



## 2-PERSON SCENES

This scene is from a Stage Partners play, free to read in full at [yourstagepartners.com](http://yourstagepartners.com).

***Pride and Prejudice*** adapted by Melissa Leilani Larson  
from the novel by Jane Austen

2F  
Drama

*(LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH enters.)*

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** Miss Elizabeth Bennet!

**ELIZABETH:** Your Ladyship.

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** I will have a word with you. An urgent word.

*(ELIZABETH is flummoxed.)*

**ELIZABETH:** To what do I owe the honor of—

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** You know the reason for my journey here.

**ELIZABETH:** Indeed you are mistaken. I cannot account for the honor of seeing you.

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** Don't trifle with me. This morning I received a report of the most alarming nature. I was told that not only was your sister on the point of being most advantageously married, but that *you* would soon afterwards be united to my nephew, my own nephew, Mr. Darcy. Which I know must be a scandalous falsehood.

**ELIZABETH:** If you believed it to be impossible, I wonder why you took the trouble of coming so far.

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** To insist upon having such a report contradicted at once. Have you not been industrious in its circulation?

**ELIZABETH:** I never heard it until now.

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** Has my nephew made you an offer of marriage?

**ELIZABETH:** Your Ladyship has declared it to be impossible.

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** It ought to be so. It must be so, while he retains the use of his reason. Your allurements have made him forget what he owes to himself and to our family. Darcy is the son of my dear sister. As the nearest relation he has in the world, I am entitled to know all his dearest concerns.

**ELIZABETH:** But you are not entitled to know mine. Nor will such behavior as this induce me to be explicit.

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** I am not accustomed to being spoken to in this manner.

**ELIZABETH:** I must confess, neither am I.

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** This is not to be endured. Mr. Darcy is engaged to my daughter. His mother and I planned this union while Darcy and Anne were in their cradles. Their fortune on both sides is splendid. And what is to divide them?

**ELIZABETH:** Let me guess: a young woman with no fortune or family connections. **Pg. 1 of 2**



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**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** If you were sensible of your own good, you would not wish to quit the sphere in which you were brought up.

**ELIZABETH:** I would not be quitting that sphere. Mr. Darcy is a gentleman; I am a gentleman's daughter. We are equal.

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** Tell me once and for all, are you engaged to him?

**ELIZABETH:** .....I am not.

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** And will you promise me, never to enter into such an engagement?

**ELIZABETH:** I will make no such promise.

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** Obstinate, headstrong— Have you no regard for the credit of my nephew? A connection with you will disgrace him in the eyes of everybody.

**ELIZABETH:** Mr. Darcy is a man of whom very little wrong can be said. Should he choose to connect himself with me, he would be acting according to his own heart and conscience.

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** I am no stranger to the particulars of your youngest sister's infamous elopement. A patched-up business. And is such a girl to be my nephew's sister? Heaven and Earth! Are the shades of Pemberley to be thus polluted?

**ELIZABETH:** You can now have nothing further to say. You have insulted me in every possible method. I must beg your leave to go.

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** Unfeeling girl. You are resolved to have him then?

**ELIZABETH:** I've said no such thing. I'm only resolved to act in a manner which will constitute my own happiness.

**LADY CATHERINE DE BOURGH:** Is this your final resolve? Do not imagine, Miss Bennet, that your ambition will ever be gratified. I had hoped to find you reasonable. I send no compliments to your mother; you deserve no such attention. I am most seriously displeased.

**End of Scene.**

**PRIDE AND PREJUDICE adapted by Melissa Leilani Larson**  
**from the novel by Jane Austen**

**Length:** 120 minutes    **Cast Size:** 11-25+ actors (suggested casting: 6M, 11F)    **Genre:** Comedy

**Synopsis:** Full of distinct characters, sparkling wit and timeless romance that has never gone out of print, Jane Austen's classic *Pride and Prejudice* comes alive on stage in this crisp adaptation. Almost from their first meeting, Elizabeth Bennet finds herself at odds with the reticent Mr. Darcy. She finds him cold and arrogant while he disapproves of her family and social standing. Despite his pride and her prejudice—or is it her pride, and his prejudice?—Elizabeth and Darcy can't seem to avoid each other's company. Brought together by a series of events beyond their control, both must reconsider their first impressions.

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