

From the full length play:

Pride and Prejudice

Adapted from Jane Austen by Tracy Wells

MR. DARCY, *a very wealthy and very proud man, tries to explain his dislike of Mr. Wickham.*

DARCY

I can not say specifically what Mr. Wickham accused me of—you alone know that. But I will describe to you what has transpired between he and I, in the hopes that I might clear up any wrongdoing on my part.

Mr. George Wickham was the son of a respectable man who managed Pemberly. My father was very fond of him and sent him to the finest schools. He dreamed that Wickham would make the church his profession and meant to provide him with a parish and a sum of one thousand pounds.

Upon my father's death, Wickham left Pemberly and did not contact me until a year later when he requested money so that he might go to law school. He declared that he had no interest in the church and asked for a larger sum. I agreed and gave him a sum of three thousand pounds. I heard nothing of him for three years until he contacted me again, asking for more money. When I refused he began to pursue Georgiana and convinced her to elope with him in order to gain possession of the thirty thousand pounds she had inherited. When I discovered this, I was stopped the marriage. I also suspect that he desired revenge against me. That was the last time I saw Mr. Wickham, until the night of the ball.

If your disgust of me refutes all belief in my statements then I ask that you consult with Colonel Fitzwilliam. I know you hold him in high regard and I assure you he will contend that the statements are true.

(Pauses)

I do not wish to cause you any further pain. I will leave Rosings Park first thing in the morning.

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