

**LBD Episode 93: Free Advice**

**By Jay Bushman**

**Lizzie, Catherine DeBourgh**

INT. BENNET FAMILY DEN - DAY

Lizzie vlogs.

LIZZIE  
So Jane is off to her new job in  
New York. With Bing. Sort of. I'm  
glad that things turned out so--

A sharp KNOCKING at the front door surprises Lizzie.

LIZZIE  
Who could that--?

She goes to turn off the camera, but the KNOCKING comes again. Lizzie leaves the camera on and exits the frame.

LIZZIE (O.S.)  
What are you doing here?

DEBOURGH (O.S.)  
Aren't you going to invite me in?

LIZZIE (O.S.)  
Sorry. Please come in?

Marching into the den comes the imperious, impatient CATHERINE DEBOURGH. Lizzie trails after her, afraid that she just invited a vampire into her home.

DEBOURGH  
You should offer to take my coat.

LIZZIE  
May I take your coat?

DEBOURGH  
Yes, thank you.

She takes off her coat and hands it to Lizzie, who exits camera to hang it somewhere.

While Lizzie is off-camera, DeBourgh takes in her surroundings and is not impressed. When Lizzie returns--

(CONTINUED)

LIZZIE  
I'm shooting a video, I should turn  
it--

DEBOURGH  
Oh, yes. Your videos. Let's talk  
about your videos, shall we?

Lizzie stops cold -- she's seen the videos?!

LIZZIE  
You've seen them?

DeBourgh shoots her a look that says "I see everything."

LIZZIE  
Let me turn it off.

DEBOURGH  
Don't. You're not the only one who  
could benefit from my advice.

DeBourgh looks into the camera as if she could vaporize the  
audience with the power of her glare.

LIZZIE  
Okay--? Um, I kinda need to do an  
intro thing?

DEBOURGH  
Well? You should get on with it.

LIZZIE  
My name is Lizzie Bennet, and let's  
all get some, um, advice? From  
Catherine DeBourgh.

SMASH TO TITLECARD: THE LIZZIE BENNET DIARIES

INT. BENNET FAMILY DEN - CONTINUOUS

Lizzie and DeBourgh are now seated in front of the camera.

LIZZIE  
I don't think this is a good idea--

DeBourgh pulls out a piece of paper and hands it to Lizzie.

DEBOURGH  
Ms. Bennet. Nobody will take you  
seriously if you behave in such an  
indecisive, unprofessional manner.

(CONTINUED)

LIZZIE

What is this?

DEBOURGH

A release form. For using my likeness in your video. Which, I should point out, you have not received from William or Georgiana. I checked with Pemberley Digital's legal department.

LIZZIE

You checked with--?

DEBOURGH

You don't want to add a lawsuit to the other problems your family faces, do you, hmm?

LIZZIE

No.

DEBOURGH

You need to learn that there is a certain way that things are done. You seem like a moderately intelligent girl.

LIZZIE

Thanks. I think?

DEBOURGH

I'm sure if you applied yourself, you could someday have a career making wedding videos. But nobody will take you seriously if you insist on confessing the intimate details of your life to a few deluded strangers on the Internet.

LIZZIE

Hey!

DEBOURGH

At least Ms. Lu had the good sense to disassociate herself from your amateur efforts. Are these even remotely monetizable?

LIZZIE

I don't do this to make money. And say whatever you want about me. But don't talk about my audience like that.

(CONTINUED)

DEBOURGH

Your audience? Your audience is irrelevant. *(she addresses the camera)* As long as you refuse to pay money for your content, you will always be irrelevant.

LIZZIE

For somebody who's lecturing all of us on professionalism, how can you say any of these things on camera?

DEBOURGH

Because you and your viewers and this little world you've created need adult supervision. Playtime in over.

LIZZIE

If we're all a bunch of unprofessional, deluded, irrelevant children, why do you even care? Why are you even here?

DEBOURGH

I care, Miss Bennet, because you have somehow used your paltry charms to attract the attentions of my nephew. That is very much my business.

LIZZIE

I have no idea what you're talking about.

DEBOURGH

Do you deny that you are pursuing a relationship with him?

LIZZIE

I'm not pursuing anything--.

DEBOURGH

Because you have to know that cannot happen. He cannot jeopardize the success of the company by dallying with someone like you.

LIZZIE

And just what is wrong with me?

(CONTINUED)

DEBOURGH

William needs a partner who is more suited to the circles in which he moves. Someone elegant, refined. Not from a family with a propensity for public embarrassment.

LIZZIE

It sounds like you know just the right person for the job, don't you. Her name wouldn't happen to be Caroline, would it?

DEBOURGH

Caroline Lee is a delightful young woman with talent and ambition.

LIZZIE

I bet she's the one who told you. About my videos.

DEBOURGH

That is irrelevant. William and Caroline make sense. You do not. There is no way that William would choose someone like you over someone like her.

LIZZIE

Then you've got nothing to worry about. Except, how come he hasn't picked her already? He's had plenty of opportunities to. She might be able to manipulate her brother's feelings, but if you think William's that gullible, you really don't think much of him.

DEBOURGH

So you admit you are pursuing him?

LIZZIE

I didn't say that. I'm just trying to figure out how to live my own life. Which as far as I can tell has absolutely nothing to do with you, or Caroline Lee, or the legal department of Pemberley Digital!

DEBOURGH

Oh don't be absurd. Snaring my nephew would be the best thing that could ever happen to you. But for him, it would be a public disgrace.

(CONTINUED)

LIZZIE

Ok, let's just say - hypothetically - that you're right. And that we actually did want to be together. Why shouldn't we? Why should we listen to anyone else's opinions?

DEBOURGH

Because, Elizabeth. That is how the real world works. He would lose friends. Contacts. Business. Because of you.

LIZZIE

Anybody who would turn their back on him because of me doesn't deserve him to begin with.

DEBOURGH

You're so young. One day you'll understand. You have to be hard. Uncompromising. Everyone out there wants to take something from you.

LIZZIE

Ms. DeBourgh. *Catherine*. If William and I want to talk, we'll decide to talk. If we want to date, we'll date. If we want to get married and have a bunch of little Darcy babies, the only people who get to vote are me and him.

DEBOURGH

So that's your decision. I thought you might be smarter than that. May I please have my coat?

LIZZIE

My pleasure.

Lizzie retrieves the coat, hands it to DeBourgh.

LIZZIE

You've come into my home and insulted me. And you've insulted the Internet which, c'mon lady, not the smartest move in the world.

DEBOURGH

One day you'll look back and see that I'm doing you a kindness.

(CONTINUED)

LIZZIE  
Say hi to Annie-kins from me.

DeBourgh's eyes widen. Nobody puts Annie-kins in a corner.

DEBOURGH  
Good day.

LIZZIE  
Not really.

DeBourgh leaves camera. Lizzie watches her go, holding her breath. Off-screen, the door THUMPS closed.

CUT TO:

INT. BENNET FAMILY DEN - MOMENTS LATER

Lizzie is still trembling with fury.

LIZZIE  
That was--just--insane. And when she started insulting you guys? Seriously? She's lecturing me about professionalism? And the things she said about William--I mean Darcy. I'm the embarrassing one?

A thought occurs to her.

LIZZIE  
I really wish I hadn't recorded that. But I did. And now I'm sitting here thinking I shouldn't post it.

A wicked grin steals over her.

LIZZIE  
Then again, it appears I'm supposed to check all of my decisions, personal and professional, with the legal department, and--

She holds up DeBourgh's release form.

LIZZIE  
--and they've said its okay. Who am I to argue with the professionals?

CUT TO END TITLE CARD.

THE END