Pride and Prejudice

Chapter IX OF Volume II

ELIZABETH was sitting by herself the next morning, and writting to Jane, while Mrs. Collins and Maria were gone on buisness into the village, when she was startled by a ring at the door, the certain signal of a visitor. As she had heard no carriage, she thought it not unlikely to be Lady Catherine, and under that startle was putting away her half finished letter that she might escape all impertinent questions, when the door opened, and to her very great surprise, Mr. Darcy, and Mr. Darcy only, entered the room.

He seemed astonsihed too on finding her alone, and apologized for his intrusion by letting her know that he had understood all the ladies to be within.

They then sat down, and when her enquiries after Rosings were made, seemed in danger of sinking into total silence. It was absolutely necessary, therefore, to think of some thing, and in this emergency recolecting when she had seen him last in Hertfordshire, and feeling curious to know what he would say on the subject of their hasty departrue, she observed.