

1**The Bennets' new neighbour**

It is a truth well known to all the world that an unmarried man in possession of a large fortune must be in need of a wife. And when such a man moves into a neighbourhood, even if nothing is known about his feelings or opinions, this truth is so clear to the surrounding families, that they think of him immediately as the future husband of one or other of their daughters.

‘My dear Mr Bennet,’ said Mrs Bennet to her husband one day, ‘have you heard that someone is going to rent Netherfield Park at last?’

‘No, Mrs Bennet, I haven’t,’ said her husband.

‘Don’t you want to know *who* is renting it?’ cried Mrs Bennet impatiently.

‘You want to tell me, and I don’t mind listening.’

Mrs Bennet needed no further encouragement. ‘Well, my dear, I hear that he’s a very rich young man from the north of England. It seems he came to see Netherfield on Monday and was so delighted with it that he arranged to rent it at once. Of course, it *is* the finest house in the area, with the largest gardens. His servants will be here by the end of the week, and *he* will be arriving soon afterwards!’

‘What is his name?’ asked Mr Bennet.

‘Bingley.’

1 班纳特家的新邻居

家产万贯而又尚未婚配的男人一定需要一个贤内助，这是一条世界上尽人皆知的真理。当这样一位男人搬到了附近时，这条真理在邻居们心中就显得更加清楚，他们哪怕对他的感情或意见一无所知，也会马上把他当作他们哪个女儿未来的丈夫。

“亲爱的班纳特先生，”一天，班纳特夫人对她丈夫说，“你听说了吗？尼日斐庄园到底还是租出去了。”

“我还没听说，班纳特太太。”她丈夫说。

“难道你不想知道是谁要租吗？”班纳特太太不耐烦地嚷了起来。

“你要想告诉我，我也不妨听听。”

班纳特夫人不需要更多的鼓励就开腔了。“啊，亲爱的，我听说他是个阔少爷，英格兰北部人。好像是星期一来看了看尼日斐，十分喜欢，马上安排把它租了下来。当然，连宅子的花园都那么大，那确实是这一片最好的庄园。他的仆人周末到，他本人随后就到！”

“他叫什么名字？”班纳特先生问道。

“彬格莱。”



neighbour *n.* 邻居. **possession** *n.* *ownership.* 所有权. **fortune** *n.* *prosperity;* great sum of money. 巨富. **encouragement** *n.* *encouraging.* 鼓励.

‘Is he married or single?’

‘Oh, single, my dear, of course! A single man of large fortune—he has an income of four or five thousand pounds a year. How wonderful for our girls!’

‘Why? How can it affect them?’ Mr Bennet asked.

‘My dear Mr Bennet,’ she replied, ‘how can you be so annoying! You must realize I’m thinking of his marrying one of our daughters.’

‘Is that his purpose in coming to the area?’

‘His purpose? No, of course not. But it’s very likely that he’ll fall in love with one of them. And I want him to see the girls as soon as possible, before our other neighbours introduce themselves. So you must visit him as soon as he arrives.’

‘I really don’t see why I should,’ said Mr Bennet. ‘You and the girls can visit him, or perhaps you should send them by themselves. Yes, that might be better, as you’re as attractive as any of them, and Mr Bingley might like you best.’

‘My dear, you flatter me,’ replied his wife, ‘I certainly have been called beautiful in the past, but I think a woman with five adult daughters should stop thinking of her own beauty. Mr Bennet, I beg you to visit him. You know it’s correct for the gentleman of the family to visit new neighbours first. I simply cannot take the girls to see him unless you have already met him.’

‘Surely you worry too much about the rules of polite society. I’m sure Mr Bingley will be delighted to see you all.’

“结婚了还是单身?”

“啊,亲爱的,当然是单身!家产万贯的单身汉——他每年收入四五千英镑呢。对咱家姑娘们来说真是再好不过了!”

“为什么?这跟姑娘们有什么关系?”班纳特先生问道。

“我亲爱的班纳特先生,”她回答道,“你怎么那么讨厌!你应该想到,我是在考虑他跟我们哪个姑娘结婚。”

“他搬到这儿住就是为了这个吗?”

“为这个?当然不是。可是真说不准他会爱上我们哪个姑娘。我想尽早让他见见姑娘们,要赶在其他邻居自我介绍之前。所以,他一来你就得去拜访他一下。”

“我真是不明白为什么要去拜访他,”班纳特先生说,“你可以和姑娘们去,或者你让她们自己去。对,还是让她们自己去好,你长得那么迷人,比她们哪个都不逊色,说不定彬格莱先生会看上你呢。”

“亲爱的,你太夸奖我了,”他妻子答道,“过去人们当然说我漂亮,可是我觉得,一个女人家,五个女儿都长大成人了,不应该再老想自己漂亮不漂亮。班纳特先生,我求求你,还是去拜访他一下吧。你知道,来了新邻居,家里的男人先去拜访一下是应该的。你如果不先见见他,我怎么好带着姑娘们去呢?”

“你对文明社会的条条框框真是考虑得太多了。我相信彬格莱先生会很高兴见到

single *adj.* not married. 独身的。**wonderful** *adj.* causing wonder. 令人惊奇的。**annoying** *adj.* make rather angry. 讨厌的。**attractive** *adj.* pleasing. 有吸引力的。**flatter** *v.* praise too much. 奉承。

Exercises

A Checking your understanding

Chapters 1—4 *Who was speaking to whom, and about what?*

- 1 ‘So you must visit him as soon as he arrives.’
- 2 ‘If your daughter should become seriously ill and die, it would be a comfort to know that she died in a good cause, and in obedience to your orders.’
- 3 ‘Not at all. They were brightened by the exercise.’
- 4 ‘... I have come prepared to admire the young ladies. And perhaps when we know each other better—’
- 5 ‘I’ve spent four days in the same house as him, and I consider him very disagreeable.’
- 6 ‘He has been unlucky enough to lose *your* friendship, and in a way which will cause him hardship all his life.’

Chapters 5—8 *Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?*

- 1 When Elizabeth rejected him, Mr Collins was sure she would accept him the next time he proposed.
- 2 Mr and Mrs Bennet agreed in their opinion of Mr Collins.
- 3 Caroline Bingley hoped that her brother would marry Jane Bennet.
- 4 Mrs Gardiner gave Lizzy some sensible advice about Wickham.
- 5 When Elizabeth visited the Collinses, Charlotte’s marriage to Mr Collins appeared less successful than Elizabeth had expected.

6 Mr Darcy's proposal to Elizabeth came as a complete surprise to her.

7 After reading Darcy's letter, Elizabeth realized she had misjudged him.

Chapters 9—12 *Find answers to these questions in the text.*

1 Why did Colonel Forster's wife invite Lydia to Brighton?

2 How did Elizabeth feel when she was being shown round Pemberley?

3 What was the Bennet family's worst fear, when they discovered that Lydia had eloped with Wickham?

4 Why did Mr Darcy attend Lydia's wedding?

5 Why was Lady Catherine de Bourgh so angry at the thought of Elizabeth marrying Darcy?

B Working with language

1 *Choose the best linking word and complete these sentences with information from Chapter 11.*

1 Mrs Gardiner was astonished at Elizabeth's request for information as/although...

2 Darcy had agreed to pay Wickham several thousand pounds even though/provided that ...

3 Elizabeth was disappointed by Darcy's visit although/because ...

4 Mrs Bennet was hoping to encourage Bingley to propose to Jane so/in case ...

5 Bingley asked Mr Bennet's permission to marry Jane before/