


## Chapter 11

 It was summer, and Elizabeth was looking forward to a tour of Derbyshire with her aunt and uncle, Mr and Mrs Gardiner.

However, it was impossible for her to see the wonderful Derbyshire without thinking of Pemberley House and its owner, Mr Darcy. 'But surely,' she thought, 'I can visit his country without his knowing about it.'

The day of their trip arrived. The Gardiners and Elizabeth travelled to Lambton, where Mrs Gardiner used to live. Elizabeth found out from her aunt that Pemberley was five miles away and Mrs Gardiner wanted to visit the house again.

Elizabeth didn't want to go. There was always the possibility of meeting Mr Darcy, and that would be awful! She decided to find out if he were at the house. So, when she went to bed that night, she asked the maid • at the inn •.

'No, Madam. He's not there at the moment' said the maid.

Now Elizabeth felt curious about the house, so the next morning, she told her aunt that she would like to see Pemberley.

Elizabeth nervously waited for the first appearance of Pemberley House. The park was very large, and they drove for some time through a beautiful wood. Finally, at the top of a hill, Elizabeth first saw Pemberley, on the opposite side of the valley. It was a large, handsome stone building with woods and hills behind it. Elizabeth loved it.

As they were driving the hill towards the house, all her fears of meeting its owner returned. 'What if the maid were wrong?' she thought.

### Glossary

• **inn:** type of hotel

• **maid:** female servant



They asked to see the house, and the housekeeper<sup>•</sup> agreed to show them round. All the rooms were beautiful, and the furniture was lovely. 'To think, I could have been mistress<sup>•</sup> of this house!' Elizabeth thought.

Her aunt called her to look at a picture. 'That,' said the housekeeper, 'is my master<sup>•</sup>.'

'I've heard a lot about your master,' said Mrs. Gardiner, looking at the picture. 'He's very handsome. But, Lizzy, you can tell us whether it's like him or not.'

'Does the young lady know Mr Darcy?' asked the housekeeper.

Elizabeth blushed, and said, 'A little.'

'And don't you think he's very handsome?'

'Yes, very handsome,' said Elizabeth.

'Is your master often at Pemberley?' asked Mr Gardiner.

'Not so often as I would like,' replied the housekeeper. 'But we're expecting him here tomorrow.'

'If your master married, you might see more of him,' said Mr Gardiner.

'Yes, sir; but I don't know who's good enough for him.'

'That's a compliment,' said Elizabeth.

'Everybody who knows him will agree with me,' replied the housekeeper. Elizabeth smiled with a blush as the housekeeper added, 'I've never heard an angry word from him, and I've known him ever since he was five years old.'

Mr Darcy was good-tempered<sup>•</sup>. Elizabeth wanted to hear more, and she was grateful to her uncle for saying, 'You're lucky to have such a master.'

'Yes, sir, I am. There isn't a better master in all the world.'

## Glossary

- **good-tempered:** calm and cheerful
- **housekeeper:** person paid to look after a house
- **master:** (historical) man who has people working for him
- **mistress:** female owner

Elizabeth stared at her. 'Is this the same Mr Darcy?' she wondered.

'Some people call him proud,' the housekeeper continued, 'but he isn't. People only think that because he doesn't chat away like other young men.'

'This description of him,' whispered • her aunt as they walked, 'isn't quite how *you* described him.'

'No,' replied Elizabeth.

In the gallery of family portraits •, Elizabeth walked in search of Mr Darcy. At last she found him, with such a smile • she remembered seeing when he looked at her. She stood some minutes before the picture, deep in thought. As a brother, a landlord •, a master, she considered how many people's happiness was in his hands! His eyes were on her, and she thought of his love for her with a deeper feeling of gratitude •.

They returned downstairs, and said their goodbyes to the housekeeper before leaving the house.

## ELIZABETH

How do you think Elizabeth feels now?

What is Pemberley like?

How is Mr Darcy described?

- **gratitude:** being thankful for
- **landlord:** man who rents out houses and buildings

- **portraits:** pictures of people
- **whispered:** said in a very quiet voice, so as not to be heard





As they walked across the garden towards the river, Elizabeth turned back to look at the house again; her uncle and aunt also stopped and looked, and as they were looking, Mr Darcy suddenly appeared.

They were so close, and his appearance was so sudden, that it was impossible to avoid him. Their eyes met, and they both blushed. He was so surprised, he couldn't move. He soon recovered, however, and spoke to her, if not calmly, at least politely. Elizabeth didn't dare lift her eyes again to his face, and she didn't know what answers she gave to his questions about her family. He was nervous too, and he kept repeating the same questions.

At length he couldn't think of anything more to say and he suddenly took leave.

'He's such a good-looking man and so tall,' Mrs Gardiner said, but Elizabeth didn't hear her. She was lost in her own thoughts. 'Oh, why did I come? And why did he come away before he was expected?'

They were now on a beautiful path by the river, but Elizabeth saw nothing. Her thoughts were all fixed on Mr Darcy. What did he think of her, and did he still love her?

They took the shorter path around the park. Whilst walking, they were again surprised by the sight of Mr Darcy approaching them. Elizabeth was determined to appear calm. 'What a lovely house you have,' she said, and then suddenly remembered that praise of Pemberley might be misunderstood. She said no more.

### Glossary

- **approaching:** coming near
- **dare:** have the courage to
- **misunderstood:** understood wrongly
- **praise of:** saying nice things about
- **took leave:** said goodbye and left
- **was determined:** really wanted