

SCENE 8 -

Mr. Collins enters and hold forth: a self-important, squat, sweaty man. He tries hard to be Impressive - unfortunately, he has a tic wherein he cannot quite, ever, land on the right word. The original Mansplainer.

MR. COLLINS

I tell you ladies (*bows*) you young ladies (*bows*) you young gracious ladies of youth and grace (*bows*) ... you lay-diez. (*he loses himself for a second, then pops back up, lectures*) It is a grave duty - to act as tutor of the spirit -essence... SOUL. But as a clergyman, it is my place to promote -establish -INSPIRE Charity- and I have been sent on this quest- mission - CRUSADE by none other than the most Righteous LADY CATHERINE de BOURGH.

He pauses. Nobody knows who that is.

LADY. CATHERINE. de BOURGH.

They all nod and make “oh, ah” sounds politely.

MR. COLLINS

- I flatter myself that my overtures are meritorious- creditable-COMMENDABLE, and that you will not reject - refuse -SPURN this proffer-red... olive....brrr-anch.

He finishes with a flourishing bow. Mrs. Bennet applauds.

Skip

~~MRS. BENNET~~

Well said, Mr. Collins! Of course we are VERY open to any connection between our houses - *any* connection, sir.

MR. COLLINS

To spend even an instant in the company of my fair cousins, Madame, shall be to feel forever gratified- enchanted-

MARY

Entranced?

MR. COLLINS

Eh-eh-eh. (*he holds up a finger to shush her; thinks for a moment:*) - ENTRANCED.

~~MRS. BENNET~~

~~It is your duty, girls, to show Mr. Collins all of Meryton's charms! And I hope you will stand with my daughters, sir, at Mr. Dingley's ball?~~

~~All the girls are horrified.~~