

**Mr Collins**

**COLLINS.** Your modesty adds only to your other perfections, for my attentions have been too marked to be mistaken. But before I am run away with by my feelings...I shall enumerate my reasons for marrying. First, to set the example of matrimony in my parish...

**ELIZABETH.** Of course.

**COLLINS.** Secondly, it greatly adds to a man's well being. And thirdly by the particular advice and recommendation of Lady de Bourgh, my patroness "Let her be an active, useful sort of person able to make a small income go a long way," her very words. You may observe, fair cousin that I do not reckon the notice of Lady Catherine de Bourgh the least of my advantages. Your wit and vivacity, I think, must be acceptable to her, especially when tempered with the silence and respect which her rank invariably excites. Fourth, as I am to inherit this estate after the death of your honoured father, I feel bound to choose a wife from among his daughters that the loss to them might be as little as possible.

**ELIZABETH.** (*Fuming:*) Hmmmm.

**COLLINS.** And now nothing remains for me but to assure you in the most animated language of the violence of my affection. To fortune I am perfectly indifferent, and as to dowry, I am well aware of your father's finances and you may assure yourself that no ungenerous reproach shall ever pass my lips when we are married.

**ELIZABETH.** No.

**COLLINS.** No?

**ELIZABETH.** I am very sensible of the honour of your proposals but it is impossible for me to do otherwise than decline them.

**COLLINS.** Oh, it is usual with young ladies to reject at first the addresses of the man they secretly mean to accept.

**ELIZABETH.** I do assure you that I am not one of those young ladies. You could not make me happy and I am convinced that I am the last woman in the world who would make you so. Were your friend Lady Catherine to know me, she would find me in every respect ill qualified. This matter may be considered, therefore, as finally settled.

**COLLINS.** Naturally you cannot be serious in your rejection of me. Good sense and financial necessity forbid it. It is your wish to increase my love by suspense, according to the usual practice of elegant females.

**ELIZABETH.** I am not, Mr. Collins, an elegant female intending to plague you. I am a rational creature speaking the truth from her heart. I will not have you. Can I speak plainer?

**COLLINS.** You are uniformly charming!