

MARY BENNET is the bookish and pontificating middle daughter of five. Although she is as pretty as her sisters, she prefers drab dress and simple hair styles as an outward sign of religious dedication and modesty, which she believes distinguishes her from her more lively and outgoing sisters.

## MARY 1

*(Looks up from her book)*

Mr. Darcy's character was decided when his manners gave a disgust which turned the tide of his popularity. He was proud, above his company, and unworthy to be compared with his friend. He danced only once with Mrs. Hurst and once with Miss Bingley and declined being introduced to any other lady.

*(Contemplating her own wisdom, she found something profound to add)*

Pride is a very common failing, I believe. I am convinced that it is very common; indeed, human nature is particularly prone to it, and that there are very few of us who do not cherish a feeling of self-complacency because of some quality, real or imaginary.

## MARY 2

*(speaking to the guests who have just arrived at Longbourn)*

Mama is in quite a state. Jane returned from London, did not see Mr. Bingley while there. It seems *he will not* return to Netherfield. I wonder at her going to London at all. Every impulse of feeling should be guided by reason, and exertion should always be in proportion to what is required.

Jane does seem downcast. Lizzy has gone to Hunsford to visit Mrs. Collins *(she says this with some resentment and a huge sigh)*. I suppose society has claims on us all... intervals of recreation and amusement are desirable for everybody!

Except perhaps, my two younger sisters who should not be out. Colonel Forster's wife invited Lydia to journey with them to Brighton when the militia moves, but this *cannot* be allowed. Lydia is a notorious flirt and should not be released on the entire militia without restraint and guidance. After all, one *cannot* be too much guarded in one's behavior toward the undeserving of the *other* sex.