

Pride and Prejudice and Mistletoe Beat Sheet

TITLE: Pride and Prejudice and Mistletoe

SUBGENRE: Hometown Christmas

Length: 80 Minutes

LOGLINE: Darcy has always worked hard to prove herself and be successful on her own terms. When she returns to her hometown for Christmas, she reconnects with an old rival, restaurant owner Luke, and they are forced to plan a charity event together.

1. OPENING IMAGE (Minute 1) Images of Christmas in New York City.

2. SET-UP (Minutes 1–11)

Darcy Fitzwilliam, a lovely young lady in her mid-20's, works as a successful financial analyst. She's nice to her assistant, her number one client and the coffee cart guy. Darcy discusses her breakup from the Wrong Guy, Carl. Her business partner encourages her to take time off for Christmas.

Aside: "Don't trust her!!" we scream at the TV.

Darcy says she'll go home and help her family plan a Christmas charity auction ... for kids!

Meanwhile, back in Ohio, the handsome Luke gives menu samples to Darcy's mom. He's getting his restaurant off the ground and needs publicity. Darcy's mom hires Luke to be the caterer for the upcoming charity auction.

Darcy goes home, and Wrong Guy Carl, her ex, picks her up at the airport. Darcy tells him, *"You're a good guy, just not the guy for me."* Darcy meets her high school pal, who tells her they're all going out and Luke will be there! Luke—her old rival from the high school debate team.

3. MEET CUTE (Minute 11)

Darcy meets Luke at his restaurant. They are both clearly attracted to each other, but they bicker, just like they did on the debate team in high school. Darcy says, "He hasn't changed!"

4. PONDERING/DEBATE (Minutes 14–17)

Darcy talks to her dad, also an analyst (fun!). He wants her to come home and work for him. She's not sure. She says she feels "unsettled," but she's not sure what her life is missing.

The next morning, Darcy excitedly shows her mom the auction plans. Mom introduces her to the caterer... Luke! Darcy and Luke argue about the party planning, and Mom asks Luke to help plan the party. They're unsure, but eventually agree to work together. "*Darcy and I always did make a great team,*" he says.

5. BREAK INTO ACT 2 (Minute 18)

Note that the break into two isn't a scene, but a break between scenes.

6. FUN and GAMES (Minutes 17–25)

Darcy and Luke work together to plan the Christmas charity auction.

Darcy's assistant calls and says her business partner called a meeting without her. Darcy is worried. Darcy and Luke attend a white elephant Christmas party. He asks what's wrong, but she doesn't want to talk about it. He says, "*I'm a good listener.*" She replies, "*I don't need help!*"

Later, they have an awkward moment under the mistletoe—where they don't kiss.

7. BUDDY or MENTOR (Minute 27)

Darcy's brother comes home with his pregnant wife. Darcy is thrilled for them and tells her brother that she envies how he has it all figured out, while she feels unsettled. He says, "*Maybe you're looking in the wrong place...*"

FUN AND GAMES CONTINUED (Minutes 25–40)

Darcy and Luke go to a Christmas tree lot and Darcy, refusing help, accidentally knocks Christmas trees down like dominoes. Darcy accepts help

from Luke. They have a heart to heart about how much they admired each other in high school.

Darcy gets on the partners' meeting call. They tell her to stop helping small investment clients or she's out of their firm!

Darcy and Luke go looking for a Christmas tree designer for the auction and decide to go to Pemberley Carols—a local Christmas caroling tradition.

8. HALFWAY MARK! (Minute 40)

At Pemberley Carols, Darcy and Luke have a nice date, eat roasted chestnuts and talk about how great Luke's dad was before he died. Luke always dreamed of opening a restaurant with his dad. They are once again sitting under the mistletoe, but they don't kiss. Or maybe she kisses his cheek. Regardless, those two need to look up more!

9. BAD THINGS START TO HAPPEN (Minutes 42–55)

Darcy and Luke seem to get along great, but the auction planning falls apart. Everything starts to go wrong.

- Tickets sales are way down! They work to email people and sell tickets online. *Nothing says Christmas like an email blast!*
- The Youth Center people are nervous they won't make money. Luke and Darcy stop by to reassure them and hear the lovely kids choir.
- The tree decorator backs out and they need to find another one.
- Darcy gets tangled in Christmas tree decorations.
- Darcy's business partner starts taking all of her clients while she's out of town. Darcy can't get hold of her biggest client. Her assistant begs Darcy to come back to the city, but she can't miss the auction!
- Darcy and Luke get into a snowball fight and have a fun, romantic time prepping food in his kitchen.
- Darcy has another talk with her dad about joining his firm.

10. CINDERELLA MOMENT (Minute 58)

Darcy gets dressed for the Christmas auction. Darcy's high school buddy tells her everyone can see how happy she is with Luke. Darcy says it would never work. I live in the city!

11. GRAND ENTRANCE AND LOVE (Minutes 60–69)

Everyone's gathered for the fancy Christmas auction. Luke, gorgeous in his tux, sees Darcy, dressed in a strapless red gown. She is lovely.

But there's a problem. There are no servers! Darcy and Luke get the Youth Center kids to serve the auction. *(There's no way Darcy's gonna help serve food in that dress!)*

Darcy's big client is at the auction, too! Her assistant told him Darcy would be there. Darcy says she's moving her firm to this small town. The big client says he will go with her and doesn't trust her business partner.

Another investor tries the delicious food and wants to invest in Luke's restaurant. *(Aside: It's an Angel Investor Christmas! Ha ha ...)*

Darcy speaks at the auction, "Christmas is a time of giving." They pull back the curtains to reveal the gorgeously decorated Christmas trees that will be auctioned off, and the youth choir sings! This is a lovely, Christmassy moment.

12. ALMOST KISS (Minute 70)

Darcy tells Luke that she has big news, she's made a big decision. But they are interrupted ... by Wrong Guy Carl!! He pulls Darcy away, saying her dad needs to talk to her.

13. FINALE

THE MISUNDERSTANDING / CONTEXT IS EVERYTHING (Minutes 70–74)

Wrong Guy Carl tells Darcy he wants her back. He tells her, "*You're a New Yorker. Let's go home together.*" Luke sees this interaction and thinks that this is Darcy's big news. Darcy tells Carl that they are good together, but they both deserve more than good. Luke rushes off. He thinks Darcy is getting back together with her ex, Wrong Guy Carl.

"I'VE GOTTA GO" (Minute 74)

Darcy tells her dad that she wants to join his business, move back to Ohio and help small investors. She asks around at the party for Luke. Her friends tell her, *“He left. He was upset that you got back together with Carl!”*

She grabs her coat, *“I have to find him!!”*

CHASE TO THE AIRPORT (Minutes 75–80)

Oh, he was right outside on the porch! (*Ha! Some chase!*). Luke just had a meeting with the person at the party who wants to invest in his restaurant. She tells him her “news” that’s she’s moving back to Ohio. She’s not getting back together with Carl and that she’s falling for someone. And look—they are under the mistletoe again.

14. THE REAL KISS (Minute 82)

They kiss under the mistletoe on the porch of the lovely Pemberly Mansion.

The End!