



Thank you for auditioning for

AUSTEN'S PRIDE

at The 5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle

ROLE: CASSANDRA / CHARLOTTE

PREPARE:

- This entire packet of material. There are currently no callbacks scheduled (this is our only day) so it is up to the director's discretion how much material we will hear in the room.
- Please also have your music book with you in case the team needs to hear something different (a short selection in a very legit style preferred).
- All roles must have a standard, RP accent.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Be sure to bring your picture and resume, otherwise we will not have one in the room!

To familiarize yourself with the style of this show, feel free to explore the show's website:
<https://www.austensprideamusical.com>

Thanks so much!
W | S Casting

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247 west 38th street, 10th floor, nyc ny 10018 p: 212.929.2339 f: 212.869.4707 wscastingonline.com

CASSANDRA AUSTEN / CHARLOTTE LUCAS SIDE

START

(CASSANDRA peeks her head in)

CASSANDRA

Jane? You were wailing.

AUSTEN

(Laughing, referring to what just happened in the story)
Elizabeth refused Mr. Collins.
(She shrieks, imitating Mrs. Bennet)
"Oh, Mr. Bennet!"

CASSANDRA

(Understanding)
Oh. -- "Oh, Mr. Collins!"

BOTH

"No one can know how much I suffer."
(THEY laugh over the absurdity of MRS. BENNET)
(Recovering, then ...)

CASSANDRA

Jane, may I make a confession?
(Hesitates)
Part of me agrees with Mrs. Bennet.

AUSTEN

-- What?

CASSANDRA

I think a "Mr. Collins" could be an eligible match.

AUSTEN

No well-educated woman would disgrace themselves by marrying a man like "Mr. Collins."

CASSANDRA

But what if he made a very good living, had connections to gentry, not to mention inheriting an estate ...

AUSTEN

(Disbelieving)
Cassandra!

CASSANDRA

(Raising a sensitive subject, gently)

You had an offer ... after Tom.

AUSTEN

And?

CASSANDRA

And his hand was worthy. But ... he did not propose to me.

AUSTEN

... What are you saying?

CASSANDRA

... He could have satisfied.

AUSTEN

No! No, Cassandra, no.

CASSANDRA

Why?

AUSTEN

For the same reason Elizabeth couldn't accept Mr. Collins.

ELIZABETH (Appearing) and AUSTEN

He could never have made me happy! –

AUSTEN

-- and she was the last woman in the world who could have made him so.

CASSANDRA

But Jane, even though I want to be romantic, I cannot afford to be like Elizabeth Bennet.

AUSTEN

How can you say that when you were going to marry for love?!

CASSANDRA

Because he died.

(Beat)

But I still wanted a family. And a home of my own. A suitable husband would have provided that.

AUSTEN

Now you sound like Charlotte Lucas again.

CASSANDRA

Yes. Well. Maybe I do. Don't you think that given the chance, a woman like Charlotte -- like me -- would have felt all the good luck of a proposal from a man like Mr. Collins?

(AUSTEN'S mind returns to the world of 'First Impressions.' SHE envisions CASSANDRA as CHARLOTTE)

AUSTEN

You! ... Charlotte! Engaged to such a man? ...

ELIZABETH

Charlotte! Engaged to Mr. Collins?!

CASSANDRA

He could be her husband.
(SHE starts to exit)

ELIZABETH

(To CASSANDRA as CHARLOTTE)
Charlotte! Impossible!

(CASSANDRA turns back as "Charlotte")

CASSANDRA (as CHARLOTTE)

(To ELIZABETH)
Why? Because he was not so happy as to succeed with you?

END

CASSANDRA AUSTEN / CHARLOTTE LUCAS SIDE

START

(AUSTEN sits down at the pianoforte and begins to bang away, trying to determine what to do next)

(CASSANDRA enters)

CASSANDRA

Jane? Stop! You are going to break a string!

(AUSTEN stops playing. *Music stops*)

AUSTEN

(Annoyed)

Mr. Darcy is being rather familiar with Elizabeth.

CASSANDRA

(Not seeing the issue)

... Alright ...

AUSTEN

He looks at her --

ELIZABETH

(Rolling her eyes)

Only to criticize.

AUSTEN

-- with a steadfast gaze.

ELIZABETH

Absence of mind.

CASSANDRA

And?

AUSTEN

Don't you see? Mr. Darcy ... is in love with her.

ELIZABETH

(Shocked)

Don't be absurd!

CASSANDRA

Isn't that how the story goes?

AUSTEN

It's how the story went. It's not realistic.

CASSANDRA

But it's romantic.

AUSTEN

And I am not romantic!

CASSANDRA

You were.

AUSTEN

And look where that got me. Happy endings are – silly! Foolish! Unrealistic! I refuse to write one.

CASSANDRA

But what is the alternative? Misery?

AUSTEN

You are one to talk. You would have married for money.

CASSANDRA

I said given the chance I would have been open to making a practical match.

(AUSTEN guffaws)

But that doesn't mean I don't enjoy a good love story.

AUSTEN

Yes! Always longing for fantasies you can't have.
All agog over Mr. Darcy. He isn't a hero. He is just another
selfish man who enjoys the power of doing what he likes.
In fact, Darcy divided Bingley from Jane.

CASSANDRA

(Trying to get a word in,
speaking over AUSTEN)
Happy endings give people hope!
Jane! Stop!!! Just stop it.

ELIZABETH

What?!

CASSANDRA

When did you become so bitter? So selfish that you have no regard for the feelings of others?!

END