

I. Thesis: Austen contrasts Elizabeth Bennet with Charlotte Lucas to shed light on a reality many women at the time faced - marrying for purposes of security rather than love or even personal happiness.

I. Mr. Collins is meant to inherit the Bennets' property
- Mrs. Bennet insistent on Elizabeth marrying him
- Rejects proposal - "you could not make me happy" (ch. 19, pg. 135)
- Despite knowing this marriage will ensure her family their home

II. - Values her happiness ^{and love} more in a marriage
- "I know you could be neither happy nor respectable, unless you truly esteemed your husband" - Mr. Bennet (ch. 59, 464)
- embodies idealistic, romantic approach to marriage

III. In contrast to Elizabeth this approach to marriage, her close friend Charlotte Lucas embodies a more realistic and practical one.
- older and less handsome than Elizabeth

↳ Contrast highlights a reality many women faced - fear of not being able to marry due to ageing and looks

- While Elizabeth believes happiness is important to marriage, believes that "happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance" (ch. 6, pg. 27)
- Marriage "was the only provision for well-educated young women of small fortune... however uncertain of giving happiness" (ch. 22, pg. 155)
- Not a romantic; and asks only for a "comfortable home" (ch. 22, pg. 158)

IV. Opposed to Elizabeth, who eventually marries Mr. Darcy because she truly loves him, Charlotte marries Mr. Collins
- despite him being "neither sensible nor agreeable" (ch. 22, pg. 155)
- "solely from the pure and disinterested desire of an establishment" (ch. 22, pg. 154)
- "exceedingly fair" prospects of future wealth (ch. 22, pg. 154)

Parents happily accept - free of financial burden

Conclusion

Elizabeth embodies an ideal marriage based on love, while Charlotte and her marriage brings to light a sad reality - many women at the time depended on marriage for financial and social survival, and were willing to give up happiness or love for the sake of stability.

2] Thesis: the development of Mr. Darcy's character throughout the book illustrates how feelings of pride and prejudice can be overcome for love

I. Beginning - handsome + wealthy, but also proud + arrogant

- "most disagreeable, haughty man... so high and so conceited that there was no enduring him" (ch. 13, pg. 15)

- Ball - looks down on others

"There is not another woman in the room, whom it would be a punishment for me to stand up and dance with" (Ch. 3, pg. 13)

II. Falls for Elizabeth, but continues to have prejudice against her due to her class

- proposal - "he was not more eloquent on the subject of tenderness than of pride" (ch. 24, pg. 236)

- emphasizing her inferiority + gap in social status

- rejection stuns him and jolts his pride - significant turning point

III. Hands letter → Elizabeth realizes own prejudices

- shows himself to be more generous + gentlemanly

- Pays for Lydia + Wickham's wedding to save them from social disgrace

- kind + caring brother, master, and landlord

2

IV. Admits wrongdoings

- "recollection of what I then said, of my conduct, my manners... has been many months, inexpressibly painful to me" (ch. 58, pg. 453)

Acknowledges faults

- "I was a selfish being all my life... spoilt by my parents who... almost taught me to be selfish + overbearing; to care for none beyond my own family; to wish at least to think meanly of others; to regard wealth compared with my own" (ch. 58, pg. 455)

- Elizabeth taught him a lesson and "properly humbled him"

- His admittance of his wrongdoings + faults demonstrates how he is able to reflect on + overcome arrogance, pride, and initial thoughts, + change for the better

- Helps Elizabeth realize own prejudices

Conclusion

Overall, Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy's initial relationship shows how pride + prejudice are other obstacles in relationships. Mr. Darcy's change in character shows how these are things that must be overcome for true love and understanding.

