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For over 150 years, *Pride and Prejudice* has remained one of the most popular novels in the English language. Jane Austen herself called this brilliant work "her own darling child." *Pride and Prejudice*, the story of Mrs. Bennet's attempts to marry off her five daughters, is one of the best-loved and most enduring classics in English literature.

Excitement fizzles through the Bennet household at Longbourn in Hertfordshire when young, eligible Mr. Charles Bingley rents the fine house nearby. He may have sisters, but he also has male friends, and one of these--the haughty, and even wealthier, Mr. Fitzwillian Darcy--irks vivacious Elizabeth Bennet, the second of the Bennet girls. She annoys him. Which is how we know that they must one day marry.

The romantic clash between the opinionated Elizabeth and Darcy is a splendid rendition of civilized sparring. As the characters dance a delicate quadrille of flirtation and intrigue, Jane Austen's radiantly caustic wit and keen observation sparkle in a wonderful performance by Patricia Hodge--a listening experience to be treasured as a classic.