

Pod and Prejudice: A Jane Austen Podcast

Hosts: Becca and Molly

Total Time: 48:59.6

Hi guys, just a quick note from Becca...
Molly: And Molly
Becca: We just wanted to address some of the heartbreaking protesting that's going on in America right now in reaction to the death of George Floyd:
Molly: We have decided that as a unit, we are going to take our June Patreon payout and donate it to an organization called, Reclaim the Block , which is an organization that is working to divest from the Minneapolis Police Department.
Becca: We just want to make clear that we stand 100% with the protestors and our listeners of color. We hope everyone stays safe and Black Lives Matter .
Molly: Black Lives Matter . And if you need help figuring out where you want to donate your money, feel free to reach out. We are happy to share where we've been donating and what we've been doing to help.
Becca: That's all we wanted to say. Here's our episode today...
Becca and Molly: 3...2...1 [MUSIC]
This is Becca.
This is Molly.
Becca: We're here to talk about Jane Austen.
Molly: We are. We are both sitting in our parents' houses in our closets.
Becca: I'm actually even sitting in my parents' closet.
Molly: That could take it one step further. [LAUGHS]
Becca: Because my closet is too small for me. Molly and I are both just living through Covid quarantine. It's super cute; it's super fun.

Molly: I am drinking kombucha from a wine glass because that's my M.O..

Becca: I am halfway through my law school finals, thriving!

Molly: Thriving.

Becca: And also just, you know, living with my parents as a full grown adult. So, I am so excited to see Molly. **[LAUGHS]**

Molly: Maybe already cried today and it is not the evening so-

Becca: Audience, if you know where we're at in the books, at this point in time, you know that the drama of Pride and Prejudice is getting very dishy. So, we are so excited to get into somebody else's drama because you know, the world is stressful on our end.

Molly: Yes!

Becca: So, you ready Molls?

Molly: I am so ready. We are here today discussing **chapters 6-8 of Volume the third**. We are nearing the end of this book. I do not know how it's all going to wrap itself up. But, to begin, with **chapter 6-**

Becca: Wait. Before we go to **chapter 6**, should we do a little recap of where we are right now in the book?

Molly: Yes, we should.

Becca: Lydia has run off with Wickham and it's so dramatic that Lizzy had to go home from Pemberley and miss her dinner with Georgi and Darcy. So, instead we have Mr. Bennet, gone down to London to pick up Lydia, Mrs. Bennet, basically in mourning throughout the house, and the Bennet sisters with very precarious reputations.

Molly: **[SINGS] The Beennet Sisters!** Sorry, I was overcome with the urge. I had to do it. Continue.

Becca: Yes, **[SINGS] The Beennet Sisters** are all possibly gonna get slut-shamed for the actions of one Bennet sister.

Molly: Which is super unfortunate and we don't love that. But, they arrive home and the Gardiners are with them and the Gardiners stay over for the night. And then in the morning, we begin with no letter from Mr. Bennet, which they were all kind of expecting to get one. They know that he's usually a poor correspondent, but they were hoping that he would at least say like, didn't find her yet.

Becca: I love this detail because it really does paint Mr. Bennet as *the bad dad texter*.

Molly: He is *the bad dad texter*. But also this whole chapter and the next one too, I'm just kind of like-It's really making me change my mind about him.

Becca: Oh my God!

Molly: It's sad.

Becca: Trouble in paradise with daddy Bennet!

Molly: I know. Even in my mind, he's not even that hot anymore.

Becca: Who plays him now?

Molly: If I think about his face, it's still Colin Firth, but now he has a beard.

Becca: I don't know.

Molly: His beard is like scraggly and white.

Becca: So, it's now Colin Firth with a scraggly, white beard.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: You're actually getting much closer to what he actually looks like. So, this is good. [CHUCKLES]

Molly: Nice. So, Mr. Gardiner leaves in the morning after the post comes with no letter. And he goes to meet him in London. Mrs. Bennet is relieved that he's finally gone to go to Mr. Bennet because this is her only security for her husband's not being murdered in a duel, with Wickham.

Becca: So, basically Mrs. Bennet thinks that Mr. Bennet has gone down there with a shotgun to kill Wickham when in reality he's just looking for Lydia.

Molly: Indeed. Mrs. Gardiner has been planning to stay for a few more days, so, she's just like hanging out with the kids and then Mrs. Phillips comes to visit. And she always brings gossip about Wickham, which doesn't really help. Everyone in town starts talking about how shitty Wickham is. Like, how they used to love him but actually, he left all this debt behind him. It says, "He left debt with every tradesman and extended seduction into their families." Was he flirting with everyone's wife?

Becca: Yup. Copped him some feels.

Molly: What a fucking douchebag!

Becca: Yeah. Here's the thing that's so funny- Wickham is so hot that it took him leaving and also ruining a local girl's reputation for people to be like, wait a minute? He hit on my wife!

Molly: [LAUGHS] Right.

Becca: He owes me a thousand bucks! What the hell? This guy sucks!

Molly: Truly. Then Mr. Gardiner writes to say that he found daddy Bennet and brought him home to Gracechurch Street and their next move is to check all of the hotels, because they think that they might have stayed there while they were looking to procure lodgings. And, I had a question? Would they have had enough money to procure lodgings? Cuz Wickham's broke.

Becca: You can still go into deeper debt.

Molly: That's true.

Becca: I'm picturing like seedy motels.

Molly: Got it.

Becca: Like, even if you're poor, there's always a seedy motel for you to go bring a girl, to fuck in.

Molly: Are they motel hopping right now?

Becca: I mean, I can't tell you that.

Molly: Okay. We'll keep going. Then there's a P.S., a post script, and it says that Mr. Gardiner wrote to Mr. Forster, Colonel Forster, to see if Wickham has any friends or relatives that might know where he is. And then he adds that perhaps Lizzy could better tell them about his relations? And I was thinking, is he hinting at her friendship with Darcy in this moment?

Becca: Yeah. But I think really what it is, is that Lizzy spent that whole monologue basically telling the Gardiners: actually here's all this other shit I learned about Wickham.

Molly: Hmmm-

Becca: So, she's like their go to source on Wickham. Also, she was friends with Wickham.

Molly: She was.

Becca: So there's like a lot of reasons why Lizzy would be the one in the know. But she's like, fuck me- I don't know! **{SNICKERS}**

Molly: Right. And she says that she doesn't know but she does think that perhaps maybe his friends in the shire, "friends" with large air quotes, might know where he is. And though she is not sanguine in her hope of that-

Becca: Jane Austen really likes that word.

Moll: Yeah. I still don't get it. But that's okay. So, every day at Longbourn is a day of anxiety but especially the days when the mail comes, because they are always hoping for news. Then, **[LAUGHS]** Oh boy!

Becca: Just when you thought he was gone forever!

Molly: I thought he was gone forever. A letter arrives for daddy Bennet from Mr. Collins-

Becca: **[VOCALIZES JAMAICAN AIRHORN NOISES]** Actually, he doesn't really deserve that noise; it's kind of like:

Becca and Molly in unison: **Wah, wah, waaaaaaaah!**

Molly: And, Jane has been instructed to open all of daddy Bennet's mail. So, she does. And at first I was just going to write, 'gross.' Like that was gonna be my notes on this section. But some important stuff is said.

Becca: **[CHUCKLE]**

Molly: He knows what happened with Lydia, presumably from a letter to Charlotte from Lizzy, is what I'm guessing?

Becca: Yeah, I think probably that's what happened.

Molly: And he is just so sorry that this has occurred. The exact quote that Collins uses to say how sorry he is, is "The death of your daughter would have been a blessing in comparison of this."

Becca: That is so fucking rude!

Molly: So rude. And he says, "Her licentiousness" which, I have heard this word but I looked it up anyway. It is promiscuous or unprincipled in sexual matters-

Becca: Her slutty behavior.

Molly: So her licentiousness results from a faulty degree of indulgence and I was wondering if in this moment, he was calling them out as parents? Because then he is immediately like, but I'm sure it was just like, she's been a bad person since birth.

Becca: Yeah. He's basically saying, so you guys might have done a terrible job raising her but don't worry, you might just have given birth to an evil child to begin with.

Molly: Right. And- [LAUGHTER] he told Lady Catherine de Bourgh, which I like freaked out when I read that, and I don't know why necessarily? But, for some reason I felt like that was bad news.

Becca: Let's unpack that, speculate as to why you've got a little heart drop in your body.

Molly: Yeah. Well her response was, "Who will connect themselves with such a family?" She says like basically, it's all over for them now. And I'm worried that because she is wealthy, and because the estate is entailed on Collins, and she controls his actions, and she's Darcy's aunt- Becca's like looking at me like there's something I'm supposed to know.

Becca: Oh, yeah! No, I thought you were going to go for the fact that she's Darcy's aunt.

Molly: She's Darcy's aunt and additionally- Oh! But, Darcy already wasn't gonna marry Lizzy because of this right? Or was he? I don't know.

Becca: Basically.

Molly: But, now she won't let him; now she's gonna make him marry baby de Bourgh.

Becca: But like, yeah. This is like spreading through Darcy's super proper, super high-class family. Insult to injury.

Molly: I don't love it. Also, their estate is entailed on Collins and she's gonna be like pushing for that as soon as possible now.

Becca: Oh yeah.

Molly: So, in all ways, she doesn't want Darcy to marry Lizzy. And he ends the letter by saying that he's very lucky that Lizzy turned him down because otherwise he'd be connected to them too.

Becca: And this is where you realize that Mr. Collins is basically just like Facebook posting with his new girlfriend to get back at Lizzy. He's just rubbing in her face that she's fucked. Like, ha-ha! Bet you wish you'd chose me! Who's the bad choice now? Heh, heh, heh...

Molly: Heh, ha, ha! [LAUGHTER] Yeah, I hate him. [LAUGHTER CONTINUES] So, that's the end of that letter. Then- Oh, it's not the end of that letter. My bad.

Becca: No, it's not.

Molly: He just ends by saying that they should probably disown Lydia now. And that's the end of that letter.

Becca: It's like, anyways guys- Best of luck to you. You guys are fucked. You'd be better off if Lydia died. You should definitely kick her out of the family. Byeeeeeee!!

Molly: Yeah. He sucks. Then we get a letter from Mr. Gardiner saying that Wickham has no friends. [CHUCKLE] His friends from before he joined the militia don't even talk to him anymore, because he's fake and probably dropped their friendship the minute he was out of their sight.

Becca: Exactly, and probably just stole money from all of them too, cuz that's his M.O..

Molly: Well, speaking to his debts: In addition to his normal debts to the tradesmen of the town, he also has a lot of gentlemen's debts, which are gambling debts- which are considered more important to not have.

Becca: Oh yeah. No, cuz gambling is like immoral.

Molly: Yeah.

Becca: And Jane's reaction to that was hilarious!!

Molly: Jane's reaction to that was so funny. She was like, oh my God! A gamester? I had no idea!

Becca: She's like appalled. Jane Austen even said she was like horrified and everybody else was like: Yes; he ran off with our **sixteen year old sister**.

Molly: If it wasn't bad enough-

Becca: Obviously.

Molly: Jane, just think the worst. She will never.

Becca: Yeah, exactly. She's still surprised.

Molly: So, Mr. Gardiner has convinced daddy Bennet to come home and told him that he'll deal with everything. And, Mrs. Bennet should be excited about this because that way he won't be killed. But, instead her thought was, who will fight Mr. Wickham? She just doesn't really know what's going on.

Becca: I love Mrs. Bennet but sometimes she's a little - her priorities are off.

Molly: Yes.

Becca: Where it's like, who's gonna beat him up versus who's going to bring my daughter home, and what am I going to do about the rest of my daughters?

Molly: She's a mess.

Becca: A genuine mess.

Molly: Then, Mrs. Gardiner decides that she wants to go back to London. So, the coach takes her there and brings daddy Bennet back. She goes away, still perplexed about Lizzy's "Derbyshire friend." And I liked that phrasing because it's got a big wink after it.

Becca: I mean, Mrs. Gardiner is the only one who has her shit together enough to know that Lizzy's like *crushin'* right now, and it's a big problem.

Molly: And, she had expected that he would have written them by now. But there was nothing and Lizzy's sad about this whole thing with Darcy. And it says that she is by this time, "tolerably well acquainted with her own feelings." Thank fucking God! It took her long enough. But she's lucky that she doesn't need to explain to anyone why she's sad, because everyone is sad about Lydia. So, her sadness has an excuse.

Becca: That's actually so true. I mean, this is like, surprise alert! We're all in quarantine for Coronavirus. It's just a baseline level of stress that I don't need to explain to anybody why I'm stressed, ever.

Molly: Exactly.

Molly and Becca: It's great.

Becca: It feels awesome. Thank God.

Molly: Then Mr. Bennet comes back and it's like, just all of his negativities have been brought to light to me, which is upsetting.

Becca: The thing that I think is interesting about that is- The way I read that is- all of his negativities are being brought to light to him.

Molly: To him too. And I do like that he is self-aware by this time.

Becca: I loved the line where he says something like, Lizzy, for once in my life, let me just blame myself for what I did wrong?

Molly: Yeah. I loved that. So, at first I was upset at him because he arrived home, he didn't want to talk about it. Everyone was like nervous to bring it up. And then when they did, he was like, none of you need to suffer for this, let's not talk about it. This is all my doing and I was like, oh, I could get behind that. Lizzy asks if he thinks that Lydia is in London and he says that he does. And, Lizzy is like, oh well, she always wanted to go there didn't she? And he said, she is happy then and let her stay there for [SNORT] quite some time. He tells Lizzy that she was right before. He specifically says he bears her no ill will for being right, from their conversation about Lydia being a wild card. And, he thinks that her observations on the point show greatness of mind, which was a sweet little moment. You get to see that he loves her a lot. And then Jane comes in to get tea for Mrs. Bennet. He calls Mrs. Bennet out in this moment. He says this is such a good use of time; I'll put on my nightcap and dressing gown and go into the library and just complain about everything next time. And then he says, oh maybe I'll save that for when Kitty runs away. And then Kitty's like, I'm not going to run away! If I ever go to Brighton, I'll be much more well behaved. And then he says, you're never fucking leaving this house again!
[LAUGHS]

Becca: Oh, that is a great line. That is an absolutely stellar line. Where he's like, oh, we'll talk about it in ten years.

Molly: Yeah. I was like, in ten years she's gonna be like twenty five!

Becca: Twenty seven.

Molly: Oh, right. She's older. She's gonna be twenty seven; she would be a spinster by that point.

Becca: Exactly. It's basically like, we'll talk about it when you're fifty! Not that people who are fifty who are unmarried are spinsters. But it's more like by that point, she'll be a fully grown-ass adult and it will be totally normal for her to make her own decisions about romance.

Molly: And in that time, she would be a spinster. So-

Becca: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Molly: And, that is the end of that chapter, which brings us to **chapter seven**. It's two days later.

Becca: And there is a twist.

Molly: And then there is a *tweest!* Lizzy and Jane are walking around outside when the housekeeper, Mrs. Hill, comes running towards them and asks if they've heard any good news? And they were like, what? And she's like, an express letter came for your dad from Mr. Gardiner. And so they run inside. They're met by the butler who says that daddy Bennet has gone out toward the copse, which is a small group of trees. And I knew that without looking it up but I wanted to share it with our audience.

Becca: Uh! I'm so proud. I did not know that.

Molly: You didn't?

Becca: Yeah. No, not off the top of my head. I made an assumption but I had not heard of the word before: copse.

Molly: **[CELEBRATING]** Wooh! I knew something! **[CHUCKLE]** They go towards the copse and they find him. And they run towards him and Jane starts falling behind cuz she's not in good shape and Lizzy asks if the news is good? He says he can't tell if it's good or not, so why doesn't she read it? So she reads it. Mr. Gardiner has found Lydia and Wickham. They are not married. This is funny because Jane was like, oh good, their married. And then the next line is: they're not married. **[LAUGHTER]** And he doesn't think that they had ever intended to but he's working to ensure that they will get married, and here are the terms of the marriage: "Assure to your daughter by settlement, her equal share of the five thousand pounds..." and then he also needs to "...enter into an engagement of allowing her, during your life, one hundred pounds per annum." He then says that Wickham's circumstances aren't as hopeless as they thought. Is this because of the amount that Wickham is asking for?

Becca: Yeah, hang on. Just a second. I'm trying to just do a calculation for you.

Molly: Okay.

Becca: So, one hundred pounds of sterling today is one hundred twenty five to the United States dollar. One hundred pounds, eighteen, eleven - is equivalent to about eight thousand pounds. So, what's eight thousand pounds- ? Hang on. It's like about, I think it's about like, ten thousand dollars.

Molly: Per year.

Becca: Yeah. So basically Wickham is under no obligation to take this other than human decency, and he takes it. And that is not nearly enough. Wickham owes just like, a shit ton more money.

Molly: Right. The debate you're getting at here is that Jane thinks, oh, he's taking that small amount because he loves Lydia. And Mr. Bennet says that can't possibly be right, the only way that would be the case is if Mr. Gardiner is not telling us that he paid Wickham way more money. And Mr. Gardiner's saying, clearly he didn't need quite as much money because I guess he's not as in debt as we thought. So it's unclear if Mr. Gardiner's like lying, if Wickham genuinely does have feelings for Lydia, or if for some reason he just like, has been able to make a living?

Molly: Yeah, I think at this point, Mr. Gardiner is trying to get them to think that Wickham has more money than they thought. Mr. Gardiner has made this offer to him and asked for Mr. Bennet's approval. Jane and Lizzy are like, yes! Yes, yes, yes, yes! Mr. Bennet's like, I don't like it very much, because of everything that you just said Becca. He says that he doesn't think that Wickham should have accepted anything less than ten thousand pounds, in that time period's money. And that means that Mr. Gardiner must have paid him off. And, Jane is like, how will it ever be repaid? That's too much money. We don't have that. But then, daddy Bennet goes off to like, write back. It's all up in the air right now. We don't know for sure, but, that's what appears to have happened.

Becca: Yes.

Molly: Jane and Lizzy are talking afterwards and Lizzy says, quote, I loved this, "How strange this is and for this we are to be thankful. That they should marry, small as is their chance of happiness, and wretched as is his character, we are forced to rejoice!" Jane then says what you said: He must really love her because her uncle doesn't have that amount of money to pay them off, because he has his own kids and like, his own family to provide for. He couldn't have done that. But again, up in the air. Lizzy says they'll know how much he was given once they know what his debts are, because then they'll know what Mr. Gardiner must have paid off. Then, the Gardiners have also taken Lydia in, and she's like living with them. And Lizzy says that Lydia better be grateful for that because Lydia kind of sucks sometimes. Jane says that hopefully they'll be happy together and their marriage will go over so well that everything about how it started, will be forgotten by the gossipers. And Lizzy says, that's not possible; nobody could ever forget. They want to go tell their mom. They realize that she probably doesn't know yet. So they go to the library and they're like, can we tell mom? And he's like, whatever you want to do. And they're like, okaaaay? [CHUCKLES] And they go to tell the mom and Mary and Kitty, and, Mrs. Bennet is just so thrilled.

Becca: She hits a total reset here. She's like, oh my God! My lovely son-in-law, Wickham!

Molly: She's like revived. She like pops out of bed.

Becca: It's like that gif of Mushu from Mulan, like popping up and just going, "I liiiiiiiiiiiiiive!"

Molly: Yes! [LAUGHTER] It's exactly like that. She's lying in bed and she just like sits up. And she's like, my dear darling Lydia! Oh, how delightful, she's married at sixteen. Oh dear Wickham! The clothes! And then she starts talking about the clothes and she won't stop talking about the clothes and how merry they shall all be together when they see each other again. And Jane is like, remember Mr. Gardiner, your brother, probably paid off a lot of money and we have him to thank for this. And she's like, well he should anyways because he has more money than us and if he didn't have kids, all his money would go to us anyway, and like, just being entitled and the worst.

Becca: That logic is hard to follow basically. It's like, he should be grateful for us because he had to go pay off our disgraced daughter?

Molly: Yeah, it's pretty gross. We still don't know at this point, how much he paid off. But that is noted. She makes Jane write down a list of all the clothes they'll need and Jane is like, you should slow your roll! Wait until we've talked to our father, and she's like, fine. She agrees because, "She's too happy to be quite so obstinate as usual," which was hilarious.

Becca: Yikes. Jane!

Molly: Jane.

Becca: Not Jane Bennet, Jane Austen.

Molly: Oh, Jane. Yes, Jane. Our girl Jane.

Becca: She's just roasting Mrs. Bennet as usual.

Molly: Yup. She decides she wants to go into Meryton and visit Mrs. Phillips, and then on the way back, she can drop by Lady Lucas' house. And Mrs. Long-

Becca: Clock how quickly this changed from: Mrs. Bennet can't leave her bed because she's disgraced, to she is actively going out and bragging about her sixteen year old daughter getting married. Like, oh! *Your* daughter is not married this early? Blah, blah, blah. She's not fooling anyone because everybody is like, yeah, we know what happened.

Molly: Yeah, I was gonna say. I didn't notice before but now I'm noticing. It specifically mentioned earlier in these chapters, that everyone knows that Wickham is in debt and like not a good person. So going and bragging about this-

Becca: That's why Lizzy is saying a lot of this can't be undone.

Molly: Yeah. Exactly. I also wanted to throw it back to chapter one where she was like- I hate Mrs. Long- She was like, this is where I get all my gossip from.
[CHUCKLE]

Becca: Yup.

Molly: So I'm glad we're bringing her back! Then she tells Mrs. Hill, who is like walking by, and Lizzy goes to her room. She's thinking, at least this is better than Lydia not getting married at all, but it's not great. And that's where we go into **chapter eight!** So, there's a lot of money talk at the beginning of this and all of its confusing, as you guys could probably tell, because in the last chapter when money came up, I was like- bleh, bleh, beh, beh, beh, bah!

Becca: Oh, I also know nothing about how finances work. But from this I glean that the Bennets are not particularly careful with their money.

Molly: Well, that makes sense being who their parents are.

Becca: Well, I mean the parents themselves.

Molly: Oh, being who they are?

Becca: Yeah, and that Mr. Bennet isn't a big spender but he doesn't curtail Mrs. Bennet's spending. But they're not like in debt or anything. They just are not like saving up.

Molly: Right.

Becca: So they don't have like a flush to give back to Gardiner.

Molly: It says at the beginning that he wished that he had saved up some - Okay, I see what you're saying.

Becca: And basically, he has a limited amount of time to even attempt to pay this back because they don't have a son to entail to. So, like, it's not like the debt can persist with this family.

Molly: Right and they talked about having a son and how they had always planned on it, but it just never happened after Lydia was born.

Becca: Well, that's why they have five daughters; they kept trying.

Molly: They kept trying and the only money that is like set aside is five thousand pounds, to be divided up among Mrs. Bennet and the children. And five thousand pounds in that time, from what you just said, would have been like, some hundred something.

Becca: I can try to do the math on it but-

Molly: Well you said that one hundred pounds was equal to like eight thousand pounds in today's poundage. Is that what you said? I know you just did this.

Becca: Yeah, hang on. In 1811, five thousand pounds- It's like four hundred thousand, which is a lot between five daughters though. And like still, in this wealthy society, it's not very much. Basically, they're each entitled to a couple thousand bucks a year. So, like, it is a very small reward. That's why, not a lot of guys are scrambling.

Molly: Right. But for Mr. Bennet- He says that this is not the worst arrangement for him because he's actually only out like ten extra pounds a year, based on like what he was going to be giving Lydia and now what he's giving the two of them together. It's something like that.

Becca: Basically, yeah. He didn't have to up the dowry too much.

Molly: Got it. Yeah. And I'm sure that someone will correct us who knows more about this.

Becca: Yes. This is my Austen weak spot: I don't do math.

Molly: So, since Mr. Gardiner is doing all the work in this matter, Mr. Bennet is kind of like considering it settled and he returns after writing back to Mr. Gardiner, to his usual indolence, which means laziness. And his letter was soon dispatched because though dilatory, which is like slow in undertaking business, he is quick in execution. But he kind of sucks. I mean, he's like, oh, someone else is doing the work? Okay, I approve, and then sends it off and then doesn't care anymore about finding his daughter.

Becca: Yeah, it goes back to our calculation that he don't give a *fuck*!

Molly: Mr. Bennet really doesn't give a fuck! In his letter to Mr. Gardiner, he doesn't write anything to Lydia, which is sad.

Becca: Yeah, he's so pissed off at her. You can tell.

Molly: Oh, he is so mad and let's get into that in a moment. The town, Meryton, for example, is glad for the gossip but it would have been better for them if she had gone off and become a prostitute.

Becca: People love a horrible story and the truth is, this is scandalous but it's not life ruining.

Molly: They are happy that at least it's Wickham that she's marrying because they know that they won't be happy together. So they still have something to talk about.

Becca: People are looking at this the way other people look at a Kardashian wedding. It's like, oh, this is a mess!

Molly: Yeah, so they're like hype about it! Mrs. Bennet is in spirits, "oppressively high."

Becca: I love that, I love that, it's just- [LAUGHS]

Molly: We know how Jane Austen feels about Mrs. Bennet ya'll.

Becca: But I love the idea of oppressively high spirits where it's like- No, no-

Molly: Right, it's like, please stop? [CHUCKLE] She's looking for a house for them. She's trying to get them a house and Mr. Bennet puts a pause on this and says that before she goes buying a house, he wants to make sure they're on the same page about something: There is one house that Lydia will never be allowed into again, and that is Longbourn. I gasped!

Becca: SHUCK!

Molly: Mrs. Bennet is shocked by this too but the thing is, this is exactly what happened when Lizzy turned down Collins. She did this to Lizzy. She was like, I will never talk to you again if you say no!

Becca: The difference is that Mrs. Bennet said that but she was being dramatic. I think that daddy Bennet means this.

Molly: Exactly. So, I was like, wow! It's just an interesting parallel.

Becca: Yeah, it is an interesting parallel. And it really gets to how big a deal these marriages are economically and societally for these women. Like, your choice matters, a lot.

Molly: Yeah, it does. And it also gets to the heart of the difference between daddy Bennet and Mrs. Bennet which is that, when he wants to not fuck around, he's not gonna fuck around. And when she wants to not fuck around, she's probably still fucking around.

Becca: Yeah, she's absolutely still fucking around. [LAUGHTER]

Molly: But she's even more upset, less so of him disowning Lydia; she's more upset that he won't buy her wedding clothes, because without the proper wedding clothes, the wedding will be completely invalid.

Becca: I actually sympathize with that because like- Not saying that the wedding clothes make the wedding. Obviously, whatever you want to do to get married or not get married is your own choice. I very much believe that. But, I think in this context, it is very obviously a rushed marriage, for the sake of her reputation.

Molly: For sure. And they were gonna elope and like, that would've been worse. So it needs to be a legit wedding.

Becca: Yeah. The Bennets are not doing anything to hide the fact that this is a shameful situation. And Mrs. Bennet is trying to sort of circumvent how shameful the situation is and go to it being something worth celebrating. Whereas I think the rest of the family is kind of like, umm, let's just get this over with so that we don't perish, societally!

Molly: Mm-hmm. At this point, Lizzy is feeling sad that she told Darcy what happened. She's regretting it because now there's hope that they might actually be able to conceal the scandal by having the marriage. But, she knows that Darcy is not going to tell anyone what's happened, if it's not out already. But still- My notes don't make any sense-

Becca: I think she wishes she hadn't told him the extent so she could like underplay it to him.

Molly: Yeah. Right. She tries to tell herself that she doesn't wish that she didn't tell him, for fear of disadvantage from this situation to herself. But I don't believe that for a fraction of a second. And, she feels that there's a "gulf impassible between them," because she doesn't think- And this broke my heart- She doesn't think that he would connect himself with her family anyway, because now their permanently connected to his worst enemy, being Wickham. So even if Lydia and Wickham married without any scandal, she thinks that he wouldn't want to be with her now.

Becca: Yeah, he'd basically be related to Wickham.

Molly: It just breaks my little heart.

Becca: Lizzy is so emo in this part of the book. She's really having a little pity party for herself.

Molly: She is. Then I wrote, *read this sad part.*

Becca: I think this is the quote you're getting at. The emo-sad quote from Lizzy: "She was humbled, she was grieved; she repented, though she hardly knew of what. She became jealous of his esteem, when she could no longer hope to be benefited by it. She wanted to hear of him, when there seemed the least chance of gaining intelligence. She was convinced that she could have been happy with him when it was no longer likely they should meet."

Molly: Yeah. It made me sad.

Becca: She's throwing such a pity party right now, cuz she's like, oh man, I turned down his proposal. Now, I see that he's the fucking *bees knees*, but he got lucky and was able to avoid the whole situation with my family, because I turned him down.

Molly **[SIGHS]** Yeah, sad. She thought that if he knew how she would now be so grateful for his proposal, he would triumph because he is human. Even though he is generous and kind and good, he would probably still feel proud over knowing that she would now say yes. And I was like, then Lizzy tell him! **[WHIMPERING]** Tell him how you feel. But she can't talk about it.

Becca: Share your feelings girl!

Molly: But she knows that no such marriage between them could take place. Mr. Gardiner writes again saying that the money isn't a big deal. He paid it off. It's fine, don't worry about it. He's like, don't mention it. Which, everyone is kind of like, uhhhhh, okay?

Becca and Molly: It's very uncomfortable.

Becca: Also, it like has an air of seediness to it.

Molly: Yeah. I'm a little bit concerned about his money. I don't know how he was able to pay it off and I hope that Mrs. Gardiner knows, you know?

Becca: Yeah.

Molly: It's just a little questionable. Then he also mentions that Wickham has quit the militia and is moving into the regulars, which is the more prestigious military, the regular army. And, that they are moving up north

Becca: I don't know if you know this but north versus south in England- There's even like a book about it. There is like a difference of landscape, there's a difference of culture in this time period. The North is less fashionable.

Molly: Oh! Interesting.

Becca: It's a bit more like the country bumpkins. I mean, people are still like, there's still the higher classes and all this stuff up there but like, fashionable society is by London, and, that's south.

Molly: Gotcha. So, yeah, oooh! That adds a layer to this because I was like, Mrs. Bennet was upset when she thought Lydia was moving up North cuz she thought she- She was like, she won't have any friends! All her friends are in the militia and she had all of these male friends too. And I was like, isn't that something that she's not supposed to do? [LAUGHS]

Becca: Did she have male friends?

Molly: Yeah, did she? But Mrs. Bennet's like really upset and knowing that, that kind of makes that make a little bit more sense. Cuz I was like, she's gonna be fine.

Becca: Oh, she's gonna be fine. But it's like a significantly less cool place to live.

Molly: Yeah, and she's hoping to come back to Longbourn to say goodbye and at first daddy Bennet's like, no. But then Lizzy and Jane convince him to let her come back for, I guess dinner or something? And Mrs. Bennet is really excited to show off her married daughter around town, when she comes back to visit. And Lizzy realizes that if they're coming back to visit, that means she also has to see Wickham, which is a big cliffhanger to end this episode of **Pod and Prejudice** on.

Becca: And that concludes the chapters which brings us to **Becca's**:

Becca and Molly: **Study questions!**

Becca: There's so much to unpack here! So first, let's talk about the search for Lydia. So, were you able to sort of map out from her leaving Brighton till her returning to Longbourn, a married woman? Are you able to put it all together, sort of in one through line?

Molly: Let's see- Lydia is in Brighton staying with the Forsters. She runs off with Wickham, leaving the Forsters a note saying that she's run off with Wickham to Scotland, to get married. Then, instead of going to Scotland, they go to London and are just *bangin'* in a motel. Then, that's when daddy Bennet and Mr. Gardiner go to London. Mr. Gardiner finds them. Now they're going to get married in London, quickly. Right? And then come back to Longbourn to say goodbye and then go move up north?

Becca: Yeah, basically. I would characterize it as Lydia leaves Brighton after *flirtin' it up* with Wickham. Wickham and Lydia are off to London. Lydia thinks she's going to Scotland to marry him. They go to London. *They bangin'* in a motel. Meanwhile, her father and her uncle go searching through London for her. Her father cannot find them and returns home but her uncle keeps looking and finds them eventually. And then from him finding them to them getting married, there is some transaction of money that makes Wickham's debts fall away. And then they get married in London and come back to Longbourn where they will say goodbye to everyone, and then move up north to start their lives together as a married couple. Does that make sense?

Molly: Yes.

Becca: So this isn't a proposal per se, but we have our first Bennet married off.

Molly: Well, is she married yet?

Becca: Yes.

Molly: Oh, okay.

Becca: No, no, no, no, no. She's not married yet. She's getting married.

Molly: She's about to get married.

Becca: The next time we see Lydia, she is married. So Graham, the proposal sound effect? **[TRUMPETS BLARING TRIUMPHANTLY]** Yeah, thanks Graham. So Lydia and Wickham are married and I want to talk about this because, the last time we saw a couple get married was Charlotte and Collins. Charlotte and Collins was a very pragmatic match. Not a love match, very much an economic match. It helped Charlotte get a place in society that's not spinsterhood. This is a fuck-in-a-motel-for-two-weeks-and-then-get-hitched kind of situation, to save Lydia from a life of prostitution. **[LAUGHTER]**

Molly: Yup. It sounds so glamorous when you put it that way.

Becca: It sounds more Dickens than it does Austen. But that's the thing! It's that Jane Austen did kind of write about these seedy moments. It's just that they're hidden under all the like, lighter things that happen.

Molly: When the action happens off stage, it's left up to your imagination and this action was very much left off stage. Like, just now, when you said we have our first Bennet marriage, and I was like, do we?

Becca: Yes we do.

Molly: Cuz it was all off stage. We don't know.

Becca: It does happen all off stage. So I want to talk about what this means for Lydia. First, what does it mean for Lydia to have married Wickham, based on what we've talked about?

Molly: Well, the money that is being offered him as a dowry is not a lot and we know that he doesn't have a lot of money. We're making the assumption that Mr. Gardiner paid him a lot of money to pay off all of his debts. So, it means she's going to be poor. She's absolutely marrying down. She's also, I think, going to be looked down upon because there's no way that the gossip about the whole beginnings didn't get out or won't get out, which is sad. And it means that she might be disowned from her family.

Becca: Yeah. I think the very beginning of this book is about the desperation to find a very good match. You saw how hard everyone was pushing for Jane to marry Bingley: a good match. And then you see in this situation, Lydia has made sort of the worst pick of any possible match.

Molly: She's made the worst pick that she could have made, that anyone could ever have made.

Becca: She followed her uterus to the hottest guy she could find.

Molly: And he's hot!

Becca: And he's poor and kind of a bastard.

Molly: He's a delinquent.

Becca: Yeah, but he's also- The real thing that's true, as we've talked about this before: To make money, women have to marry. Lydia married a guy with debt and not a lot of prospects. So Lydia has no chance to make money.

Molly: Additionally, she married that guy without even like- He doesn't even love her, I bet. I don't believe that he could.

Becca: So, basically, we have her making a decision when she's like fifteen years old to run off and marry a poor soldier. He's gonna not make a good amount of money in their lives, he's clearly got a gambling problem, and so you see the consequences of girls following their hearts. So, in some way, this is the exact opposite of Charlotte's marriage. So when you're an Austen girl, you really do need to pay attention to who your marrying as part of the calculation of who you can feasibly fall in love with.

Molly: Yeah. Gosh, can you imagine if Lizzy and Darcy could just get married? Cuz it would be perfect for everybody.

Becca: Sooooo, I do think that the change of circumstances for Lydia is actually, in my opinion, a little tragic.

Molly: It is tragic. She made a mistake.

Becca: Pour one out for our bold, little homie Lydia.

Molly: You know, listen! If she is having good sex and if he's not mean to her, then, I guess it's fine. Like, whatever.

Becca: First of all, he's definitely mean to her.

Molly: Yeah, he sucks.

Becca: Second of all, are we sure Wickham's good in bed?

Molly: I think that he wouldn't have gotten as far as he has if he were not?

Becca: Fair.

Molly: Though, I also realized as I said that, how far has he gotten? Not that far! He kept getting left by people. Like, he was with Miss King and she left him, and Lizzy denied him, and now he's with her little sister, because he couldn't get anyone his own age. So, uh-huh? Maybe he's not? [LAUGHS] Who's to say?

Becca: Anyway, so, R.I.P. to Lydia's prospects. What does it mean for Wickham though, on the other side of the coin?

Molly: That's a good question. He's settling for someone who's poor. Not poor, he's settling for someone who's-

Becca: Poor!

Molly: Is she poor?

Becca: I mean, kind of. Like the dowry is not much to speak of. She's a gentleman's daughter but-

Molly: Yeah. She's not offering him a lot of money and the fact that he accepted it? Either he doesn't have his own interests at heart or he's kind of dumb. Or, he has some ulterior motive that like, something's up, you know?

Becca: Something is afoot!

Molly: Something might be afoot. If this is a revenge plot, which in the last episode I was like this has to be revenge, that could be the only reason why he would accept that amount of money. Because it's not enough to live on in the way that they're both used to living, or that at least Lydia's used to living.

Becca: Or that Wickham wants to live.

Molly: Also, I'm confused because I thought that Lydia loves nice things and likes spending money.

Becca: She does, she's dumb.

Molly: So why did she do this?

Becca: She followed her uterus after the hottest guy she found.

Molly: Right, but now that there's all this talk of money, is it really going that far over her head?

Becca: Yes.

Molly: Wow! What a girl?

Becca: Lydia, dumb girl.

Molly: *She dumb*. She needs Kitty to guide her.

Becca: That's why there's so much condemnation on the Bennet parents for not educating her properly about what she should be doing.

Molly: Yes! And there was also the thing about school.

Becca: Not a woman who's gonna want to live a modest lifestyle but she will straight up have to.

Molly: Yup. She's going to leave him. This isn't going to last very long and then she's gonna go even more into squalor because she's gonna be a divorced girl.

Becca: Well, I was also just going to say- Marrying Lydia, for Wickham, means that he can't transcend his post in society.

Molly: Because his only way of moving up would have been to marry up?

Becca: Yeah. Remember when we talked about how men marry for money even if it's not as allowable? He was trying so hard to scrounge up a rich wife and he ended up with Lydia Bennet. So they kind of both fucked each other over.

Molly: Yeah, I remember we had this conversation back when I was still *team Lickham*, which by the way, this could be *team Lickham* as well.

Becca: Yup. I feel like this does fit them weirdly, *team Lickham* [CHUCKLE]

Molly: Yeah, it's gross.

Becca: [SOUNDS OF DISGUST]

Molly: But back when it was Lizzy and Wickham, we talked about the pros and cons of them ending up together and I was really hoping for it for a minute there. How fun to look back upon naïve, young Molly!

Becca: Once we're done with the books, you should just go back and listen to the whole podcast, like from the beginning, and hear yourself like, read the book. It's hilarious.

Molly: Yeah, I can't wait! But so yeah, this is just a fucked up situation. If it was for love, if they were truly in love, then I would be like whatever! But he sucks and she is too young to make this decision. Too dumb, not too young.

Becca: Amen. The other thing that really happened quickly in these chapters is you saw the Bennets lose their social capital so rapidly. I wonder if you have any speculations about how that will affect the rest of the book?

Molly: Lady Catherine de Bourgh is going to have something to say.

Becca: Sorry, how did you pronounce that?

Molly: I'm sorry, [DRAMATICALLY PRONOUNCES NAME: Lady Catherine de Bourgh!]

Becca: CATHERINE DE BOURGH! It's been a long time since she's shown up. Oof!

Molly: Yeah. I forgot about her, I guess. And when she showed up I was like, **[GASPS]**! She's supposed to know what's happened, because she's got some social clout. Also, what you said about Darcy- This is gonna effect everything. Poor Lizzy. She's gonna have something to say. She's gonna spread the fucking rumor. They were already not doing great because they weren't the wealthiest, but now it's like pfft! You know?

Becca: I think that's all accurate. I also think there are four unmarried daughters.

Molly: Also, can we talk about how the youngest daughter was the first to get married?

Becca: Yes! And let me tell you, that- Let me not tell you, actually. **[LAUGHTER]** Yikes, I caught myself.

Molly: Good.

Becca: Yeah. So that's, that question. So then the next question, we've touched on this, but Wickham had a lot of debts. That was made clear. Why would he agree to marry Lydia? I think we got into this with the, sort of the Gardiner debt situation, and the money situation. Do you have any speculation as to what happened there? There's like obviously, like a piece of the puzzle that seems to be kind of missing.

Molly: I think that Mr. Gardiner paid him a lot of money. I don't know how. Maybe Mr. Gardiner gambles as well? But somehow Mr. Gardiner was able to pay off all of Wickham's debts and maybe a little extra as an incentive? Because Mr. Gardiner doesn't want to, one, see his family go into social despair and two, maybe he doesn't want to have to support them? Because he has his own family. I think he did something, he paid a lot of money. And that's why I feel like there was a muddy section around the time where we received the letter from him, where we were like, uhhhh, did he pay the money? Did he not pay the money? Somehow Mr. Gardiner made the agreement with Wickham that he would marry Lydia and I think he paid him to do it.

Becca: Okay. Why do you think Mr. Bennet is so desperate to pay back Mr. Gardiner?

Molly: He doesn't want to owe him anything, because of PRIDE-D, D, D, D?

Becca: It's in the title!

Molly: It's in the title! Also, Mr. Gardiner is his wife's brother. Maybe that has something to do with it? Does Mr. Bennet have siblings? I don't know. I don't think he does.

Becca: Mr. Bennet's older-

Molly: Yeah, they might be dead. It's his wife's brother and he's already pretty annoyed at his wife all the time. So this would just be like one more thing.

Becca: I also think it's just like, not only is it a lot of money but also it really salvaged the Bennets. Because they've lost social capital here but compared to what they would have lost-?

Molly: But, can't he just like take the- I mean, it's great, pay him back. But, it doesn't feel like he's like, I want to pay him back because I really appreciate what he did. It feels like I want to pay him back because I don't want anyone to know what he did.

Becca: No, I think it's a combo. I genuinely do think Mr. Bennet is extraordinarily grateful.

Molly: Are they *bros*?

Becca: I don't think there's any bad blood between Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Bennet.

Molly: Okay. Good.

Becca: I think it's more about like, him having to do it and feeling like, oh my God, I am the man of my family and I wasn't able to make this happen. But, somebody else did.

Molly: Yeah. I think it's a pride thing. It's a guilt thing. I think he's been made all too aware of how much he's been slacking and yeah, that makes sense.

Becca: Well, good thing he's not letting Kitty out of his sight for ten years!

Molly: For ten whole years!

Becca: Ten whole years. I have two more questions in this round before we get to our standbys. I wanted to compare the reaction of this room. Mrs. Bennet- This actually gets to what we were talking about just before this, with Mr. Bennet. How do you think this experience will change them each as parents?

Molly: How will this change them? Well, I think how it will change Mr. Bennet is very clear because it started to happen. He's going to start being like, I'm bringing my foot down; I'm the dad! Blah, blah, blah, blah. I think that's clear. I also think that he already respected Lizzy a lot but now that he knows that she was perceptive enough to see that, I think he's going to respect her more. And maybe allow her to make some of her own decisions, perhaps that she may not have been allowed to otherwise? Perhaps, maybe in marrying a man that, I don't know? I just want her to get married to Mr. Darcy; I don't know, you know? And [CHUCKLE] moving on to Mrs. Bennet, I truly don't know how this will change her because she seemed to not- It was all erased from her memory the minute that it said that Lydia was getting married.

Becca: Yup. She's just very wedding focused.

Molly: I don't think anything's going to change. I hope it does though. I really want her to- I mean, I don't hate Mrs. Bennet. I think that she's *over the top* but I do love her and I think that she loves her daughter.

Becca: No, we stand Mrs. Bennet. She's just ridiculous.

Molly: She really loves her daughters, at least one of them.

Becca: [LAUGHS] Just Lydia! No, she also loves Jane for being hot. [CHUCKLE] No, she loves her daughters.

Molly: She does. This is really exciting for her because she's finally marrying off a daughter, and this was her goal. So, happy for her but I don't think anything is going to change in her parenting style.

Becca: Yup. And finally, Lizzy's big emo moment. How do you think this is gonna effect anything brewing in the lasagna with Darcy?

Molly: I just raised my arm and rested it on my doorframe because I needed to like, do a pose. Because we want what we can't have.

Becca: Oh, absolutely! Absolutely.

Molly: And that is what I will say on that point. She wanted him before and now she knows she can't marry him, and she wants him fifty times more.

Becca: And she's gonna get some regency era ice cream, play some regency era Adele, and try to like work through these feelings. [CHUCKLES]

Molly: They had ice cream in this time period right?

Becca: I'm sure they did, but it wasn't like a Ben and Jerry's pint.

Molly: No, it was like in a dish. **[GIGGLES]**

Becca: Funniest quote?

Molly: This is when Mr. Bennet talks about giving his daughter, Kitty, ten years of house arrest. Ahem! **[CONTINUES TO COMICALLY CLEAR THROAT]** "You go to Brighton! -- I would not trust you so near it as East-Bourne, for fifty pounds! No, Kitty, I have at last learnt to be cautious, and you will feel the effects of it. No officer is ever to enter my house again, nor even to pass through the village. Balls will be absolutely prohibited, unless you stand up with one of your sisters. And you are never to stir out of doors till you can prove that you have spent ten minutes of every day in a rational manner." And then Kitty starts to cry and he says, "Well, well. Do not make yourself unhappy. If you are a good girl for the next ten years, I will take you to a review at the end of them."

Becca: Oh boy. Poor Kitty, really suffering for her sister's mistakes.

Molly: Really.

Becca: Questions moving forward?

Molly: Well, will Lydia and Wickham stay together and actually move up north and- Will that happen? I'm curious about their like "wedding" without the wedding clothes and without the venue and without being paid for. That will probably put them into some negative light by the community. So, that's a question I have. Like, how will they be received at Longbourn? **[SIGHS DRAMATICALLY]** Will Darcy come back? Will Bingley come back?

Becca: Who wins the chapters?

Molly: Oh! Wow! **[LAUGHS]** Lizzy didn't do much these chapters. Jane didn't do much these chapters. These were mostly chapters of letters from Mr. Gardiner and Collins. I want to say that Mr. Gardiner wins because he found them.

Becca: Yeah, I think he did a pretty good job. I think we could give it to him.

Molly: Yeah, he got Lydia married, which was the most important thing. Though, I am not about conforming to the laws of society, but I know that they need to. So that is good that he did that.

Becca: Yeah, I think we could give it to Mr. Gardiner this time. He's like the uncle that you want in that situation.

Molly: He's the cool uncle.

Becca: Yeah, he is. Alright! That concludes this episode of **Pod and Prejudice**. Until next time-

Molly: Stay proper-

Becca: And find a spouse, [CHUCKLE] ...not Wickham though. [CLASSICAL MUSIC PLAYING]

Molly: Yeah, find yourself anyone but Wickham, anyone! [MUSIC CONTINUES]

Molly: **Pod and Prejudice** is edited by Molly Burdick with art by Torrence Browne. Special thanks to our audio producer, Graham Cook, without whom we would sound like garbage fire. To keep up with the show, you can follow us on Twitter and Instagram @**podandprejudice**. We're also on Facebook at **facebook.com/podandprejudice**. If you like, you can also check out our Patreon at **patreon.com/podandprejudice** to see how you can support us. Or just drop us a rating and a review wherever you listen to or read podcasts. Thanks for joining!