

GEORGE WICKHAM is the devastatingly handsome, charming, roguish and rakish militia officer that is also Mr. Darcy's estranged childhood friend. He is the antagonist of the story, and runs away with Lydia without any thought of the impact of the resulting scandal.

MR. WICKHAM 1

Miss Elizabeth, I noticed a party while in the gardens who look familiar. I wonder how long they been in the neighborhood? Mr. Darcy's estate there is a noble one. A clear ten thousand per annum. I know it well, as I have been connected with his family from my infancy. Are you much acquainted with him? I know him too well to be a fair judge. But I believe your opinion of him would astonish, and perhaps you would not express it quite so strongly anywhere else. Here, you are in your own family. We are not on friendly terms, and it always gives me pain to meet him. His behavior to myself has been scandalous. I wonder whether he is likely to be in this country much longer.

The church *ought* to have been my profession, and I should have been in possession of a most valuable living, had it pleased the gentleman we were speaking of just now. The late Mr. Darcy was my godfather and excessively attached to me. He meant to provide for me and thought he had done it; but the living was given elsewhere. There was an informality in the terms of the bequest, enough to give me no hope. I may perhaps have sometimes spoken my opinion *of* him, and to him too freely. I can recall nothing worse. Till I can forget his father, I can never defy or expose *him*.

His pride has also led him to be liberal and generous. He is very proud of what his father was and also has *brotherly* pride. He is a very kind and careful guardian of his sister. Among those who are his equals, he is a very different man who is just, sincere, rational, honorable, and, perhaps, agreeable. I attribute his dislike to jealousy. Had the late Mr. Darcy liked me less, his son might have borne me better. But his father's uncommon attachment to me irritated him. He could not bear the competition or the preference which was often given me.

MR. WICKHAM 2

My dear sisters. I hope I do not interrupt. I was surprised to see Darcy in town. We passed each other several times. I wonder what he was doing there. I understood from the Gardiners that you saw him while at Lambton. I find from *our* uncle and aunt that you have seen Pemberley. and you saw the old housekeeper, Mrs. Reynolds? She was always so fond of me. I don't suppose she mentioned my name to you. She did? And what did she say?