**H+B\_LfP Trailer\_v2.mp3**

[gentle acoustic music begins]

**Vanessa:** [00:00:01] Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “I am at a loss to understand why people hold Jane Austen's novels at so high a rate, which seem to me without genius, wit, or knowledge of the world. Never was life so pinched and so narrow. Suicide is more respectable.” And he's not the only stodgy old man who said this kind of idiotic nonsense!

In other circles, Austen is worshiped as a not-so-minor deity. She has spawned at least hundreds of adaptations, and people who love Austen are called ‘Janeites’ like they're members of a small but mighty Protestant sect.

Regardless if you are an Emerson or Janeite, you cannot be an informed reader of English language literature and avoid having an opinion on Jane Austen, particularly *Pride and Prejudice*. Our podcast is about the power and importance of romance novels. We therefore had to get here eventually. *Pride and Prejudice* is the constitution of romance novels. It is our founding document. I happen to love it, and I think that the stakes of the marriage plot are stakes that matter.

Austen cared about the lives of women, including their inner lives. She is, to my mind, no doubt a genius. And yet the overwhelming popularity of this novel eludes me. Why is this book the one that launched a thousand imitators? Why not *Pamela*, which came before it, or *Middlemarch*, which has several marriage plots of its own? On this season of *Hot and Bothered*, we are talking to Jane Austen scholars, fans, and skeptics. We will trace power and love throughout *Pride and Prejudice*, and we are going to constantly be asking ourselves: why is this the bible of the romance genre, and should it be?

I'm Vanessa Zoltan and this is ‘Live from Pemberley’. This season of *Hot and Bothered* will launch March 25th of 2022, and episodes will be released every other week. I'll be joined again by the brilliant Lauren Sandler, and we cannot wait to see you at the assembly ball.

[music fades out]

**Vanessa:** We weren't invited to the private one at Netherfield. Caroline Bingley’s a snob.