GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Jane Austen

adapted by
Fern Siegel

Illustrations by Joseph Miralles

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"My Dear, Have You Heard?"

CHAPTER 1

A Gentleman Comes to Netherfield

It is a fact, everyone agrees, that a young man with money should have a wife. At least, that's the way they thought in England in the nineteenth century. And the Bennet family in Meryton, in Hampshire, certainly agreed! Mrs. Bennet, the mother, was especially concerned that all of her five daughters married well.

"My dear Mr. Bennet, have you heard that Netherfield Park has been rented?" asked Mrs. Bennet. Mr. Bennet, who rarely paid attention

to social happenings, had not heard this news.

"Mrs. Long says that Netherfield has been taken by a wealthy young man from the north of England. He is single and his name is Bingley. He possesses a large fortune—four or five thousand pounds a year. What a fine thing it would be if he married one of our girls!" exclaimed Mrs. Bennet.

It became her favorite daydream: Jane, her eldest daughter, would marry the rich Mr. Bingley before the season was over. After all, the business of Mrs. Bennet's life was to get her daughters married!

With that goal in mind, Mr. Bennet went to visit Mr. Bingley. It was the only proper thing to do. In England, it was considered a father's duty to introduce his daughters into good society. So Mr. Bennet paid a social call on Mr. Bingley. He came home in high spirits. His five daughters were to meet the young squire at an upcoming ball!

Mrs. Bennet was delighted! "My girls will

Mr. Bennet Paid a Call on Mr. Bingley.