades gambling debts. When told of this by Elizabeth, Darcy takes it upon himself to find Wickham and bribes him into marrying Lydia, but keeps this secret from Elizabeth and her family.

When Lady Catherine discovers Darcy's feelings for Elizabeth, she pays Elizabeth an unannounced visit and tries to intimidate her into refusing such an engagement. Unfortunately, Catherine's visit serves to consolidate Elizabeth's intentions. Furthermore, Lady Catherine visits Darcy later, and relates the entire conversation to him, leading Darcy to a conviction that marrying Elizabeth is possible.

The story ends with two marriages: one is between Jane and Bingley, and the other is between Darcy and Elizabeth. While the Bennets go their separate ways, both couples live happily.

BIOGRAPHY OF JANE AUSTEN

Jane Austen was born in 1775 at a rectory in Steventon, Hampshire, one of two daughters of the Rev. George Austen (1731–1805) and his wife Cassandra (née Leigh) (1739–1827). Her brothers James and Henry followed in the path of their father and joined the clergy while her brothers Francis and Charles both pursued naval careers. There was also a disabled brother, George, who did not live with the Austens.

Austen also had a sister, Cassandra, with whom she shared a close relationship throughout her life. The abundant correspondence between the sisters provides historians with the greatest insight into Austen's past. It is regrettable that Cassandra destroyed some of this correspondence after Jane's death. The only undisputed portrait of Jane Austen is a somewhat rudimentary colored sketch done by Cassandra, which currently resides in the National Portrait Gallery, London.

In 1783, Austen was educated briefly by a relative in Oxford, then in Southampton, and finally in 1785–1786 attended the Reading Ladies boarding school in the Abbey gatehouse in Reading, Berkshire. She began writing her first novel in 1789. Her family life was also conducive to writing; the Austen family often enacted plays, which gave Jane Austen an opportunity to present her stories. They also borrowed novels from the local library, which influenced Austen's

writing. She was encouraged to write especially by her brother Henry, who wrote a little himself.

In 1802 Austen received a marriage proposal from a wealthy but "big and awkward" man named Harris Bigg-Wither, who was also six years her junior. A marriage would have freed her from some of the constraints and dependency then associated with the role of a spinster. These considerations may have influenced her initially to accept his offer, only to change her mind and refused him the following day.

After her father's death in 1805, Austen, her sister and her mother lived in Southampton with her brother Frank and his family for several years before moving to Chawton in 1809. It was not until 1811, six years before her death, that her first novel Sense and Sensibility was published, at the expense of her brother Henry and his wife Eliza. Some of her novels are Northanger Abbey (1798), Sense and Sensibility (1811), Pride and Prejudice (1813), Mansfield Park (1814), Emma (1816), and Persuasion (1818).

In 1816, Austen began to suffer from ill health. In May 1817 she moved to Winchester to be closer to her doctor. Her condition became increasingly unstable, and on July 18, 1817 she died at the age of forty-one and was buried in Winchester Cathedral. The disease was at that time unnamed. However, some people, such as one of her biographers, Carol Shields, hypothesized that she died of breast cancer.

< http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Austen>