

CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY MANOR

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ACT ONE

1 EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY 1

Establishing shot of New York City, all dressed up in its holiday finest.

2 EXT. ELITE EVENTS BUILDING - DAY 2

Establishing shot of a swank Manhattan office building, the home for Elite Events.

3 INT. ELITE EVENTS OFFICES - DAY 3

The stylish offices of Elite Events are decorated to the hilt for Christmas, with lights and garland everywhere including around the many photos on the walls of various parties. The photos all have one thing in common - the owner of the company is the focal point.

ELIZABETH BENNETT (30s, spunky, detail oriented), comes in carrying an attache and a stack of binders. She is talking to CAROLINE BINGLEY (40s, no-nonsense, high standards), smartly dressed in a coat and hat.

ELIZABETH

Okay, Caroline, the *green* binder has all of the logistics for Senator Green's Christmas party and the museum's annual Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer gala is in the *red* binder.

CAROLINE

What's in the white binder?

ELIZABETH

My plans for the Lambton Christmas festival next week.

(off her quizzical look)

Because Lambton will be snowy and white for Christmas?

CAROLINE

Elizabeth, you are something else.

As Caroline is passing a group of her employees looking at a Christmas card, she barks out an order.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
It's not Christmas yet, people.
Holiday cheer on your own time.

Her employees scramble, obviously intimidated by her.
Caroline and Elizabeth keep walking.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Lambton. Your friend is the mayor?

ELIZABETH
George, yes. We met in college.

CAROLINE
You pushed hard to get me to agree
to let you do this under the Elite
Events banner. Is there anything I
should know about George?

ELIZABETH
Oh, no, he's just a friend.

CAROLINE
And you're not in the market for
something more?

ELIZABETH
With George, no. But I did just
write a letter to Santa asking to
meet my true love.

CAROLINE
You... what?

ELIZABETH
(laughs)
My five-year-old niece didn't want
to write a letter this year so I
said I'd do one if she did.

CAROLINE
You're good at getting people to do
things they don't want to do,
aren't you?

ELIZABETH
(shrugs - smiles)
I've been known to get my way a
time or two.

CAROLINE
Okay, but you've never taken the
lead on an event like this before.

(MORE)

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Don't get me wrong, you're tenacious when you sink your teeth into something but you're more of a behind-the-scenes, binder type. Are you sure you're up for this?

ELIZABETH

I am. I've learned a lot from you over the years and I'm ready to take the next step.

CAROLINE

Good, because I'm going to be busy with my events so I'm not going to have time to worry about a little town holiday party.

ELIZABETH

Everything is under control.

CAROLINE

Okay but just keep in mind that if something goes wrong in Lambton, it will reflect badly on me.

Caroline steps on the elevator.

ELIZABETH

I understand.

CAROLINE

I hope so. Your job depends on it.

The elevator doors glide shut and Elizabeth lets that soak in for a moment.

ELIZABETH

And merry Christmas to you to.

She turns and heads back into the office with her binder.

4 EXT. DARCY HOLDINGS WORLDWIDE BUILDING - DAY 4

Establishing shot of the Darcy Holdings Worldwide building, an impressive structure in Manhattan.

5 INT. DARCY HOLDINGS WORLDWIDE OFFICES - DAY 5

A set of elevator doors opens into a hallway lined with offices, serious and professional but with plenty of Christmas decor to keep things cheerful.

Two people get off the elevator - WILLIAM DARCY (30s, moneyed, focused), in a fine overcoat carrying his own luggage, and his assistant TRAVIS PAYNE (20s, nervous, eager), also with a suitcase. They walk briskly.

DARCY

We need to set up the call with the department heads to talk about the Christmas bonuses.

TRAVIS

Yes, Mr. Darcy.

DARCY

I told you, you can call me William.

TRAVIS

Okay, sorry, Mr. Darcy. I'll write that down, too.

DARCY

Travis, relax. It's your first week as my assistant. Nobody is expecting you to know everything. You're doing fine.

TRAVIS

Thank you. It's an honor to be working for you, sir.

DARCY

We'll see if you're still saying that if we have to work through Christmas.

TRAVIS

It's not a problem. I can video conference with my family to open presents. Just like being there.

DARCY

The timing is unfortunate, I know, but I need to wrap up the sale of my late Uncle's estate before the end of the year. We might get it done before Christmas but if not...

TRAVIS

(looks at his notes)
It's Pemberley Manor, right?

DARCY

Yes, in Lambton, Connecticut.

The go through a door that leads outside.

6 EXT. DARCY HOLDINGS WORLDWIDE BUILDING - ROOFTOP - DAY 6

A pilot is opening the door to a helicopter that waits for Darcy and Travis on the roof of the Darcy building. They approach - Darcy is multi-tasking, looking at his phone.

TRAVIS

I saw pictures of Pemberley. It looks like a nice place to celebrate Christmas.

DARCY

It is. I spent several there when I was a kid with my aunt and uncle and it was always very...

(reserved)

It was always nice.

TRAVIS

A big Darcy family holiday?

DARCY

No. My father was often traveling for business.

TRAVIS

What about this Christmas?

DARCY

Everyone has their own plans. Traveling, working.

Darcy starts to climb aboard the helicopter but Travis hesitates.

DARCY (CONT'D)

Everything okay?

TRAVIS

I've never been in a helicopter.

DARCY

It's only scary when they fly upside down.

(off his panic)

It's a joke.

TRAVIS

(nervous laugh)

Oh... it was very funny, sir.

DARCY

Yeah, that's usually the reaction I get when I try to make a joke. Don't worry, it doesn't happen often. Come on Travis - Lambton awaits.

Darcy gets on the helicopter and Travis follows as it starts to warm up for takeoff. An attendant shuts the door.

7 EXT. LAMBTON - DAY 7

Establishing shot of the charming town of Lambton, Connecticut, a snow-covered burg with lots of holiday charm.

8 EXT. CITY HALL - DAY 8

A door from the Lambton City Hall opens and two people come out - the Mayor, GEORGE WICKHAM (30s, nice guy) and his assistant JANE LUCAS (20s, hyper-organized).

JANE

George, you're the Mayor of Lambton, now. Can't you talk him out of selling Pemberley Manor?

GEORGE

I've known William Darcy since law school. Once he makes up his mind it's virtually impossible to talk him out of anything.

JANE

Tearing down a place like that to build condos isn't right. I remember they used to decorate it for Christmas and we'd go caroling up there. Pemberley Manor is a huge part of Lambton's history.

GEORGE

Jane, it's been empty for years and there's really nothing we can do about it. Besides, we need to focus on the Christmas Festival. It's my first one as mayor and I want it to be the biggest and best yet. That's why I hired my friend Elizabeth to plan it.

George and Jane go around a corner.

9

EXT. LAMBTON - TOWN SQUARE - DAY

9

George and Jane enter the charming town square, complete with a gazebo and lots of holiday decorations. Jane is looking at a sheet of paper.

JANE

Her plans are ambitious. A tree lighting on the night of the twenty-first. Santa's village on the twenty-second.

GEORGE

That's Elizabeth's best idea. A great addition to the festival. I can't wait to see the look on the kids' faces when they get to tell Santa what they want for Christmas.

JANE

The concert on the twenty-third and the toy giveaway on the twenty-fourth followed by the traditional reading of The Night Before Christmas.

GEORGE

Did you see Elizabeth got Stan Finley, the anchorman, to do it this year? I like the way he says "Action News!"

JANE

Hopefully he will leave that out of the Christmas reading. George, we usually just do one night - a tree lighting and the story.

GEORGE

I know, but I campaigned on making big changes in Lambton. This is a great way of showing that I was serious.

JANE

Are you sure your friend can handle all of those events?

GEORGE

I'm sure. She's great. She's pretty amazing.

It's pretty obvious that George has feelings for her and Jane notices this, giving him another look.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

(covers)

An amazing friend. She'll be here this afternoon so make sure she has whatever she needs. You can be her right hand man, so to speak.

JANE

I'll be happy to help.

GEORGE

(looks around)

This is going to be a great Christmas!

He smiles broadly.

10 EXT. LAMBTON - DAY

10

Elizabeth, in the back of an Uber/Lyft style car, is being driven through the town, admiring the holiday decor on the streets and buildings.

The car pulls up to a stop sign and Elizabeth gets a good look at a grand manor on a rise behind ornate gates. It's a beautiful old house with a broad expanse of a lawn.

A man comes into view stringing garland around the front gate - in his 60s with white hair and white beard he could play Santa Claus at any holiday party. He sees Elizabeth, smiles, and waves and Elizabeth smiles and waves back.

The car takes off.

10A EXT. LAMBTON - DAY

10A

As the car drives we see a bit more Lambton in all its charming holiday glory. Elizabeth appears as enamored by it as George is. The car pulls out in front of a nice hotel and Elizabeth gets out.

11 EXT. LAMBTON - TOWN SQUARE - DAY

11

George and Jane are reviewing the layout of the festival in the town square as Elizabeth comes up the sidewalk.

ELIZABETH

George!

GEORGE

Elizabeth!

They greet each other with a warm, friendly hug.

ELIZABETH

It's so good to see you.

GEORGE

You, too. You look terrific. Oh, this is Jane Lucas. She pretty much keeps the town running.

JANE

(shakes her hand)

He's just saying that because he doesn't know where we keep the take-out lunch menus.

ELIZABETH

Hi. Nice to meet you.

(looks at town square)

George, this is just perfect. We're going to have the tree over there and Santa's village there.

GEORGE

Elizabeth! Take a breath. You just got here.

ELIZABETH

I know. But once you get me started on something it's hard to get me to stop.

GEORGE

You haven't changed a bit!

JANE

You two met in college?

ELIZABETH

In the classic novels section of the campus bookstore. We bonded over our love of British authors. In fact, he asked me out by...

GEORGE

(embarrassed)

No!

ELIZABETH

(laughing)

He asked me out by writing an invitation to dinner inside the front cover of a copy of Jane Eyre.

JANE
(eyebrow raised to George)
You two dated?

ELIZABETH
Just once. We decided we were
better as friends, right George?

GEORGE
(doesn't mean it)
That's right.
(new topic)
Well, why don't we go get some
coffee and we can take you on a
tour of the town?

ELIZABETH
Sounds great.

George motions for Elizabeth to go ahead and she does. Jane looks at George with a bit of a smile.

GEORGE
Not a word.

Jane mimes zipping her mouth shut and they follow Elizabeth.

12

EXT. LAMBTON - SIDEWALK COFFEE CART - DAY

12

In the background, Elizabeth, George, and Jane walk up to join a short line waiting at a sidewalk coffee cart.

In the foreground a limousine pulls up to the curb and Travis jumps out. He looks back inside at Darcy.

TRAVIS
I should know this already, but how
do you take your coffee?

DARCY
Black.

TRAVIS
Okay. I won't let you down.

DARCY
Good.
(joking - smiles)
Because your job depends on this.

Travis gets a look of panic on his face and leaves quickly.

DARCY (CONT'D)

Travis, no, I'm kidding... it was
a...

(to himself)

Darcy, just accept the fact that
you're lousy at jokes.

He shuts the door of the limo.

Travis goes to the coffee cart but sees the line and gets
stressed about it. He looks at his watch, looks at the limo,
and then goes around the line to the vendor.

TRAVIS

Sorry. I'm a huge hurry. Can I
just get one cup of black coffee?

ELIZABETH

(with a smile)

Excuse me? There's a line here.

TRAVIS

I know. I'm sorry. It's for my
boss and it's my first week...

ELIZABETH

(feels for him)

It's okay. I know what it's like
to have a demanding boss. But you
shouldn't let it get to you.

TRAVIS

If I don't get this right I'm going
to lose my job.

ELIZABETH

He said he'd fire you over a cup of
coffee?

(looks around)

Is he in the limo? There?

TRAVIS

Yes.

Elizabeth squares her shoulders again and starts to walk
toward the limo.

GEORGE

Elizabeth, what are you doing?

ELIZABETH

I'll be right back.

Travis and George stand by to watch the show.

13 INT./EXT. DARCY'S LIMOUSINE - DAY

13

Elizabeth knocks on the window of the limousine and Darcy, surprised, powers the window down.

ELIZABETH

Excuse me, hi.

DARCY

Hello. Can I help you?

ELIZABETH

Yes. Did you really tell your assistant that his job depended on a coffee order?

DARCY

Well, yes, but I wasn't serious. It's his first week and he's still adjusting.

ELIZABETH

You know how you could help him adjust? Don't threaten to fire him over a cup of coffee.

DARCY

Right, but you see, it was a joke.

ELIZABETH

He didn't get it.

DARCY

Yes, because he's young and new and... perhaps I have a reputation that precedes me.

ELIZABETH

For being a demanding boss?

DARCY

For caring about my business.

ELIZABETH

Well, I know what it's like to have a boss that sometimes cares more about work than they do about the people who work for them. Bosses who say things like "your job depends on it."

DARCY

If your boss said that, perhaps you should be talking to them through car windows instead of me.

ELIZABETH

I am merely suggesting that in the spirit of the holidays, perhaps we can all be a little kinder to our fellow man. Especially ones that work for you.

DARCY

(joking)

Only at Christmas or all the time? Because I'd like to know if I can ask for a cup of coffee in January or if I'm just out of luck all year round.

ELIZABETH

I... You know what? I think I've made my point.

DARCY

To recap: I should be nicer.

ELIZABETH

Precisely.

DARCY

Duly noted.

ELIZABETH

Good. Merry Christmas.

DARCY

And to you.

Elizabeth marches away. Darcy can't help but smile at her brio.

14

EXT. LAMBTON - SIDEWALK COFFEE CART - DAY

14

Back by the coffee cart, George, Travis, and Jane have been watching.

TRAVIS

I'm in so much trouble.

GEORGE

I can't see who she's talking to.

TRAVIS
William Darcy.

George's eyebrows rise in surprise. Travis scurries back to the limo as Elizabeth comes back to rejoin George and Jane.

GEORGE
Do you know who that was?

ELIZABETH
No, but I'm glad I never have to deal with him again.

GEORGE
But Elizabeth, that was...

ELIZABETH
George, I feel good about what I just did. Is what you want to tell me going to ruin that?

GEORGE
Probably.

ELIZABETH
(smiles)
Then please keep it to yourself.

Elizabeth takes her coffee and marches off. George looks at Jane.

JANE
(smiles)
Now I understand why you wanted her to plan the Christmas festival. She gets things done.

Jane walks off after Elizabeth. George smiles.

GEORGE
Yes, she does.

George follows also.

15 INT. DARCY'S LIMOUSINE - DAY

15

Travis starts to get into the limo, then hesitates.

DARCY
It's okay, Travis. I promise I'm not going to fire you.

Travis gets in the car.

TRAVIS
I didn't tell her to do that. I
don't even know who she is.

DARCY
(intrigued smile)
That's too bad.

He looks out the window at Elizabeth as they drive away.

16 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - DAY 16

Establishing shot of Pemberley Manor.

17 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN DRIVE - DAY 17

Darcy's limo pulls up the main drive of the estate and stops in front of the main entrance where the man we saw earlier, KRISTOFER (60s, jolly) is busy putting up holiday decorations around the main entrance - garland and lights. Darcy and Travis emerge from the car.

KRISTOFER
(with a jolly laugh)
Hello! Welcome!

DARCY
(shakes his hand)
Hello, I'm William Darcy.

KRISTOFER
Why, yes of course you are. It's
so good to meet you, young man.
(to Travis)
And who is this?

TRAVIS
Travis Payne. Mr. Darcy's
assistant.

KRISTOFER
Nice to meet you as well. Welcome
to Pemberley Manor!

DARCY
I'm sorry, and you are...?

KRISTOFER
Well, I'm the caretaker, of course,
You can call me Kristofer.

DARCY

I thought the caretaker was a Mr. Willoughby?

KRISTOFER

Oh yes, he was for many years, but he retired suddenly and I was more than happy to take over for him.

DARCY

Why are you putting up Christmas decorations?

KRISTOFER

Well, because it's Christmas of course.

DARCY

But we're only here for a few days until the sale is final. The new owners are going to tear it down after the first of the year.

KRISTOFER

I know, but it doesn't mean it can't be cheerful while it's still here, does it?

(looks at estate)

Such a grand old lady, she is. How long has it been since you've visited, Mr. Darcy?

DARCY

Not since I was kid. I spent a few holidays here.

KRISTOFER

That must have been very special.

DARCY

Yes. But that was a long time ago.

KRISTOFER

Still, it's going to be sad to see it go. Why are you selling it now, if you don't mind me asking?

DARCY

My uncle left the manor to the Darcy corporation so it wasn't my decision, it was the board of directors. It didn't make sense to hold onto a house that has been empty for years.

KRISTOFER

And you're here to...

DARCY

To oversee the transition, review the inventory of the Darcy family heirlooms inside, make sure nothing was missed.

KRISTOFER

Well, why don't we go inside so you can take a look around?

With a twinkle in his eye, he motions for Darcy and Travis to follow. They do.

18

INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN HALL - DAY

18

Darcy, Travis, and Kristofer come into the impressive main hall, with soaring ceilings and a grand staircase leading up. It is dim inside so Darcy can't really see.

KRISTOFER

I think we need some light in here.

Kristofer throws a switch and the room blazes with light, colorful Christmas decorations, and lovely furnishings.

KRISTOFER (CONT'D)

Yes... that's much better.

Darcy goes to the staircase, putting his hand on the banister as he looks up, a memory surfacing. Kristofer notices.

KRISTOFER (CONT'D)

Quite a staircase, isn't it? I would imagine to a little boy it would look like a snow-covered mountain he could slide down.

DARCY

(slight smile)

I used to do that when I was a kid.

KRISTOFER

Being here must bring back some fond memories.

Darcy has a moment of the warm fuzzies for the place but he shuts that down quickly, clearing his throat.

DARCY

People who need homes will create
many more fond memories in the
condos that will be built here.

KRISTOFER

I'm sure that's true.

(beat)

Let me show you to your rooms.

They head up the stairs. Darcy takes one more look at the
banister as he goes.

19 EXT. LAMBTON RESTAURANT - NIGHT 19

Establishing shot of a nice but not fancy restaurant in
Lambton, very well decorated for Christmas.

20 INT. LAMBTON RESTAURANT - NIGHT 20

George and Elizabeth are catching up over dinner.

ELIZABETH

I'm so proud of you, George.
Mayor? You always wanted to go
into politics.

GEORGE

I would've done it earlier but my
law practice kept me too busy.
Then the previous mayor announced
she was retiring and here I am.

ELIZABETH

Today Lambton, tomorrow the world?

GEORGE

I think mayor is more than enough
for me for now. But what about
you? What's it like working on all
those fancy New York parties?

ELIZABETH

Not as glamorous as it sounds. I
do logistics so I'm usually in the
back somewhere making sure things
run smoothly.

GEORGE

You were always the most organized
person in college. Your color
coded binders...

ELIZABETH

(laughs)

I still use them! I've always believed life would be so much easier if you could color code everything. Work, family, love... although that one would be pretty thin right now.

GEORGE

(trying to be casual)

So, no one serious?

ELIZABETH

There was. We broke up so no, not right now. But you never know what might happen.

GEORGE

But you like your job?

ELIZABETH

I love it, actually. My boss can be a little...

GEORGE

Demanding. At least that's what you said to the terrified guy at the coffee cart.

ELIZABETH

Right. But I'm learning a lot from her and I hope someday I'll be able to have my own company.

GEORGE

I wish I could've just hired you directly instead of going through Elite Events.

ELIZABETH

It's better to have Caroline on board, even if it is just her name. But thank you for giving me the chance. It's going to be great.

GEORGE

I agree. With the two of us together, nothing can go wrong!

George raises a glass and the toast to it.

21 EXT. LAMBTON - TOWN SQUARE - DAY

21

Elizabeth, George, and Jane are standing behind a barricade beside the town square as workers rush to and fro. We don't actually see the town square but it's obviously not good.

ELIZABETH

What happened?

JANE

Water main break last night. Right underneath the town square.

ELIZABETH

What town square? All I see is a big hole.

GEORGE

Where is the gazebo?

JANE

In the big hole.

GEORGE

This is a disaster. There's no way they'll get this fixed in time for the Christmas Festival.

ELIZABETH

Well, is there somewhere else we can do it?

JANE

I spent the last few hours compiling a list of places that have adequate space and the requisite infrastructure to accommodate the festival.

She hands each of them a list. They review it, unhappily.

GEORGE

The bowling alley parking lot?

ELIZABETH

Mr. Dudley's cow pasture?

JANE

We would have to move some cows to use that one.

GEORGE

There's nothing here that comes close to the magic...

(MORE)

GEORGE (CONT'D)
to the holiday spirit that the town square creates when it's all dressed up for Christmas.

JANE
We could put some lights around the big hole.

ELIZABETH
No, come on. A town as charming as Lambton? There must be a better place than...
(looks at list)
The field behind Chester's Bait and Tackle shop.
(beat - thinks)
What about that beautiful estate I saw on the way into town? The one with the big iron gates and the huge front lawn?

JANE
That's Pemberley Manor. We used to have events there all the time. But it's getting torn down.

ELIZABETH
When?

GEORGE
Sometime after the first of the year. They're putting up condos in its place.

ELIZABETH
Well, if it's still going to be here at Christmas then maybe we can convince them to let us use it for the festival.

JANE
It's worth a shot.
(to Elizabeth)
Come on, it's this way.

Jane and Elizabeth walk off and George follows, knowing this is a fool's errand but playing along anyway.

Establishing shot of Pemberley Manor.

23

INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN HALL - DAY

23

Darcy comes down the stairs to find Kristofer coming in from outside with a big box of decorations.

DARCY

Kristofer, what are you doing?

KRISTOFER

Adding a bit more Christmas cheer.
I found these boxes in the garage.

DARCY

But we're barely going to be here long enough to enjoy them. You'll just have to pack everything up again so it can get cleared out.

KRISTOFER

I don't mind. But just out of curiosity, why did you decide to stay here? The Lambton Hotel is quite lovely.

Darcy obviously has some other, more personal reason he isn't comfortable divulging.

DARCY

Well, it seemed to make more sense to be close to the property - in case something came up.

KRISTOFER

(smiles - knows better)
Of course.

DARCY

So, you really don't need to go out of your way for my benefit.

KRISTOFER

What if you have guests?

DARCY

I'm just here on business. I won't have any guests.

KRISTOFER

(twinkle)
You never know.

Darcy shakes his head and walks off while Kristofer continues to make the house merry and bright.

24 EXT. LAMBTON - STREET - DAY

24

Elizabeth, George, and Jane are at the bottom of the main drive of Pemberley Manor.

ELIZABETH

It's perfect. It's beautiful, there's plenty of room on the front lawn. George, just imagine what it would look like all done up for Christmas.

GEORGE

Sure. We can string Christmas lights on the big wrecking ball that will be here any day.

ELIZABETH

You said they aren't tearing it down until after the first of the year. Who owns it?

GEORGE

It was Fred and Edith Darcy's house but they passed away a few years ago. Now their nephew, William Darcy is selling it.

ELIZABETH

Darcy as in the hotels?

JANE

And the airline and a bunch of other stuff...

Up at the manor she sees Kristofer taking in another box of decorations.

ELIZABETH

There's someone there. It's the guy I saw earlier. I'm going to go talk to him.

She marches up the front driveway. Jane looks at George.

JANE

Aren't you going to tell her that William Darcy is the guy in the limo she yelled at?

GEORGE

(smiles)
What's the fun in that?

JANE

George!

GEORGE

(laughs)

Okay, okay.

They follow her.

25

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT DOOR - DAY

25

George and Jane catch up to Elizabeth just as she knocks on the door.

GEORGE

Elizabeth, there's something I should tell you about William Darcy.

ELIZABETH

Don't worry. I'll just turn on the charm. It won't be a problem.

The door opens and Darcy is standing there. Elizabeth and Darcy recognize each other. Elizabeth turns to George.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

We might have a little problem.

She turns back to Darcy and smiles.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

26 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - DAY 26

Establishing shot of Pemberley Manor.

27 INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - GRAND FOYER - DAY 27

While Elizabeth, Jane, and Travis wait in the adjacent Main Hall, Darcy and George stop just inside the front door.

GEORGE

It's good to see you, Darcy. It's been awhile.

DARCY

Couple of years, I think. We did that panel we did for the alumni association.

GEORGE

When we talked a few weeks ago about Pemberley you didn't mention you were coming to town.

DARCY

(evasive again)

Oh, well, it was a last minute decision. There are a lot of Darcy family heirlooms in here and I want to make sure they're taken care of.

GEORGE

So, listen... about Elizabeth. She gets passionate about things. Always has. You should have seen her in college.

DARCY

Passion is important.

GEORGE

Yes, but perhaps it should have been delivered at a slightly lower volume.

DARCY

Don't worry about it. It was actually the most interesting conversation I've had in months.

He heads into the main hall. George follows.

28

INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN HALL - DAY

28

Darcy and George come into the main hall to join Elizabeth, Jane, and Travis.

DARCY

Sorry to keep you waiting.

ELIZABETH

That's all right. Mr. Darcy, I'm Elizabeth Bennett.

DARCY

(shakes her hand)

Yes, we've met. And you know my assistant, Travis, of course.

TRAVIS

Can I get anyone anything? Coffee?
Or, no, maybe not coffee...

ELIZABETH

(to Travis)

We're fine, thank you.

Travis steps to the background by Jane - the two of them glance at each other and smile.

DARCY

What can I do for you, Ms. Bennett?

ELIZABETH

I'm planning this year's Christmas Festival. Are you familiar with it?

DARCY

I remember it from when I was a kid. It was very festive.

ELIZABETH

Yes. It's usually held in the town square but there's been a water main break and now we are desperate for a new location.

DARCY

Okay. How can I help?

ELIZABETH

We were hoping you might let us use the front lawn of Pemberley.

DARCY

I'm afraid that's not possible.
Pemberley is being sold...

ELIZABETH

So it can be torn down to make way
for condos. I heard.

DARCY

(slight smile)
You don't approve?

ELIZABETH

Look at this place. George and
Jane told me that it's an important
part of Lambton's history. How can
you approve of tearing it down?

DARCY

Nobody lives here. You'd prefer it
just sit empty?

ELIZABETH

No, but it's so beautiful. Sell it
to someone who'll preserve it.
Donate it and turn it into a
museum. Do something that benefits
the community.

DARCY

Like hosting the Christmas
Festival?

ELIZABETH

See what I did there? It's not
being torn down until after the
first of the year, right?

DARCY

Yes. The problem is that the sale
is closing before Christmas if
everything goes according to plan.
We can't do anything to jeopardize
that and letting the entire town
traipse across the front lawn
creates liability issues.

ELIZABETH

I'm sure we could work something
out in terms of insurance. Right,
George?

GEORGE

Elizabeth, I know the festival is important to you, but...

ELIZABETH

Yes, it's my first big event. But it's important to you too, George. It's your first impression as mayor. And it's important to Lambton.

DARCY

I'm very sorry, but it's just not possible. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm late for a conference call.

He motions for the door. Elizabeth stands there for a moment, a bit agog for being brushed off like this. Then she smiles and starts to walk toward the door then stops.

ELIZABETH

You remember the part where we talked about Christmas spirit?

DARCY

Vividly.

ELIZABETH

Refusing to save Christmas for an entire town is going to get you on one of Santa's lists. I just don't think it's the right one.

Having made her point, she strides toward the door. George and Jane exchange awkward smiles with Darcy and follow her.

29

EXT. CHRISTMAS TREE LOT - NIGHT

29

Elizabeth is helping George pick out a Christmas tree in a busy, festively decorated lot in town.

ELIZABETH

My first big event on my own and it's ruined. It's a good thing my boss isn't paying attention to this.

GEORGE

Elizabeth, it's going to be fine. We can still make it special.

ELIZABETH

You're the mayor. Isn't there some way you could make Darcy do it? Eminent domain or something?

GEORGE

Make him host the Christmas Festival on land his company owns? That's not what eminent domain is for.

(refers to tree)

What do you think of this one? I'm so late getting a tree this year...

ELIZABETH

Too scrawny. You're a lawyer. We could sue.

GEORGE

On what grounds?

ELIZABETH

I don't know. Lack of Christmas spirit.

GEORGE

I don't think there's a law against that.

ELIZABETH

Well, see, now we're back to you being mayor. Get the town council to pass a law.

GEORGE

Elizabeth, you really need to let it go.

(another tree)

This one?

ELIZABETH

Too fluffy. George, we can't have the Christmas Festival in a bowling alley parking lot.

GEORGE

Chester said his field is still available.

ELIZABETH

Christmas should be magical. It should be a time when people can believe that anything is possible.

(MORE)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

It's visions of sugarplums, not a view of a bait and tackle shop.

GEORGE

But isn't that the thing about the magic of Christmas? That you can find it anywhere as long as you are willing to believe it exists?

ELIZABETH

(beat)

You did that in college, too. Took my really good arguments and turned them against me to make a point.

GEORGE

(smiles)

Elizabeth, I appreciate your tenacity but I really don't see that we have any other choice.

ELIZABETH

Do you know the company that's buying the place?

GEORGE

Yes. They're based in Seattle.

ELIZABETH

(looks at watch)

So they still might be open?

GEORGE

Elizabeth, once Darcy has made up his mind, it's impossible to get him to change it.

ELIZABETH

Nothing is impossible at Christmas.

GEORGE

Well, apparently finding the perfect Christmas tree is.

ELIZABETH

(looks and points)

That one.

George looks at the tree. It is, in fact, perfect.

GEORGE

How did you do that?

ELIZABETH

It's a gift. Now... about that
company in Seattle...

George shakes his head and goes to the tree.

30 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - NIGHT 30

Establishing shot of Pemberley Manor.

31 INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN HALL - NIGHT 31

Darcy is walking through the main hall, looking at the contents of a legal document, when he hears Christmas music coming from somewhere in the manor. He stops, listens for a moment, and goes to investigate.

32 INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - STUDY - NIGHT 32

Darcy enters the wood paneled office, which is lined with bookshelves and cabinets, to find Kristofer standing at a side table next to an old record player and a stack of vinyl albums.

DARCY

Kristofer?

KRISTOFER

Mr. Darcy! I hope I didn't disturb you but while I was puttering around I found this old record player and all these Christmas albums. I couldn't resist.

DARCY

(looks at albums)

I remember these. My Aunt Edith would play them during the holidays almost non-stop.

KRISTOFER

That's very festive.

DARCY

It was.

(remembers - smiles)

She taught me how to dance.

KRISTOFER

Really?

DARCY

Yes. She was a very patient woman.
I wasn't very good.

KRISTOFER

I'm sure it didn't matter to her in
the slightest.

DARCY

No. She loved Christmas.

KRISTOFER

Who doesn't? It is a shame,
though, that there isn't a way to
help the town and hold the
Christmas Festival here.

DARCY

I agree, but as I told the Mayor
this afternoon, my hands are tied.

KRISTOFER

Well, there's always hope. Maybe
there will be something of a
Christmas miracle that could untie
your hands, so to speak.

Darcy seems skeptical.

33 EXT. LAMBTON - STREET - NIGHT

33

Elizabeth is pacing back in forth in front of the open gates
of Pemberley, talking on the phone.

ELIZABETH

Yes. That's right. You just sent
it? Wonderful! Thank you very
much.

She disconnects the call and marches up the driveway.

34 INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - STUDY - NIGHT

34

Darcy and Kristofer are still listening to the music when
Travis enters the room with a piece of paper.

TRAVIS

Mr. Darcy? I'm sorry to interrupt.

DARCY

That's okay, Travis. What do you
need?

TRAVIS

This letter just came for you.
It's from the company that's buying
Pemberley.

Travis gives Darcy the letter.

KRISTOFER

What does it say?

DARCY

(reads - paraphrases)

They received a... vociferous
complaint about their plans to tear
down the manor. They'd like us to
find a way to engender some good
will in the town before the sale
goes through. Make them look like
they aren't just a bunch of
heartless land barons.

KRISTOFER

Well... you know what would
engender a lot of good will?

Darcy does. Before he can comment on it, the doorbell rings.

35 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

35

Darcy opens the door to find Elizabeth standing there.

DARCY

Ms. Bennett. Hello.

ELIZABETH

Mr. Darcy. Come with me.

She takes him by the arm and gently but firmly pulls him out
of the house.

36 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

36

Elizabeth and Darcy walk onto the expansive snow covered
front lawn and points as she talks.

ELIZABETH

Over there is where we'd have the
Christmas tree with as many lights
and ornaments as it could hold
without toppling over.

DARCY

Ms. Bennett...

ELIZABETH

Over there is where we'd put
Santa's Village. A workshop,
Santa's house where the kids can
come and tell him what's on their
wish list.

DARCY

Of course, but...

ELIZABETH

Over here is where we'd set up the
stage for the concert. Picture a
choir singing Jingle Bells.

DARCY

Very nice, but if you'll...

ELIZABETH

And here... right here, with
Pemberley Manor in the background,
all decked out in lights, is where
we'll have Santa give toys to the
underprivileged kids while they
listen to a reading of The Night
Before Christmas. Doesn't that
sound amazing?

DARCY

Yes. It does.

ELIZABETH

Then, please, Mr. Darcy, will you
let us have the Christmas festival
here?

DARCY

(no hesitation)

Yes.

ELIZABETH

(didn't pay attention)

But I don't understand, why
wouldn't you want to help the town,
wait, what? Did you just say yes?

DARCY

Yes.

ELIZABETH

We can have the festival here?

DARCY

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, yes.

ELIZABETH

I... but I had this whole speech.

DARCY

And I look forward to hearing it at some point, but it is awfully chilly out here and I'd like to give you my one condition before I go back inside to warm up.

ELIZABETH

What's that?

DARCY

I'm presuming you're the one who lodged the "vociferous" complaint with the company buying Pemberley?

ELIZABETH

I'd say strongly worded, but...

DARCY

Well, it's one thing that they're on board, but Darcy is more than just my name. It's a brand. And I don't allow my brand to be used for anything that I don't personally oversee, so my involvement should be kept out of it. Deal?

ELIZABETH

Deal.

They shake hands on it.

DARCY

Does this get me on the nice list?

ELIZABETH

(smiles)

I don't control the list. But I'll put in a good word for you.

DARCY

I appreciate that. Good night, Ms. Bennett.

ELIZABETH

We're saving Christmas together. I think you can call me Elizabeth.

DARCY

(smiles)

All right. Good night, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

Good night, William.

He heads back to the manor and she looks at the grounds, a big smile on her face and a barely contained squeal of glee. Darcy reaches the front door and looks back at her. He can't help but smile a little at her enthusiasm... and maybe there's a little something more there.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

37

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY

37

A large group of volunteers has massed on the front lawn of Pemberley Manor, all facing Elizabeth and Jane who are rallying the troops.

ELIZABETH

It took us a few days to get all the i's dotted and the t's crossed but we're finally ready to get started setting up the Christmas Festival.

There is a round of applause. Darcy comes out of the manor and observes discretely.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Christmas is in one week and that means we only have three days to get all of this done for the start of the festival. But I'm sure we can do it! Are we ready?

(they are)

Wonderful. Jane has assignments but if you have any questions come see me, okay? Thank you!!

Elizabeth sees Darcy and goes over to him.

DARCY

You brought an army with you this morning.

ELIZABETH

You know what they say. It takes a village. Especially when the lawyers take four days to get the paperwork done.

DARCY

Yes. Sorry about that. Do you think you'll be able to get everything completed in time?

ELIZABETH

Absolutely... Almost absolutely. I've never been in charge of anything like this before.

DARCY

I'm sure you'll do fine. Let me know if there's anything you need.

He starts to head back inside.

ELIZABETH

Where are you going?

DARCY

I have work to do.

ELIZABETH

You just offered to help. I'm pretty sure in this state that's a legally binding contract.

DARCY

I must have missed that class in law school.

ELIZABETH

I have to go pick up lights, ornaments, wrapping paper...

DARCY

Okay. And I am legally obligated to help in what way?

ELIZABETH

I don't have a car.

DARCY

Well, I'm sure one of the volunteers will let you...

ELIZABETH

It's a lot of supplies.
(looks at his nearby limo)
Like, a lot.

Darcy offers a tight smile and nods, understanding.

38

EXT. LAMBTON - STREET - DAY

38

The limo is parked along the festively decorated main street. Elizabeth comes out of a store, ticking things off of a checklist. Darcy comes out a moment later, overloaded with bags, boxes, and giant candy canes hanging off of his arms.

ELIZABETH

Okay, so now we need more lights.

DARCY

You already have enough to make Pemberley visible from space.

ELIZABETH

You can never have "enough" Christmas lights.

They approach the limo where a driver helps him offload things inside and in the trunk.

DARCY

You do love Christmas, don't you?

ELIZABETH

Who doesn't?
(notes his silence)
Oh, that makes sense. You don't.

DARCY

Just because I don't put up every light in existence, doesn't mean I don't like Christmas.

ELIZABETH

What do you do to celebrate?

DARCY

I usually have to work.

ELIZABETH

It's your company. You don't have to work if you don't want to.

DARCY

My father probably would have disagreed with you about that.

ELIZABETH

Your father was Phillip, right?

DARCY

How did you know that?

ELIZABETH

I may have read an article. Or twelve. I wanted to know who I was dealing with.

DARCY

What else did you learn?

ELIZABETH

I learned a lot of stuff, I just don't know how much of it's true. You know the Internet.

DARCY

All right, well, you let me know what you read and I'll confirm or deny.

ELIZABETH

Okay. Boarding school in England. Harvard. Columbia Law.

DARCY

All true.

ELIZABETH

You took over the company after your father passed away two years ago.

(beat - kindly)

I'm sorry about that, by the way.

DARCY

Thank you.

ELIZABETH

You're hyper focused on work and almost never take days off.

DARCY

I'm not crazy about the way that sounds, but it's mostly true. But come on... get to the good stuff. I'm sure you read all sorts of things about my personal life.

ELIZABETH

(beat)

Did you really date two models?

DARCY

Not at the same time.

ELIZABETH

Good to hear.

DARCY

Well, you have me at a distinct disadvantage. Your entire history and every move are not splayed out on the Internet for all to see.

ELIZABETH

There are a few embarrassing videos out there, but for the most part, I have kept a relatively low profile.

DARCY

Well... then educate me about Elizabeth Bennett.

ELIZABETH

(walking away)

Okay. But I hope your arms aren't too tired because I'll tell you all about her while we're picking up more supplies.

DARCY

(looks at limo)

More?

He follows her.

39

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY

39

Work is continuing apace at the manor, with some volunteers busy building the stage, which is festive with giant wrapped presents and plenty of colorful decorations, and Santa's Village, while others work on decorating the manor. Jane is in the midst of it all, overseeing in her organized, clipboard-driven way. George comes up to greet her.

GEORGE

How are things going?

JANE

On schedule.

GEORGE

I would expect no less. You are giving them breaks aren't you?

JANE

Very funny.

Travis comes out of the manor and walks up to them.

TRAVIS

Excuse me? I'm Mr. Darcy's assistant. Have you seen him?

JANE

He went with Elizabeth to get supplies.

(MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

If they stick to the schedule they should be back in fifty-two minutes.

They get their first real look at each other. It may not be love at first sight but it's something like that.

TRAVIS

That's... precise.

JANE

Of course. How else can you expect to get things done?

TRAVIS

I'm pretty new at this job. I'm lucky if I remember to put my shoes on before I come to work.

JANE

You just need a system.
(beat - shy smile)
I can teach you how.

TRAVIS

Really? You wouldn't mind?

GEORGE

Are you kidding? I think that's her dream come true.

TRAVIS

(to Jane)
I'm Travis.

JANE

Jane.

They shake hands, puppy love blooming. George smiles.

40

EXT. LAMBTON - STREET - DAY

40

Elizabeth and Darcy are headed back to the limo with a fresh set of bags overflowing with Christmas supplies.

ELIZABETH

Where was I?

DARCY

Mother and father in upstate New York. Three brothers.

ELIZABETH

Right. Two sisters-in-law, five nephews and nieces. They all converge at my folks' house on Christmas day.

DARCY

And chaos ensues.

ELIZABETH

Yes, but wonderful chaos. There's nothing like being surrounded by family at the holidays.

(oops - eyes Darcy)

But that's not for everyone.

DARCY

Are you going to miss that this year? With the festival?

ELIZABETH

No! I'm staying through the end of the festival on Christmas Eve - the reading of The Night Before Christmas. Then I'm driving home that night - it's only a couple of hours.

DARCY

Who's doing the reading?

ELIZABETH

The local news anchorman. This isn't Broadway. Unless you want to do it.

DARCY

No. I don't enjoy public speaking.

ELIZABETH

A man in your position? You must have to talk in front of people all the time.

DARCY

That's different. There are usually charts and graphs and colorful slides for people to focus on instead of me. And fewer children.

ELIZABETH

You don't enjoy children either?

DARCY

No, it's not that at all. I like children, I'm just... unaccustomed to them.

ELIZABETH

Well, there will be a lot of them around the Christmas tree on your front lawn this year.

DARCY

Since that will be the only tree at Pemberley, that is just fine.

ELIZABETH

You didn't get a tree for yourself?

DARCY

For just myself? Why would I?

ELIZABETH

Okay, there are so many things wrong about this...

She pulls him in a different direction than they were going.

41 EXT. LAMBTON - STREET - DAY 41

We see the merrily decorated street in Lambton, shoppers hustling too and fro. Then Darcy's limousine drives by, the trunk overflowing with packages and bags, and a Christmas tree on the roof.

42 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - NIGHT 42

Establishing shot of Pemberley Manor. The Christmas Festival preparations are done for the night.

43 INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN HALL - NIGHT 43

Elizabeth and Darcy are decorating the tree..

DARCY

You didn't have to help me do this.

ELIZABETH

I kind of forced you to buy it, so I think I did. Okay... I think we're ready. Get the lights.

Darcy goes to turn off the lights. Then Elizabeth plugs in the tree - it lights up with merry abandon.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Oh... It's beautiful.

DARCY
Very well done.

ELIZABETH
"Very well done." Careful, there.
People might mistake that for
enthusiasm.

DARCY
(joking)
I've found that most of my business
associates frown upon it when I
jump up and down in glee.

ELIZABETH
(laughs)
You're funny. I don't remember
reading that about you on the
Internet.

DARCY
That's because no one has ever
referred to me as funny before.

ELIZABETH
I meant it as a compliment.

DARCY
And I took it as one.
(looks at tree)
We did do a good job. I remember
the Christmas trees we had in this
very hall when I was a kid.

ELIZABETH
This was your aunt and uncle's
place?

DARCY
Yes. My mother passed away when I
was young and I spent the holidays
here a few times when my father was
traveling or on business.

ELIZABETH
And you helped decorate the tree?

DARCY

I did. It was probably the closest thing I had to a traditional family Christmas.

Elizabeth and Darcy have a moment - standing there in the dimly lit hall, the Christmas lights aglow, warm smiles on their faces.

But then Darcy gets uncomfortable with the vulnerability and steps away from it.

DARCY (CONT'D)

Well, thank you again for the tree.

He turns on the lights.

ELIZABETH

You're welcome. My pleasure.

DARCY

I should probably be getting back to work.

ELIZABETH

Of course. I understand. Well... good night.

DARCY

Good night.

Darcy nods and gestures toward the door as Elizabeth leaves the main hall.

44

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - NIGHT

44

Elizabeth comes out of the manor and shuts the door. She's a little confounded by what just happened, the sudden reversal from friendly William to all-business Darcy.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

45 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - DAY 45

Establishing shot of Pemberley Manor.

46 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY 46

The crew is back at work on the front lawn of Pemberley and the festival is taking shape. There is now a big tree that is being decorated. Elizabeth and George are working on one of the buildings for Santa's Village.

ELIZABETH

And he threw me out of the house.

GEORGE

(skeptical)

He "threw you out?"

ELIZABETH

Well, okay, he didn't throw me out, but he gestured emphatically. I mean, he was talking about being here as a kid and then he just shut down. You know him. Did I do something wrong?

GEORGE

I have no idea. And besides, it's not my place to talk about William Darcy.

ELIZABETH

George, come on. Help me here. Christmas is in six days and the festival starts in two! I don't want to do anything that's going to jeopardize it.

GEORGE

That's all that this is about? The festival.

ELIZABETH

Of course.

GEORGE

(beat)

Well... I remember when we met in law school and he found out I was from Lambton.

(MORE)

GEORGE (CONT'D)

He talked about Pemberley with a great deal of affection. I think he really liked spending those holidays here.

ELIZABETH

And yet he's letting the place get torn down.

GEORGE

He is father's son in many ways.

ELIZABETH

Did I tell you that he demanded that we keep his name away from the Christmas festival? Not exactly the charitable type.

GEORGE

He's more charitable than he lets on.

ELIZABETH

What do you mean?

GEORGE

(beat)

I shouldn't tell you this but if you're going to work with him you should know who he really is. William Darcy does a lot of charity, but he does it all anonymously. The town's new library? The after-school program at the Y? And look around. You don't think Lambton can afford all this on its own, do you?

ELIZABETH

Darcy pays for all of this?

GEORGE

His foundation does. He doesn't like the spotlight. He's a very private man.

Elizabeth looks up at the manor thoughtfully, a little bit of the mystery of Darcy starting to reveal itself.

Establishing shot of Pemberley Manor - the volunteers have gone for the night.

48

INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - STUDY - NIGHT

48

Darcy is at the desk in the study working but one of the Christmas albums is filling the room with a jaunty tune on the record player. We don't think he's paying attention for a moment and then we notices his pen tapping along with the music and his head bobbing slightly.

Kristofer comes to the doorway and watches this for a moment, a smile on his jolly face. He knocks and Darcy looks up.

KRISTOFER

Do you need anything before I
retire for the evening?

DARCY

No, thank you, Kristofer.

KRISTOFER

My pleasure, Mr. Darcy.

Darcy returns his focus to his work but Kristofer doesn't leave. Darcy looks up after a moment.

DARCY

Was there something else?

KRISTOFER

Oh, no. No, no. I was just
thinking about how much fun the
children are going to have here
during Christmas festival. Ms.
Bennett is doing a wonderful job
putting it all together.

DARCY

Yes, it's very merry out there.
I'm not sure the grounds are big
enough for all of that holiday
cheer.

KRISTOFER

Oh, I think there is always room
for that. And they haven't even
touched the grounds behind the
manor. It's beautiful out there.

DARCY

(a memory; a smile)
My aunt and uncle would take me for
sleigh rides out there.

KRISTOFER

That sounds nice.

DARCY

(a smile)

It was. I mean, really, it was just a carriage they fixed up to look like a sleigh but... they'd bring blankets and hot chocolate to make sure we stayed warm. And we'd sing Christmas carols.

KRISTOFER

Your aunt and uncle sound like they were lovely people.

DARCY

(nods)

They were.

KRISTOFER

(smiles)

Well, I'll let you get back to work. Good night, Mr. Darcy.

DARCY

Good night, Kristofer.

Kristofer leaves and Darcy sits there, a fond smile on his face as he relives the memory. From outside we hear a noise. Darcy, curious, gets up to look out the window.

From his POV we see Elizabeth working on putting up more decorations around the festival area.

49

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

49

Shrugging on a coat, Darcy comes out of the house and approaches Elizabeth.

DARCY

Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH

William! Hi, I'm sorry. Am I making too much noise?

DARCY

No, it's just... what are you doing out here?

ELIZABETH

The tree lighting is less than forty-eight hours away. There's so much left to do.

DARCY

And you're going to do it all yourself?

ELIZABETH

No, but checking off items on a to-do list helps me relax. You're not the only one who rarely takes a day off.

DARCY

What if there is no list? What relaxes you then?

ELIZABETH

There's always a to-do list, but I don't know... It's less than a week until Christmas so I'd probably be baking Christmas cookies. Unfortunately I don't have a kitchen here, so...

DARCY

(considers)
Pemberley has a kitchen.

Elizabeth looks at him and smiles.

50

INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - KITCHEN - NIGHT

50

Elizabeth and Darcy are working on the cookies in the big kitchen at Pemberley Manor while Christmas carols play.

ELIZABETH

I can't believe you had all the ingredients just laying around.

DARCY

Kristofer just went shopping today. He wants us to be prepared for just about any Christmas emergency.

Elizabeth smiles and starts singing along to a carol.

DARCY (CONT'D)

You have a nice voice.

ELIZABETH

Oh, thank you. I used to sing in the school choir when I was a kid. I loved being up on a big stage in front of people singing. I used to want to do it all the time.

DARCY

Used to?

ELIZABETH

The things that seem like no big deal when you're young become a lot more intimidating when you're an adult. I'm more of a behind-the-scenes type these days.

DARCY

There's nothing wrong with that.

ELIZABETH

What about you? What did you want to be when you grew up?

DARCY

The head of Darcy Worldwide.

ELIZABETH

Really? You never fantasized about being a cop or a cowboy or an astronaut?

DARCY

No. It was impressed upon me from a very young age that the decision about what I'd do was made for me. I'd take over the company from my father. So I never really thought it was possible to do anything else.

ELIZABETH

And what about now? If you weren't William Darcy, captain of industry, what would you want to do?

DARCY

(shrugs)

Bake cookies?

Elizabeth looks at the cookies he is decorating. They aren't great.

ELIZABETH

Oh... Okay, well, you know you might want to have a back-up career in mind.

DARCY

What's wrong with them?

ELIZABETH

Nothing. They're very... creative.
And the important part is they'll
still taste good.

DARCY

(mock outrage)
Are you mocking my cookie
decorating skills?

ELIZABETH

No! But let's just hope Santa
doesn't have his glasses on when he
sees these.

Elizabeth and Darcy laugh as they return to the cookie making
process and the music swells.

51 INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - HALLWAY - NIGHT 51

Kristofer is just outside the kitchen, watching Elizabeth and
Darcy laughing and making cookies. He smiles, pleased.

52 EXT. CITY HALL - DAY 52

Establishing shot of City Hall in Lambton.

53 INT. CITY HALL - GEORGE'S OFFICE - DAY 53

Elizabeth and Jane are in George's office working on the
Christmas festival.

ELIZABETH

The festival starts tomorrow night
with the tree lighting. And
everybody knows it's at Pemberley
and not the town square this year,
right?

JANE

We've put up signs, it's in the TV
and newspaper ads, social media.

ELIZABETH

Great. So if anyone shows up at
the big hole in the ground tomorrow
they really have no one to blame
but themselves.

George walks in with Darcy and Travis. There are smiles
between Jane and Travis and between Darcy and Elizabeth.

GEORGE
(surprised)
Oh. Hi, Elizabeth. Jane.

Jane starts to gather the papers.

JANE
Right, you have your meeting about Pemberley. Sorry, we'll get out of your way.

GEORGE
No, that's all right.
(turns to Darcy)
What say we go get cup of hot chocolate?

DARCY
Wonderful. Ladies.

TRAVIS
(shy smile)
Bye Jane.

JANE
(ditto)
Bye Travis.

George, Darcy, and Travis leave. Elizabeth has caught the smiles that Jane and Travis were giving each other.

ELIZABETH
Travis is very cute.

JANE
(tries to play it cool)
Is he? I hadn't really noticed.

ELIZABETH
I saw the smiles you two gave each other.

JANE
It was just a smile. I was being friendly.
(beat)
You think he smiled at me?

ELIZABETH
Definitely.

JANE

(shrugs)

We're very different. I'm very organized and he's not.

ELIZABETH

I've been there, believe me. But you know what they say about opposites attracting.

JANE

Is that what's going on with you and Mr. Darcy?

ELIZABETH

What? No. He's not just opposite, he's like a different species.

JANE

A very handsome one.

ELIZABETH

There's nothing going on between me and Mr. Darcy.

JANE

Well, there's nothing going on between me and Travis.

ELIZABETH

Well, okay that. I'm glad that's settled.

They both get back to work but we can tell that both of them don't believe a word they just said.

54

EXT. LAMBTON - SIDEWALK COFFEE CART - DAY

54

Darcy, George, and Travis are in line for the coffee cart. Travis has a folder of papers with him.

TRAVIS

I got the draft of the final documents from the bank... they're here somewhere. Sorry.

DARCY

It's all right Travis. You're doing fine.

GEORGE

Are you just saying that because
you're worried Elizabeth will come
after you again if you don't?

DARCY

(smiles)
Possibly.

Travis looks at him, worried.

DARCY (CONT'D)

I'm kidding, Travis.

TRAVIS

Jane is trying to teach me how to
be more organized, but I don't
know...

DARCY

Jane seems like a very nice young
woman.

TRAVIS

(a little moony)
Oh she is. She's...

Travis looks at them, realizing he's being moony.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

(covers)
She's very nice.

George and Darcy share a smile.

DARCY

Well, once I review the final draft
it should just be a matter of days
before the sale of Pemberley is
final. I think we can have the
whole thing wrapped up by Christmas
Eve.

GEORGE

And you're still sure you want to
go through with it?

DARCY

Of course. Why wouldn't I?

GEORGE

I don't know. I just thought maybe since you've been here you might be feeling nostalgic about the old place.

DARCY

(beat)

There's no room for nostalgia in business.

GEORGE

Okay. I just want to make sure you have considered all your options for how the estate could be used. It has a lot to offer.

This reminds Darcy of something of the conversation he had with Kristofer about the sleigh rides he took with his aunt and uncle.

DARCY

Yes, it does.

Darcy has an idea.

55

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - CARRIAGE HOUSE - DAY

55

Darcy opens a door to the carriage house behind the main house. Inside is something large covered by a tarp. He pulls the tarp off to reveal the carriage/sleigh.

DARCY

Yes... this will do just fine.

He smiles and the music swells.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

56 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - DAY 56

Establishing shot of Pemberley Manor.

57 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY 57

The volunteers are working on last minute preparations for the festival. Elizabeth is standing off to the side, nervously looking at a clipboard with papers on it as she sings a Christmas song quietly to herself.

Kristofer walks up to join her, a smile on his face. She stops singing, embarrassed.

ELIZABETH

Hi. Sorry.

KRISTOFER

For what? You have a beautiful voice. You should do it more often.

ELIZABETH

Oh, well, I love to sing but I'm a little too busy for that these days.

KRISTOFER

Well, maybe the opportunity will arise for you to do it again. The things we love are never far away.

ELIZABETH

That's beautiful, Kristofer. Did you come up with that?

KRISTOFER

Me? No, no. I think I read it on a greeting card. Well, I should get back to work. I don't want the boss to catch me.

Kristofer smiles and walks away as Darcy approaches.

DARCY

(to Elizabeth)

Is everything ready for tonight?

ELIZABETH

I think so. I've got my list here.

DARCY
Checking it twice?

ELIZABETH
Three or four times. I have to admit I'm a little nervous. If this doesn't go well, I may have to find a new career.

DARCY
You just need to relax.

ELIZABETH
You're not suggesting more cookies, are you?

DARCY
No. But I might know of something else that could take your mind off of it for a few minutes.
(smiles)
Come with me.

He leads her away.

58 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - CARRIAGE HOUSE - DAY

58

Darcy leads Elizabeth to the carriage house where the carriage/sleigh has been cleaned up, partially dressed up, and looks almost ready for passengers. Elizabeth is amazed.

ELIZABETH
Did you do this?

DARCY
Well, not personally. But I thought it would be another fun activity for the festival. We can offer horse-drawn sleigh rides around the grounds or even the town.

ELIZABETH
This is incredible.

DARCY
I was thinking we could dress it up a bit - add a few more Christmas decorations? That is, if there are any left in town after you bought them all.

ELIZABETH
(smile and a side eye)
I'll go see what I can find.

Elizabeth heads back toward the main festival area and Darcy smiles.

59

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - CARRIAGE HOUSE - LATER

59

Elizabeth and Darcy are decorating the carriage, finalizing the dressing to make it truly festive.

DARCY
I don't remember the last time I
took a carriage ride.

ELIZABETH
Oh, I do. Kind of wish I didn't.

DARCY
Not a good memory?

ELIZABETH
It was with my ex-fiance, Jeff.

DARCY
Sorry I brought it up.

ELIZABETH
I'm not. We loved each other and
that's always a good thing, even
when it doesn't work out.

DARCY
How long were you together?

ELIZABETH
Two years. I wish I could say it
was something big that broke us up.
Something dramatic that you can
point to and say that - that's the
reason. Like, he loved pineapple
on pizza and I couldn't stand it.

DARCY
That would be grounds for a break
up as far as I'm concerned.

ELIZABETH
But really we sort of lost each
other and couldn't quite figure out
how to make our way back.

DARCY

I'm familiar with that.

ELIZABETH

One of the models?

DARCY

No. She was a teacher. But it was a similar thing. It was great until it wasn't.

ELIZABETH

But that's something you want again. The great part, I mean.

DARCY

Of course. You?

ELIZABETH

Yes. It was actually... you're going to laugh, but one of my nieces didn't want to write a letter to Santa this year so I wrote one to convince her that it was worth doing.

DARCY

What did you ask for?

ELIZABETH

You promise you won't laugh?

DARCY

I promise.

ELIZABETH

I asked for true love.

DARCY

Why would I laugh at that?

They have a moment of looking at each other then they both look away.

ELIZABETH

Well... hopefully my niece will do better with her wish than I will do with mine.

DARCY

There are still five days until Christmas. You never know.

Elizabeth is considering that as Jane walks up.

JANE

Elizabeth. The reporter for the Mansfield Press is here.

ELIZABETH

Thank you. I'll be right there.

DARCY

Mansfield Press? You've hit the big time.

ELIZABETH

Anything for publicity. Are you sure you don't want to come pose for a photo?

DARCY

Absolutely certain. I'm not really here, remember?

ELIZABETH

I remember. Thanks you... for this. It's a wonderful idea.

DARCY

You're welcome.

Elizabeth walks off with Jane. There is a moment of Darcy watching her, considering with a smile.

60 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT 60

Christmas music is playing as a big crowd of townsfolk gathers on the lawn of Pemberley Manor, all focused on the big Christmas tree.

61 INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN HALL - NIGHT 61

William is looking through the window at the crowd gathering on the lawn. Elizabeth comes inside.

ELIZABETH

There you are. Just look at all those people.

DARCY

It is quite a crowd.

ELIZABETH

The water main break may have been a blessing in disguise.

(MORE)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

George thinks there are more people than last year because everybody wants get one last look at Pemberley.

DARCY

I'm happy to hear it.

ELIZABETH

The tree lighting is starting any moment. Are you coming outside?

DARCY

No. I can see just fine from in here.

ELIZABETH

But you can see better out there.

DARCY

I think it's best if I keep a low profile. You want people to pay attention to the tree, not me.

ELIZABETH

Although if we had put lights on you it probably would've drawn an even bigger crowd.

DARCY

(smiles)

You've done a remarkable job, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

Thank you. I couldn't have done it without your help.

They smile and nod at each other, a moment passing between them. It is interrupted as Travis comes down the stairs at the same time Jane comes into the house.

JANE

Elizabeth. We're ready.

ELIZABETH

Okay, thank you.

Travis and Jane see each other - a shy smile between them.

TRAVIS

Hi, Jane.

JANE

Hi, Travis. I have a great spot figured out to watch the tree lighting. Do you... Would you want to join me?

TRAVIS

Sure.

The two of them head off and Elizabeth and Darcy share an "aren't they cute" smile.

ELIZABETH

You're sure you don't want to come outside?

DARCY

I'm sure. Have fun. It'll be a great start to Christmas.

She smiles and leaves. Darcy turns back to the window.

62

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

62

Elizabeth comes over to where George is standing.

ELIZABETH

Are you ready, George?

GEORGE

Let's do it!

George goes to the front of the crowd near the tree where a microphone and a ceremonial button are located. A couple of press photographers are up front taking pictures of George and the tree as he speaks.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome!
Welcome to the Lambton Christmas
Festival!

There is raucous applause.

63

INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN HALL - NIGHT

63

Darcy is watching through the window as Kristofer comes hurrying through the main hall.

KRISTOFER

I haven't missed it, have I?

DARCY

No, not yet.

KRISTOFER

Oh, good. I do love a good tree lighting! Aren't you coming?

DARCY

No, I'm going to watch from in here.

KRISTOFER

Mr. Darcy, that's no way to get into the Christmas spirit.

DARCY

There's plenty of Christmas in here.

KRISTOFER

This? Christmas is not just decorations. It's the people. The ones you care about and who care about you. You don't want to miss that, do you?

Darcy thinks about it for a moment and then follows Kristofer toward the door.

64

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

64

The ceremony continues.

GEORGE

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped put this together, especially my assistant Jane Lucas and the woman of the hour, event planner Elizabeth Bennett.

Jane and Elizabeth wave as the crowd applauds appreciatively. Elizabeth sees Darcy coming out of the house and they exchange a smile.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Okay. Is everybody ready. Can I get a countdown? Five, four, three, two, one...

George pushes the ceremonial button and not just the tree but all of Pemberley lights up. Lights adorn the exterior of the house and in the bushes and trees around it, turning everything into a magical wonderland.

The crowd is very excited and the photographers are busy snapping pictures.

Elizabeth, a bit overwhelmed and not really thinking runs over to Darcy.

ELIZABETH
Isn't it beautiful?

DARCY
It is.

ELIZABETH
We make a good team.

DARCY
Yes, we do.

Elizabeth extends her hand and he shakes it with a smile. Unbeknownst to them a photographer captures the moment.

65 EXT. NEW YORK CITY HOTEL - DAY 65

Establishing shot of a luxurious hotel in New York, all decked out for the holidays.

66 INT. NEW YORK CITY HOTEL - BALLROOM - DAY 66

Elizabeth's boss Caroline is directing various workers in setting up a Christmas event in a ballroom. She is reviewing information from Elizabeth's green binder.

CAROLINE
According to the plan we should have twelve tables on that side and another twelve on this side. It's all in the binder, people!

A hotel employee walks by and puts a newspaper on the table next to her. Something catches her eye.

On the cover is the picture of Darcy and Elizabeth shaking hands with the headline Billionaire Darcy Saves Christmas - and the caption of the photo describes Elizabeth as a "celebrity party planner."

Caroline's eyes get big and she turns around. Caroline pulls out her phone and dials in a fit of pique.

67 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY

67

Day two of the festival is in full swing as families with kids line up in front of Santa's village. In the background we see Elizabeth running the show with organized efficiency.

In the foreground, we a table with a clipboard, one of her binders, and a cellphone sitting on it. The cellphone lights up indicating that it is Caroline calling Elizabeth.

END ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

68 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY 68

Establishing shot of the manor and the festival, still going strong.

69 INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - STUDY - DAY 69

Darcy is looking out the window at the festivities when Kristofer enters with Elizabeth.

KRISTOFER

Mr. Darcy, Ms. Bennett is here to see you.

DARCY

Thank you, Kristofer.

Kristofer makes his exit and Elizabeth, a bit sheepish, stays where she is.

ELIZABETH

I'm sorry for the picture in the paper.

DARCY

It's all right.

ELIZABETH

No, it's not. You asked for one thing from me and I couldn't even do that. If this was event planning school I'm pretty sure I just flunked.

DARCY

Elizabeth, you didn't know they were going to do that. And frankly, if I didn't want my picture in the paper I shouldn't have gone outside.

ELIZABETH

Please promise me you're not going to be one of those crazy rich guys that never leaves his house.

DARCY

(smiles)

I promise.

ELIZABETH

Well, to be honest, I'm a little bit happy that you're getting the credit you deserve. The headline was right, you saved Christmas.

DARCY

Hardly. But regardless, I don't need that kind of credit.

ELIZABETH

You allowed the festival so the town would feel better about what's happening to Pemberley. What's wrong with taking credit for that?

DARCY

That was more for the company buying it than for me.

ELIZABETH

William, there's nothing wrong with letting people know you're a good guy.

That comment takes Darcy a bit off guard - he smiles.

70

INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN HALL - DAY

70

Elizabeth and Darcy come down the stairs into the main hall just as Kristofer enters with Jane, George, and Travis.

JANE

Elizabeth, we have a problem.

ELIZABETH

Oh, good, I was wondering what else could go wrong.

JANE

The man that was going to play Santa Claus has come down with the flu. He's not going to be able to make it.

GEORGE

What are we going to do? We've got a line of kids out there waiting to talk to Santa.

Elizabeth, cool in a crisis, nods and smiles.

ELIZABETH

Okay, so we need a new one. If only there was someone around here who looks like Santa Claus.

They all look at Kristofer.

KRISTOFER

Me? You think I look like Santa?
(looks in a nearby mirror)
I don't see it.

ELIZABETH

Kristofer, you're a couple of reindeer shy of *being* Santa. Please tell me you'll do it.

KRISTOFER

I would be delighted.

JANE

What about a costume?

KRISTOFER

Oh, I might have something that will work. I'll see what I can scrounge up.

JANE

What about an elf helper?

This time everyone turns to look at Travis. He seems much less happy about the idea than Kristofer was.

TRAVIS

Me? No, I'm much too busy. I'm sure Mr. Darcy needs me.

DARCY

I think I can spare you for a couple of hours.

TRAVIS

Well... I don't have anything that looks like an elf costume.

KRISTOFER

I might be able to find something for you to wear, Travis. Come with me.

He leads Travis off toward the stairs.

71 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - SANTA'S VILLAGE - DAY

71

At Santa's Village we see Kristofer as Santa in a full costume and Travis dressed up in a fun elf costume. They are greeting children who are coming up to give their wishes.

KRISTOFER

Ho, ho, ho! Hello, young man.
Would you like to tell Santa what
you want for Christmas?

The kids are overjoyed by the experience.

Elizabeth and Jane are watching, pleased. Elizabeth looks up toward the house where we can see Darcy and George in the window watching with approval.

72 INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN HALL - DAY

72

Darcy and George keep watching the scene out on the window.

GEORGE

Are you sure you don't want to go
outside and join the fun?

DARCY

I'm fine, thank you. You don't
need to stay to keep me company.

GEORGE

That's okay. I already sent in my
wish list to Santa.

DARCY

Anything interesting on it?

GEORGE

A car. A boat. A second term as
Mayor. Started a little early with
that one.

DARCY

So, nothing big.

GEORGE

No, just the usual.

The smile as they watch the scene outside.

DARCY

Everyone has done a fine job on the
festival.

GEORGE

Well, most of the credit goes to Elizabeth. She's remarkable.

DARCY

Yes, she is. You dated in college, didn't you?

GEORGE

One date. But I can't help but wonder what it would have been like if she had said yes when I asked for her a second.

DARCY

What happened?

GEORGE

(shrugs)

She wanted to be friends. I wanted her in my life so that was good enough for me at the time.

DARCY

And now?

GEORGE

Now, I can't help but wonder what she'd say if I asked again. Maybe the answer would be different.

Darcy looks at George, understanding where his heart is and not wanting to intrude on that. They go back to watching the activities out on the lawn.

73

EXT. LAMBTON - STREET - NIGHT

73

Elizabeth and Darcy are walking down the charming, twinkle-lit main street of Lambton among other holiday shoppers. Elizabeth has a list.

ELIZABETH

Okay, we're making good progress and so far we're finding everything the kids asked for.

DARCY

How much do we have left?

ELIZABETH

About half the list.

DARCY

Half? If we put anything else in the limousine, you and I will have to ride on the roof.

ELIZABETH

It worked for the Christmas tree.

DARCY

Do you *always* find the bright side?

ELIZABETH

William, it's three days until Christmas, we are out on a beautiful night in this beautiful town buying gifts for some kids who don't often get presents. How can you not see the bright side of that?

DARCY

(beat)
Point taken.

They walk in amiable silence for a moment.

ELIZABETH

So what do you want for Christmas?

DARCY

I have everything I need.

ELIZABETH

I didn't ask what you needed, I asked what you wanted. You can't possibly have everything you want.

DARCY

I am very lucky to be in a position where if I want something, I have the means to go out and get it.

ELIZABETH

All right, but what I mean is, what do you want that money can't buy?

DARCY

I want what everyone else wants. To be happy, to be satisfied in a job well done.

ELIZABETH
Friendship? Family?
(beat)
Love?

DARCY
(beat)
Of course.

Elizabeth looks at him and he clears his throat, obviously uncomfortable with being that vulnerable. Elizabeth smiles and lets him off the hook.

ELIZABETH
Maybe you should put that in your
letter to Santa.

DARCY
(smiles)
Perhaps.

They walk in amiable silence again for a moment until Elizabeth spies a mannequin in a window with a nice scarf around its neck.

ELIZABETH
Oh, hey. I think George would like
that scarf. What do you think?

DARCY
It's very nice.

ELIZABETH
He has been so good to me - taking
a chance on me with the festival.

DARCY
He's very fond of you.

ELIZABETH
And I'm very fond of him.

This only compounds his thoughts about the two of them after his talk with George.

74

EXT. LAMBTON HOTEL - NIGHT

74

The limousine, laden with gifts, pulls up in front of Elizabeth's hotel. Darcy and Elizabeth get out.

ELIZABETH
Thank you again for all your help
tonight.

DARCY

I'm starting to think you only appreciate me for my limo.

ELIZABETH

That, and you're good at carrying and lifting things.

DARCY

But that's it, right?

ELIZABETH

Right. What else could there be?

They have a moment, smiling at each other.

DARCY

I'll see you tomorrow?

ELIZABETH

Sleigh rides and the concert! Yes! Good night.

DARCY

Good night.

Darcy gets back in the limo and it pulls away. We can tell that Elizabeth is approaching smitten territory. She heads into the hotel, very happy.

75

INT. LAMBTON HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT

75

Elizabeth walks into the lobby of the hotel, still thinking about everything that happened tonight. She pulls out her phone and looks at the screen - it says there are a dozen missed calls.

A look of concern crosses over her face as she starts to check her voice mail. Maybe that's why she doesn't see it coming until it's too late.

CAROLINE

Elizabeth!

Elizabeth turns around to see Caroline standing there, not happy.

ELIZABETH

Caroline?

On Elizabeth's shock we...

END ACT SIX

ACT SEVEN

76 EXT. LAMBTON HOTEL - NIGHT 76

Establishing shot of Elizabeth's hotel.

77 INT. ELIZABETH'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT 77

Elizabeth is sitting on the bed in her room while Caroline paces back and forth.

CAROLINE

Why didn't you tell me this event was with William Darcy?

ELIZABETH

Because it wasn't. He just donated use of the manor after the town square fell through. Literally.

CAROLINE

Darcy Worldwide makes Blair Industries, our biggest client, look like a mom and pop store. Do you know how long I have been trying to book an event with his company?

ELIZABETH

The event is not with Darcy's company, it's with the town of Lambton.

CAROLINE

But your picture is in the paper as William Darcy's event planner.

ELIZABETH

That was a mistake.

CAROLINE

I'll say. Do you know what this picture makes me look like?

ELIZABETH

(tries to joke)
Smart for hiring such capable people?

CAROLINE

It makes me look irrelevant.
Someone who works for me is
planning an event with one of the
richest, most powerful men on the
planet and I'm not even mentioned?
I should be the face of this.

ELIZABETH

Caroline, I'm sorry, but the
festival has already started; all
of the planning is already done.

Caroline sits at the table where a lot of the plans for the
event are spread out.

CAROLINE

You better order some coffee from
room service. We're going to stay
up all night if we have to.

ELIZABETH

Doing what?

CAROLINE

We're going over every detail of
the plans for the event so I can
figure out how to salvage this.

ELIZABETH

But the festival is going great!
People really seem to like it.

CAROLINE

I'm not talking about the festival,
I'm talking about my company's
reputation. Elizabeth, you know I
love you, but you have put that in
jeopardy.

Elizabeth, feeling like doesn't have any choice, picks up the
phone to call room service.

78

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY

78

Elizabeth and Caroline are walking through the festival area
by the stage and stalls.

ELIZABETH

And this is the stage for the
concert and the reading of "The
Night Before Christmas."

CAROLINE

Okay... maybe not exactly what I would have done but it's okay. Especially since it's too late to change it.

Elizabeth points to an area with hay bales as seating with lots of Christmas decoration.

ELIZABETH

And over there is a casual area where people can have hot chocolate and sit, relax, chat with their neighbors.

CAROLINE

Hay bales? To sit on? No, Elizabeth. This won't do. No, we need high top tables, white table cloths, tall stools.

ELIZABETH

But parents bring their kids...

CAROLINE

They'll be too busy running around having fun to sit still. We need to do something with the lighting... Make it more intimate. Are you writing this down?

Caroline walks off and Elizabeth follows, taking notes.

79

INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN HALL - DAY

79

Darcy is in the hall attempting to wrap packages, not very successfully, when Elizabeth comes in. Despite everything that is going on, she can't help but smile.

ELIZABETH

What are you doing?

DARCY

I'm wrapping the kids' Christmas gifts.

ELIZABETH

Are you angry at the gifts?

DARCY

I'm just not used to doing this kind of thing myself.

(MORE)

DARCY (CONT'D)

And besides, there is nothing wrong with the way I have wrapped these.

He looks at the gifts with an objective eye.

DARCY (CONT'D)

Provided the intention was to frighten the children. Are you going to help me or not?

Elizabeth goes to sit beside him and carefully undoing his damage.

ELIZABETH

Listen, there's something we need to talk about.

DARCY

Uh-oh. What else did I do wrong?

ELIZABETH

Nothing, it was something I did wrong. My boss Caroline is here.

DARCY

Why?

ELIZABETH

She's concerned about the extra attention the festival is getting.

DARCY

(nods)
Because of our picture in the paper.

ELIZABETH

Yes. So she's taking the lead on the rest of the event. She's outside making some changes and talking to George right now and then I'll introduce you to her.

DARCY

But you've been doing a great job.

ELIZABETH

Thank you for saying that. I'm still going to be here, just more behind the scenes where I belong.

DARCY

I don't think you belong behind the scenes.

(MORE)

DARCY (CONT'D)

I think you belong right out in front and I'll be happy to tell her that. Perhaps I can knock on her car window and remind her about being nicer to the people who work for her.

He starts to get up and Elizabeth puts her hand on his arm.

ELIZABETH

No, William, please. I should have called her the second I knew you were involved. Let's just concentrate on making this a wonderful Christmas for everyone and it'll all be fine.

They have a moment where they realize that her hand is still on his arm and neither one of them is rushing to do anything about it. Before the moment can progress, Caroline comes sweeping in.

CAROLINE

Mr. Darcy!

Elizabeth and Darcy stand as Caroline comes to greet Darcy.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Caroline Bingley. It's such a pleasure to meet you.

She guides him out of the room away from Elizabeth who has a moment of wistfulness, then straightens her shoulders and gets to work on the Christmas presents.

80 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FESTIVAL AREA - DAY

80

The formerly casual hay bale area is being transformed into something one might expect to see at a fancy gala - all high-class furnishings, table dressings, and lights.

A family is climbing aboard the now fully decorated, horse-drawn sleigh/carriage parked in the main drive.

81 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT DOOR - DAY

81

Elizabeth, George, Jane, Travis, and Kristofer - in his Santa costume - are standing near the front door of the house watching, not exactly sure how they feel about it.

GEORGE

I guess it all looks... nice.

JANE

Yes, it's very... elegant?

TRAVIS

It looks expensive. What if I spill my hot chocolate on the table cloths?

ELIZABETH

Caroline likes things to be "tasteful"

There is a beat of awkward silence as Elizabeth tries to keep on a brave face.

KRISTOFER

Has anyone seen Mr. Darcy?

TRAVIS

Not since he and Ms. Bingley got back from lunch.

ELIZABETH

(concerned)

He had lunch with Caroline?

TRAVIS

Yes. They seem to be getting along well. Oh, there he is.

They see Darcy walking up to join them.

DARCY

Has anyone taken a sleigh ride yet?

JANE

Travis and I did. And George and Kristofer went.

DARCY

(to Elizabeth)

You haven't gone?

ELIZABETH

No. I'm supposed to stay here in case Caroline needs anything.

DARCY

Well, that's not right. Come on.

ELIZABETH

William...

Darcy takes her by the arm and gently pulls her toward the sleigh boarding area.

82

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN DRIVE - DAY

82

Darcy and Elizabeth head to the area where the sleigh picks up passengers Caroline sees them. She approaches.

CAROLINE

Mr. Darcy? Did you want to take a sleigh ride?

DARCY

Yes, I was going to accompany Elizabeth if that's all right.

Caroline smiles broadly to cover her obvious unhappiness about that idea.

CAROLINE

Of course it is. The sleigh just left but I can radio the driver and have him come back.

DARCY

That's all right. I don't mind waiting. Do you, Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH

No, not at all.

CAROLINE

All right then. Well, you let me know if you change your mind.

Caroline walks off as Darcy and Elizabeth wait.

DARCY

How do you feel about the changes Caroline is making?

ELIZABETH

She's knows what she's doing.

(beat)

So how was your lunch with her?

DARCY

It was good. She was trying to get me to be more forthcoming about my involvement with the festival but I made it very clear that I didn't want any publicity.

ELIZABETH

Hasn't that ship already sailed?
Because of me?

DARCY

Any *more* publicity.

ELIZABETH

How did she take it?

DARCY

She can be charming when she wants
to be. And don't worry, I didn't
say anything about her taking over
the festival.

ELIZABETH

Thank you.

DARCY

But you should be proud of what you
have accomplished.

Elizabeth looks out at the festival. She is proud but also a
bit sad for what has happened.

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN DRIVE - LATER

A few minutes later, the sleigh pulls into the driveway with
the family we saw climbing aboard earlier. Caroline rushes
over to Darcy and Elizabeth.

CAROLINE

Here we go. A special ride for our
special VIP.

DARCY

Thank you, Caroline. We've got it
from here.

The family climbs off the sleigh and Darcy helps Elizabeth
climb aboard, then follows.

CAROLINE

Have fun. Elizabeth, let's chat
when you get back, okay?

She gives Elizabeth a look that indicates that it won't be a
fun chat. The sleigh takes off.

83

EXT. LAMBTON - STREET - DAY

83

The sleigh carrying Darcy and Elizabeth is making it's way down the main street of Lambton, charming Christmas decorations in the background. They ride in silence for a moment.

DARCY

Are you cold? There's a blanket.

ELIZABETH

No, I'm good. Thank you.

(beat)

This is all going so fast. The concert is this afternoon and then tomorrow night we do the gifts and the reading of the Night Before Christmas.

DARCY

You're still staying through the end of the festival, aren't you?

ELIZABETH

Yes. I'll leave for my parents' house right after we wrap up.

DARCY

And then Christmas morning with your family. That will be nice.

ELIZABETH

Yes. Are you still planning on working?

DARCY

I don't know. Maybe I'll take a day off for a change. Maybe one last Christmas at Pemberley.

She smiles at this unexpected development. He smiles back.

ELIZABETH

Is that why you decided to stay at the manor instead of in a hotel? Why you came here personally instead of sending someone who works for you?

DARCY

(beat)

I guess it is. Pemberley holds a lot of powerful memories for me.

(MORE)

DARCY (CONT'D)

I couldn't just let that go without at least saying goodbye.

ELIZABETH

But why are you selling it at all?

DARCY

Because the board decided the company needed to sell it.

ELIZABETH

But you could have talked them out of it, couldn't you? Maybe if you had told them how important it was to you...

DARCY

Most of the board has been there forever. My father would never have let something like fond childhood memories interfere with a business decision.

ELIZABETH

You're not your father.

DARCY

But sometimes I need to be.

ELIZABETH

Maybe a Christmas at Pemberley will change your mind. If that doesn't, I don't know what else would.

While she's not looking, Darcy looks at Elizabeth as if to suggest that she could probably change his mind.

DARCY

Neither do I.

Elizabeth notices some colorful Christmas decorations that Caroline didn't take away.

ELIZABETH

Oh, look at the reindeer!

He tears his eyes away from her and looks and they smile and laugh as they enjoy the ride.

84

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN DRIVE - DAY

84

The sleigh ride pulls back up to the main drive where Caroline is waiting. Darcy allows Elizabeth to get off the sleigh first.

CAROLINE

How was it, Mr. Darcy?

Darcy looks at Elizabeth with a smile.

DARCY

It was... Very nice.

CAROLINE

Maybe I should check out the experience.

Elizabeth is off the sleigh but Darcy is still on. Caroline climbs aboard with him.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Do you mind accompanying me? I don't want to go by myself.

Elizabeth is surprised by this and not in a good way.

DARCY

I should probably let someone else take a turn.

CAROLINE

Oh, they can wait. Driver. Once around the park.

The sleigh starts moving and Darcy doesn't seem to have any choice but to sit down and go for a ride.

Elizabeth watches the sleigh take off, unhappy about how this all turned out.

END ACT SEVEN

ACT EIGHT

85 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY

85

A larger crowd has gathered for the concert. A choir is on the stage, which has been completed with a Caroline makeover. It's much less traditional Christmas and much more elegant party celebration.

Elizabeth and Kristofer - once again in his Santa costume - are off to the side watching while Caroline is working the crowd, glad-handing and being the perfect hostess.

KRISTOFER

It is quite a turn out.

ELIZABETH

Yes. Leave it to Caroline to turn a Christmas concert into one of the hottest events of the year.

KRISTOFER

You think she's the reason all these people are here?

ELIZABETH

She sent out an email blast and had the social media team at the office on overdrive since early this morning. People came from New York just because she said it was going to be spectacular.

KRISTOFER

Your concert would have been just as good. Maybe better since it was coming from the heart.

ELIZABETH

That's very nice of you to say, Kristofer, but I'm content in the background and she belongs out front.

KRISTOFER

You never know, Elizabeth. You might be more valuable to this evening than you think.

Caroline comes up to them, agitated.

CAROLINE

Elizabeth, our soloist is complaining of a sore throat.

ELIZABETH

Is she going to be able to sing?

CAROLINE

I don't think so. Now we don't have anyone to do the finale.

KRISTOFER

Why don't you do it, Elizabeth? You have a wonderful voice.

CAROLINE

You do? I've never heard you sing.

ELIZABETH

Because I don't. I can't get up in front of all those people.

KRISTOFER

Elizabeth, this concert is very important to Lambton. It's part of the tradition of Christmas. You don't want to disappoint them.

CAROLINE

He's right and I'm desperate. You're in.

ELIZABETH

Caroline, no!

CAROLINE

Elizabeth, if you're looking for a way to make up for the whole Darcy thing, this would be a really good way of doing it. I'll go tell the announcer.

Caroline walks off leaving Elizabeth to panic about this.

86

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - STAGE - DAY

86

Elizabeth is standing just off stage, nervously waiting for her cue when we see Kristofer bring Darcy into the area. Kristofer points at Darcy and Darcy nods, then approaches Elizabeth.

DARCY

Hi.

ELIZABETH

Hi. What are you doing out here?
There are photographers everywhere.

DARCY

I couldn't miss the grand finale.

ELIZABETH

You heard.

DARCY

I did. You're going to be great.

ELIZABETH

I haven't sung in front of people
in a long time.

DARCY

What was it that Kristofer said?
The things we love are never far
away?

Elizabeth smiles at that, a little hopeful that he might be saying that about more than just her singing. Before she can follow up, though...

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, for our grand
finale tonight, please welcome to
the stage, Elizabeth Bennett.

DARCY

Break a leg.

Elizabeth smiles and goes out on the stage. The music starts - a beautiful, heartfelt Christmas song like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" or "The Christmas Song."

She's a bit hesitant at first - she's out of practice on this - but once she gets started, her voice is beautiful and clear, perfectly suited to the song and the moment.

During it, George walks over to Darcy, who is watching with affection.

GEORGE

She's amazing, isn't she?

DARCY

Yes, she is.

GEORGE

I think... I think I'm going to try asking for that second date. What do you think?

Darcy is thrown by that but can't do anything other than be a decent guy about it.

DARCY

I think you should.

George, beaming with possibility, smiles broadly.

Elizabeth wraps up the song to enthusiastic applause from everyone.

87 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY 87

Elated, Elizabeth comes off the stage and her first instinct is to look for Darcy. She sees him and starts toward him but then Caroline walks up to him and she stops.

88 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT DOOR - DAY 88

Caroline approaches Darcy.

CAROLINE

That went well, don't you think?

DARCY

Yes, I do. Elizabeth was fantastic.

CAROLINE

Wasn't she?

DARCY

I should go tell her...

CAROLINE

Absolutely, but first, maybe now is a good time to talk about what else Elite Events can do for Darcy Worldwide.

She puts her arm in his and walks him away.

89 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY 89

Elizabeth watches as Caroline walks off with Darcy, arm in arm. She is disappointed. George approaches her.

GEORGE

Elizabeth! That was fantastic!

He hugs her and she hugs him back, smiling, but she can't help but watch Darcy and Caroline.

90 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT DOOR - DAY 90

As Caroline walks with Darcy, he looks back over his shoulder to see Elizabeth hugging George.

91 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - NIGHT 91

Establishing shot of Pemberley Manor.

92 INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN HALL - NIGHT 92

Elizabeth comes into the main hall just as Caroline is coming down the stairs.

ELIZABETH

Caroline. Hi. I was looking for William.

CAROLINE

(pointedly)

Mr. Darcy, is up in his study. We were just talking about the possibility of Elite Events doing business with his company.

ELIZABETH

That's great.

CAROLINE

Yes. And he made it very clear that you played a big part in his willingness to work with us.

ELIZABETH

I'm happy that I could help.

CAROLINE

I think, though, that it's probably a good idea for you to take a step back at this point.

ELIZABETH

What do you mean?

CAROLINE

I need to establish a relationship with Mr. Darcy myself. I need him to understand that this is my company and I can provide him with whatever he needs better than... anyone else.

ELIZABETH

Are you... are you firing me?

CAROLINE

No! Of course not. You are an invaluable part of Elite Events. But you said it yourself - you shine in a behind-the-scenes capacity. Mr. Darcy is someone I should deal with directly from now on.

ELIZABETH

Oh... Okay.

CAROLINE

Don't look at this as a failure. You did a fine job taking the lead here, it's just not where you belong. As a matter of fact, why don't you start your Christmas vacation a little early? Head out first thing in the morning.

ELIZABETH

But tomorrow is Christmas Eve. It's the big closing night of the festival.

CAROLINE

I can handle it. I have your binder. Merry Christmas, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth takes a beat, glancing upstairs to where she knows Darcy is at, then looks back at Caroline.

ELIZABETH

Merry Christmas.

She turns and leaves.

93

INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - STUDY - NIGHT

93

Darcy is sitting in his study, contemplatively listening to Christmas music when Kristofer comes in.

KRISTOFER

Mr. Darcy?

DARCY

Yes, Kristofer?

KRISTOFER

Is everything all right?

DARCY

Yes. Yes, it's fine.

KRISTOFER

Pardon me for saying so but it doesn't seem like it.

DARCY

Well, it is. The sale of Pemberley is almost final. The festival has been a big success.

KRISTOFER

Thanks to Elizabeth.

DARCY

Yes. I made sure Caroline knew how much I valued her contributions.

KRISTOFER

Have you let Elizabeth know that?

DARCY

Yes. I think so.

KRISTOFER

And have you let her know how much you value her?

DARCY

(beat)

She is very special, but I think she and George are better suited to each other.

KRISTOFER

Perhaps you should let her make that decision. Mr. Darcy, it's almost Christmas...

(MORE)

KRISTOFER (CONT'D)

it's a time to believe in the magic
of the holidays. You can get what
you wish for, you just have to ask.

Kristofer smiles and exits, leaving Darcy alone to think
about that.

94 EXT. LAMBTON HOTEL - NIGHT 94

Establishing shot of Elizabeth's hotel.

95 INT. LAMBTON HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT 95

Elizabeth and George are seated in the lobby area of the
hotel as he attempts to comfort her.

ELIZABETH

Well, on the bright side I guess
this means I can go home early.

GEORGE

You're not going to stay for the
toy giveaway or the reading of the
Night Before Christmas?

ELIZABETH

I was going to leave right
afterwards anyway. Now I'll get to
spend more of Christmas Eve with my
family.

GEORGE

You should be glad you don't have
to deal with Caroline anymore. I
tried to talk to her and she
wouldn't budge an inch.

ELIZABETH

No offense, George, but I told you
she wasn't going to listen to you.

GEORGE

Maybe Darcy can...

ELIZABETH

No. I don't want to involve him in
this any more than he already is.
I feel terrible about dragging him
into it in the first place.

GEORGE

William Darcy is a grown man. You didn't drag him into anything.

ELIZABETH

Thank you, George. I'm sorry I let you down.

GEORGE

You didn't.

ELIZABETH

So we're still friends?

George takes a moment to let go of the idea that he and Elizabeth can be more. Then he smiles.

GEORGE

Friends...

(beat)

Of course we are. Always.

Elizabeth leans in to hug him.

96 EXT. LAMBTON HOTEL - NIGHT 96

Outside Darcy's limousine pulls up and he gets out. He heads into the hotel.

97 INT. LAMBTON HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT 97

Darcy walks into the lobby and sees Elizabeth and George in hugging. It looks like more than just a friendly embrace.

Darcy's face tells us how he is interpreting this and he turns and heads for the door.

98 EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - NIGHT 98

Establishing shot of Pemberley Manor.

99 INT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - MAIN HALL - NIGHT 99

Darcy is looking at the Christmas tree, a little wistfully. Travis comes in with papers in a folder.

TRAVIS

Mr. Darcy? The final paperwork for the sale of Pemberley is here. It just needs your signature.

Travis hands him the folder.

Darcy looks around the room - the estate and all of its fond memories. But what's done is done, especially since he thinks he doesn't have a chance with Elizabeth.

He opens the folder, signs the document, and hands it back to Travis.

DARCY

Thank you, Travis. Have them
prepare the helicopter.

TRAVIS

We're leaving?

DARCY

First thing in the morning.
(glances toward tree)
There's no reason for me to stay
any longer.

He heads toward the stairs.

100

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY

100

As a snow falls, Elizabeth walks up the front drive of Pemberley as crews are tearing down the various parts of the festival - the stage, Santa's village, etc.

Confused, she wanders into the festival area and sees Caroline standing there.

ELIZABETH

Caroline, what's happening? Why
are they tearing things down?

CAROLINE

Because the festival is over.

ELIZABETH

No. The toy distribution for the
kids and the reading of The Night
Before Christmas is today! It's
Christmas Eve!

CAROLINE

It's been cancelled.

ELIZABETH

What? Why?

CAROLINE

The sale of Pemberley is complete and the company that bought it doesn't want the liability so they pulled the plug.

ELIZABETH

But, no, I talked to them personally. They said they wanted to inspire some good will in the community.

CAROLINE

That was just to get the deal closed. Now that it is, they don't care what the town thinks.

ELIZABETH

Well, we have to talk to William. He can fix this.

CAROLINE

He's gone, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

He... what do you mean he's gone?

CAROLINE

He left early this morning before the workers showed up. He went back to New York.

Caroline pats Elizabeth on the arm and walks away, leaving Elizabeth bereft as the snow continues to fall.

END ACT EIGHT

ACT NINE

101 EXT. CITY HALL - DAY 101

Establishing shot of City Hall as snow falls.

102 INT. CITY HALL - GEORGE'S OFFICE - DAY 102

Elizabeth and George are sitting in his office.

ELIZABETH

I can't believe he left without saying goodbye.

GEORGE

He must have had a good reason.

ELIZABETH

The sale of Pemberley was done. You were right; he's all business. He doesn't care about anything else.

GEORGE

Elizabeth, over the last couple of weeks I saw a different man.

(beat)

I could tell that there was something else he cared about.

ELIZABETH

George...

GEORGE

It's okay. We're friends, right? You care about him, too, don't you?

ELIZABETH

(beat)

Yes. But it's too late to do anything about it.

GEORGE

No, it's not. Elizabeth, it's Christmas. What better time than to wish for a Christmas miracle?

ELIZABETH

(beat)

You're right. But I'm going to use that wish for the festival. We have to save Christmas.

The door opens dramatically and Jane is standing there, a clipboard in one hand and a pen in the other, holding them like a sword and a shield.

JANE

Let's do this.

Elizabeth and George smile broadly.

103 EXT. LAMBTON AIRFIELD - DAY

103

It's snowing at the airfield where Darcy's helicopter is being prepared. The limousine is parked nearby, idling. Travis gets out of it and answers his phone.

TRAVIS

Hello? Jane? You want me to do what? But I don't... I can't... You really think I can do it?

He smiles at her encouragement.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

Okay. You can count on me.

He disconnects the call and goes back to the limo.

104 INT. DARCY'S LIMOUSINE - DAY

104

Travis gets back in the limo. Darcy is looking at the Pemberley contract, which he hasn't signed.

TRAVIS

Mr. Darcy. That was... the company that bought Pemberley.

DARCY

I signed the contract. What else do they want?

TRAVIS

(making it up as he goes)
They want to... uh... make sure that the contract is completely done. You know, done done.

DARCY

Done done?

TRAVIS

Their term. Not mine.

DARCY

Okay, well, yes, it is... done
done. Pemberley is all theirs.

The disappointment is obvious on Travis' face.

DARCY (CONT'D)

Except for the board's
ratification.

TRAVIS

(hopeful)
The what?

DARCY

The Darcy Board of Directors has to
ratify the contract. But that's
just a formality. We'll do it with
a quick vote when I get back to New
York.

TRAVIS

So until you get back to the city
and the board votes, technically
you still own Pemberley?

DARCY

(shrugs)
Technically, yes.

TRAVIS

Got it. Good. Oh, while I was out
there, the pilot said it would be a
while before we could take off.

DARCY

The weather?

TRAVIS

Right. Yes. The weather. Should
we go back to the manor to wait?

DARCY

No. There's no reason to go back.
We can wait here.

Travis nods and then turns surreptitiously to send a text.

Elizabeth and George are waiting while Jane stands nearby
looking at her phone. She gets the text that she has been
waiting for.

JANE

We're a go for Pemberley.

They celebrate with a cheer.

106

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY

106

The workers have stopped taking things down but the damage has been done - the festival area is in shambles and the snow is falling.

Elizabeth comes up the main drive and looks around, obviously concerned about the state of things. An SUV pulls into the drive and Caroline gets out of the back.

ELIZABETH

Caroline? I thought you left.

CAROLINE

I got a call saying that someone told the workers to stop dismantling the festival.

ELIZABETH

Yeah, that was me.

CAROLINE

You? Elizabeth, I know how important this event was to you, but our hands are tied on this.

ELIZABETH

We just untied them. It's a long story but I don't have time to explain right now. I have to get the festival put back together.

CAROLINE

Look around. There's no way you could get everything done in time by yourself.

ELIZABETH

I'm not by myself. I brought a couple of friends.

Elizabeth points and Caroline looks to see a veritable army of people walking up the main drive, led by George and Jane. They start directing people to festival area and everyone immediately gets to work.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Caroline, I know you said you want me to stay behind the scenes but this is bigger than both of us. This is about making sure an entire town gets to experience the joy of Christmas and I can make that happen... if you'll let me.

Caroline looks back at all of the people pitching in to save the Christmas festival and it melts her heart - she looks at Elizabeth.

CAROLINE

(beat)

What can I do to help?

Elizabeth smiles.

107 EXT. LAMBTON AIRFIELD - DAY 107

The limo is still sitting on the airfield, idling, as the snow falls.

108 INT. DARCY'S LIMOUSINE - DAY 108

Darcy and Travis are in the limo. Darcy looks at his watch impatiently.

DARCY

This is getting ridiculous.

Darcy starts to get out of the limo but Travis objects.

TRAVIS

Where are you going?

DARCY

I'm going to go talk to the pilot and find out what the delay is.

TRAVIS

The weather. Remember?

DARCY

It's not even snowing that hard. Helicopters can fly in snow. I want to get an update.

TRAVIS

I'll do it. I can do it.

DARCY
It's okay Travis.

Darcy starts to get out again.

TRAVIS
It's not the weather!

Darcy turns back to Travis.

DARCY
What do you mean?

TRAVIS
The helicopter is ready. It has
been for awhile now.

DARCY
Then why haven't we left?

TRAVIS
Because... you're not supposed to
leave!

DARCY
I'm not?

TRAVIS
No. You're supposed to remember
that it's Christmas and that
anything is possible at Christmas.
That you shouldn't sell Pemberley
and that you love Elizabeth and
that she loves you. And so I had
to pretend that the helicopter
wasn't ready and keep you here
until you did remember all that.

DARCY
Elizabeth... You think Elizabeth
loves me?

TRAVIS
I know she does. And I know I
don't know you very well yet, Mr.
Darcy, but I know that you could
really use someone like her in your
life. Especially at Christmas.
That's what it's all about, isn't
it?

Darcy thinks about it for a moment then yells to the driver.

DARCY

Let's go back to Pemberley Manor.
We've got a Christmas festival to
get to.

Darcy sits back and looks at Travis.

DARCY (CONT'D)

Nice job, Travis.

Travis sits back and smiles as the limo takes off.

109

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY

109

A light snow is falling at Pemberley too but the volunteers
are working hard to put the last touches on the festival set
up again. Jane comes running up to Elizabeth.

JANE

Have you seen Kristofer? I can't
find him anywhere.

ELIZABETH

He's our Santa!

George comes up to join them.

GEORGE

Bad news. Stan Finley, the anchor
man that was going to read The
Night Before Christmas? His wife
just went into labor.

ELIZABETH

Okay, nobody panic. We can handle
this. George, you pass out the
toys and I guess I'll read the
story.

GEORGE

I don't have a Santa suit and the
audience is expecting a "celebrity"
to read to them.

ELIZABETH

Well, it's not perfect but unless
we get another Christmas miracle,
it's just going to have to do.

They all stand there looking up at the sky as the snow falls.

110 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

110

Speaking of the snow, Darcy's limo has gotten stuck in a snowbank. Darcy and the driver are trying to get the car unstuck while Travis tries to get a dial tone.

TRAVIS

Still no luck. I can't get a dial tone. The snow must have knocked out the cell towers.

DARCY

I'll try mine.

Darcy steps out to the road to try to get a signal while Travis and the driver continue to try to shovel out the limo from the snow.

Unable to get a signal, he walks a little further away from the limo but it's no use. He puts the phone away in frustration and is about ready to go back to the car when he hears sleigh bells.

Darcy looks around trying to figure out where the sound is coming from but in the snow he's unable to pinpoint a location. But then a shape materializes through the snow - it's Kristofer in the Santa costume.

DARCY (CONT'D)

Kristofer? Is that you?

KRISTOFER

Yes, William. I've come to give you a lift back to Pemberley.

DARCY

You drove your car out here?

KRISTOFER

Something like that. Come along.

They start walking.

KRISTOFER (CONT'D)

You know, I really thought it was all set up. Elizabeth wrote her Christmas letter looking for true love and the two of you should have been able to figure it out on your own.

(MORE)

KRISTOFER (CONT'D)

But here I am, on Christmas Eve
needing to drop everything just to
make sure you understand that
Christmas isn't sitting in your big
house watching the festivities from
the window and that she gets her
Christmas wish.

DARCY

Kristofer, what are you talking
about?

KRISTOFER

It's a long story. Come on.

Kristofer turns and walks down the road; Darcy follows.

111

EXT. PEMBERLEY MANOR - FRONT LAWN - DAY

111

Despite the snow, a large crowd has gathered in the festival
area. We catch up with Elizabeth, George, Jane, and Caroline
who are standing by the Santa's Village.

GEORGE

Elizabeth, we can't wait any
longer.

ELIZABETH

Okay, let's do this.

She is getting ready to go up on the stage but then she hears
sleigh bells. She and everyone else looks around, but again
the snow makes it impossible to see where it's coming from.

A moment or two later Darcy and Kristofer come rushing up.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

William?

JANE

It's Kristofer, too.

KRISTOFER

So sorry we're late. We had a
little car trouble. Right Mr.
Darcy?

DARCY

(a little wide eyed)
Yes. Car trouble.

KRISTOFER

But we're here now and we can pass
out the toys and read The Night
Before Christmas.

ELIZABETH

The guy that was supposed to read
the story can't make it so it looks
like I'm doing that part.

Darcy thinks for a moment.

DARCY

You know, actually, Elizabeth...
may I do it?
(looks at Kristofer)
I think it's time to take part in
the Christmas festivities instead
of just watching them from the
window of my big house.

ELIZABETH

Your house? I thought...

DARCY

I talked to the board. The sale is
off.

There is a small whoop of joy and high fives from George and
Jane. Caroline steps in.

CAROLINE

Everyone is waiting. Are you
ready?

Darcy looks at the crowd and breaths deeply.

ELIZABETH

Remember what Kristofer said. The
things we love are never far away.

Elizabeth hands him the book to read from. He smiles and
then he and Kristofer go on to the stage.

KRISTOFER

Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas!!

Santa starts handing out toys to the kids while Darcy settles
in at the microphone to start reading the story.

DARCY

'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house, Not a
creature was stirring, not even a
mouse. The stockings were hung by
the chimney with care, In hopes
that St. Nicholas soon would be
there...

Christmas music swells as we see the townspeople greeting Santa.

The limo pulls up and Travis gets out - he runs over to Jane and the two of them hug.

George and Caroline watch all of this, contented and happy.

Elizabeth has her eyes on Darcy, smiling as he finishes up the poem.

DARCY (CONT'D)

He sprang to his sleigh, to his
team gave a whistle, and away they
all flew like the down of a
thistle. But I heard him exclaim,
ere he drove out of sight, "Merry
Christmas to all, and to all a good
night!"

Elizabeth goes onto the stage just as Kristofer is leaving.

ELIZABETH

Thank you, Kristofer.

KRISTOFER

It was my pleasure, Elizabeth. I
hope you get what you wanted for
Christmas.

ELIZABETH

I already I have.

Kristofer walks off the stage and Elizabeth goes to Darcy.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

(to Darcy)

I thought you didn't enjoy public
speaking.

DARCY

(shrugs)

I needed to make sure I make it on
the nice list.

ELIZABETH

I think you did.

Darcy pulls her close and the two of them kiss as the sound of sleigh bells rings off in the distance.

THE END