



The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet

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Based on the Emmy Award-winning “genius” (The Guardian) web series, The Lizzie Bennet Diaries, this is a new novel starring Lizzie’s spunky sister Lydia as she navigates the joys and pitfalls of becoming an adult in the digital age.

Before her older sister, Lizzie, started her wildly popular vlog, Lydia was just a normal twenty-year-old plotting the many ways she could get away with skipping her community college classes and finding the perfect fake ID. She may not have had much direction, but she loved her family and had plenty of fun. Then Lizzie’s vlog turned the Bennet sisters into Internet sensations, and Lydia basked in the attention as people watched, debated, tweeted, tumblr’d, and blogged about her life. But not all attention is good...

After her ex-boyfriend, George Wickham took advantage of Lydia’s newfound web-fame, betrayed her trust, and destroyed her online reputation, she’s no longer a naïve, carefree girl. Now, Lydia must work to win back her family’s trust and respect and find her place in a far more judgmental world.

Told in Lydia’s distinctive, eccentric, and endearing voice, The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet picks up right where The Secret Diary of Lizzie Bennet left off and “offers a fresh take on Pride and Prejudice without ruining it” (The Washington Post, on The Secret Diary of Lizzie Bennet). Featuring fresh twists, wonderful new characters, and scores of hilarious texts, doodles, and tweets, The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet takes you behind the webcam and into the lives of your favorite sisters in a way that’s sure to satisfy existing fans and delight new ones.

The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet Details

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Author : Kate Rorick , Rachel Kiley

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From Reader Review The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet for online ebook

TL says

A satisfying sequel-of-sorts to our favorite little sister :) When we leave off with Lydia, the whole debacle with George Wickham is over, Lydia is healing and thinking of majoring in Psychology.

This is about Lydia figuring out herself and her future after the camera turns off for good.

Lydia's voice comes through loud and clear.. it feels like she's pulling you into her confidence and sharing her story with you while you're hangin out on the couch. While she made some choices I wish she hadn't, I was still rooting for her and proud of her for not giving up on herself (even though she didn't see it that way at first).

Lydia meets some good people along her journey... LOVED Kat, Milo, and Violet... I wanted to go hang out with them and do whatever they felt like doing. I have a feeling you would never be bored with them :).

It takes Lydia a little while to find her way... it takes some soul searching and a couple trips
(view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

The ending had me smiling from ear to ear, I have feeling Lydia has a good future ahead of her.

We get some updates on Lizzie (to a lesser extent than the others), Bing, Jane, and their parents, they are more in the background but a definite presence in the story. One had me wanting to grab a certain someone in a big bear hug.

Would recommend, You could probably read this without reading 'The Secret Diary' of Lizzie Bennet but I would still advise reading it and/or watching the web series first.

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Shining a spotlight on a Wonderful review here from Tiff at Mostly YA Lit... she says it all better than me :)

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**Whitney Milam says**

*Because another thing he has failed at doing is taking my identity, and taking my voice. Those are mine. And with them, I can always turn my failures into strengths.*

A satisfying follow-up to *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries* that finally gives the series' scene-stealing breakout character a chance to tell her own story - and continue it, on her terms. Lydia is a fun, clever, engaging first-person narrator: it's impossible not to root for her as she attempts to redefine herself, pursue meaningful new adventures, confront her personal demons, and deal with the emotional fallout of trauma - all while retaining the sense of humor and zest for life that made viewers fall in love with her in the first place.

The familiar cast (Mary is integral, with a compelling subplot of her own, and Lizzie, Jane, Bing, and (view spoiler) all make appearances) is fleshed out with memorable new faces that put Lydia in interesting new scenarios and add fresh dimensions to her character. In authentically resolving old storylines while setting the stage for new ones beyond the final page, authors Kate Rorick and Rachel Kiley have given fans closure and definitively done justice to *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries*' most complex and sympathetic character. Highly recommend!

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## Tiff at Mostly YA Lit says

Review originally posted on Mostly YA Lit:

The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet is a love letter to fans of the wildly popular webseries, *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries*. There's no other way to put it. In the Acknowledgments, the authors say that the book would not have existed if people hadn't voiced their love, affection, and concern for this version of Lydia Bennet. So it seems absolutely right that Lydia should finally get her own story via the voices of those who loved her...because **this book, in, itself, is all about Lydia reclaiming her voice.**

But I'm getting ahead of myself. If you haven't heard of *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries*, it's an online adaptation of *Pride & Prejudice* in which Lizzie is a grad student filming YouTube videos of her life. If you haven't read about *Pride & Prejudice*, please go read it, go watch the LBD webseries, or read *The Secret Diary of Lizzie Bennet* before checking out this review. Because while Lydia's story can be read as a standalone, it's just not as captivating or compelling if you don't get the full story. **The context is very important here (also, spoilers for the whole LBD series).**

In *The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet*, we really, finally get to see how George's betrayal (he encouraged Lydia to make a tape of them having sex, and then left town, intending to sell it to an online company) affected Lydia, changed her. Yes, we saw her videos and her in Lizzie's videos. But **now we get a taste of what it's like being in her shoes, and it's a hard place to be.** Even though LBD ended on a good note for Lydia, we never got closure on her story. Her last video where she says she feels so happy and safe with George? That's still up. There's no conclusion after that.

And it makes sense, because **the Lydia we saw at the beginning of the show is gone.** She's in counselling, she's thinking about majoring in psychology, she's got a plan to go to San Francisco with her cousin Mary and start at a school there, but she's struggling to finish her credits for her Associate's Degree so she can leave. And she's scared, because all of her classmates (her whole town, in fact), know what happened to her. In particular, there are a few classmates who really make light of what happened to her, and it's upsetting to see her in that position. Luckily, Lydia still has her family support - Mary plays a huge part in this book, and Lizzie and Jane make more than brief appearances. But still, she feels alone.

What I really loved about this book is that **it doesn't give an easy answer to what Lydia went through.** She's healing, but she's still going through something really hard and scary, something that makes her question every action and every belief. It's definitely darker than what we saw in LBD. Lydia goes to some haunting and sad places emotionally in this book, she makes some serious mistakes, she beats herself up...in some ways, this was one of the hardest books I've ever had to read. But it was also very, very real, and one thing I've learned about mental illness is that sometimes, it really is two steps forward and one step back.

But the thing with Lydia is - she also knows when enough is enough. And she's stronger than she knows. **The second half of the book is all about her making small steps to change her life, to celebrate herself, and to be kind to herself.** And it's about understanding what people are saying to her, with their actions and words (the Bennet family is almost smothering her with their pity and worried looks at the beginning of the book) and reconciling it with what makes sense in her heart.

I feel like I'm just babbling here, but it's because **this book is SO emotional.** Lydia is a girl who wears her heart on her sleeve, but she's also someone who is excellent at avoidance and ignoring problems. Watching her go through this journey to realize what she needs and wants is both exhausting and exhilarating. It says a lot that at the end of the book, I felt PROUD of her. She was more than just a character to me. I was living this with her and to see her change throughout the book was so personal.

Bonuses:

**Secondary Characters Represent (aka all of the Bennets):** Want to know how Lizzie and Darcy are doing? Or Jane and Bing? Or Mary? YOU WILL FIND OUT, and some of them have some serious developmental arcs that made me SO HAPPY.

**I Want to Go To There:** There's a surprising amount of travel in this book, and it just works so well. You'll guess at some of the moments in the travel, but I was so enamoured of them, I didn't care if they were a little predictable.

**School Daze:** I loved the fact that we got to read some of Lydia's schoolwork in the book. It made me laugh, smile, and fall in love with her more, because that is EXACTLY how Lydia would write papers.

**Pitch-Perfect Voice:** I know Kate Rorick and especially Rachel Kiley wrote Lydia's dialogue on the show, but they really, really nailed the new Lydia as well. You still see hints of the adorbs and her effervescence, but you also see how smart and truly amazing she really is. They nailed it.

The Final Word:

Honestly, I really did love most of this book, but I think the darkness of the first half really wore on me...and yet, I can't fault the writers for making me feel so much. This book is an excellent depiction of trauma and depression and how it can beat down on you, but also how support and time and understanding can change and move you onto the right path. It's a stressful, emotional read, but it's well worth it. **If you're a Lydia Bennet or Lizzie Bennet Diaries fan, this is the ending that you need for all of our characters.**

**THE EPIC ADVENTURES OF LYDIA BENNET** comes out next week. I've already pre-ordered the audiobook, which is narrated by the actress who portrayed Lydia, Mary Kate Wiles, and I can't wait to relive it through her. Will you be picking up a copy? Have you watched The Lizzie Bennet Diaries

## or read **The Secret Diary of Lizzie Bennet?**

**Updated after audiobook re-read:** Mary Kate Wiles does a great job with the voices of Lydia, Jane, Lizzie, Mary and more - what's interesting is that I didn't get quite as depressed or feel quite as dark about her story while audiobooking - I think because Lydia's voice is so distinct, and even when she's at her worst moments, I could still hear the strength behind her character. That's what Mary Kate brings to reading this book - levity, but also a reminder of just how strong Lydia is. The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet made me just as happy at the end as it did the first time, and once again, I applaud the authors and Pemberley Digital for taking this chance on Lydia and giving her a voice and a story.

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## **Laurence R. says**

I didn't know just how much I needed this book! I missed Lydia so much and this book made me so happy. It's so realistic and so Lydia! The ending made me really emotional, I just love her so much.

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## **Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says**

Shut up, I'm not crying. There's just a tree branch in my eye. That's all. A tree branch named Lydia Bennet. The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet is not at all the book I expected it to be, which was disappointing at first, but Lydia's book was ultimately much better for that. As much as I love all of The Lizzie Bennet Diaries, my favorite thing is Lydia's arc and the changes to her character. In The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet, she gets to develop even further, navigating those complicated new adult waters as she tries to figure out who she is, what she wants to do, and how to navigate all sorts of relationships.

What I expected from The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet was something similar to the Lizzie book. I mean, I figured it would be set after the time of that book and the show, but I figured the tone would be light and that romance would be a lot of the subject matter. It's not, actually. That threw me for a while, and, at times, The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet was hard for me to read, because so much bad stuff already happened to Lydia and it really hurt to see her go through more of it. I wanted rainbows and unicorns and kissing for Lydia, with no thunderclouds or douchebros allowed.

However, the story in The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet isn't that one. Lydia's experience with George Wickham affected her in a big way, so it makes sense that she didn't just get over that and fall in love Jane Austen style. The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet really dives into Lydia's mental health and road to recovery. Lydia's herself, the adorbs, but she's also muted for a lot of the book. Like towards the end of the show, she can't be that full-on, completely confident person anymore. MY BABY.

As the novel opens, Lydia's looking to the future, with big plans to get her associate's degree before transferring to a college in San Francisco where she'll live with Mary and get a degree in psychology. Mary has been seeing a counselor at her community college, and this has inspired her to consider a career in psychology. Everything's coming up Lydia. She finally has an idea what she wants to do, and it seems within her grasp.

Only then, inevitably, things fall apart. Lydia's spiraling back down, once again the failure her family always expects her to be. Everything ties back, of course, to all those things Lydia hasn't quite faced down yet. It's

so painful to watch Lydia try and not get there, and then give up. How can you possibly not want the best for her? This part of the book was rough.

Eventually, though, and don't worry I won't give details, Lydia gets back on her feet again. The adorbs gets haltingly back into action. She recovers her dreams, in a more realistic way, and really starts to commit to them. She faces down her past with George and learns to love herself again. This book is beautiful and inspirational and goddammit that tree branch.

The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet is mostly about Lydia obviously, but it's also about Mary, and I'm SO IN LOVE with Mary's story. It's potentially spoilery, so I'll go into spoiler tags. View Spoiler » I just hope there will be a video at some point where I get to see Mary being fabulous and happy in person. That's all I'm saying.

Speaking of the videos, I'm pretty sure I'll be rewatching them AGAIN pretty soon, because the obsession is strong with this one. As soon as I do that, I'm going to buy the audiobook and listen to that because I need this book in every format. <3

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### **Cait • A Page with a View says**

I'm a huge fan of The Lizzie Bennet Diaries and Lydia was definitely a favorite character. I'm not sure how much I would've liked this book if I hadn't seen the show or read the other book first, so maybe check those out if you like Pride & Prejudice retellings!

I didn't realize this book picks up *after* the events in the first book & YouTube series are over. So Jane is with Bing, Lizzie is with Darcy, and the whole fiasco with George Wickham already happened. This story is mostly Lydia recovering from that incident, finding her voice again, and getting her life back on track. There's a lot with her counselor and the psychology & gothic literature classes she's taking at the community college.

It was fun to see familiar characters like Mary, Jane, Bing, Lizzie, etc. And maybe Lydia's character was toned down and missing such a strong personality because of everything she'd been through. She was much more introspective and subdued in this book (ok, subdued for Lydia).

So I liked this book, but just wasn't super invested in it like I was with the first book. There were a lot of new characters and I didn't care much about her classes. Obviously it's hard to follow something like Pride & Prejudice... but I think this is still a fun read if you love the YouTube series!

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### **Giselle Bradley says**

#contemporaryathon book 6! I really liked this one! It was my 5 star prediction technically but I didn't quite expect it to me. So I'm happy!! Let's see if I can finish a few more before the readathon ends.

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## **Mirte says**

My favourite webseries ever, the Lizzie Bennet Diaries, has been finished for nearly two years at this point - last year saw the publication of *The Secret Diary of Lizzie Bennet*, a companion book to the series, and now this novel has just been brought out - a sequel, of sorts. As the writers (the same who wrote episodes for the webseries) explained, Lydia was the only one who did not get a nicely tied up ending; all the other characters are clearly going to good places at the end of the series, but Lydia - unsurprisingly, considering her story arc - lags behind.

And stays behind, as turns out from the start of this novel, showing us a Lydia who still lives in her home town, without her sisters, having to do summer courses in order to catch up and be able to go to college. The novel takes us through Lydia's summer, which pretty much is an emotional rollercoaster with a lot of ups and downs.

Let me make one thing clear: I've always been a Lizzie. Lydia annoyed me, though perhaps also because I could in fact see parts of her that kind of reflected me. Though Lydia can be irritating, and her put-on act of awesome partygirl truly becomes bothersome at some point, I think there are a lot of people like Lydia. Refusing to see things you don't like, refusing to suck it up and fix your mistakes but instead ignoring them for as long as possible, and messing up your life and disappointing others in that process - these are probably things a lot of people in their late teens and early twenties can identify with.

So even though *The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet* is, perhaps, not really a 4 star book, it deals with these problems so realistically - I could follow the negative spiral from my couch, and got both frustrated and pitying because of it - while refraining from becoming a depressing novel, it's worth quite a lot. I loved the fact that Lydia does not end up with a guy, but surrounded by her family. She is shown to be able to do very well on her own, and to do whatever she must to attain what she wants. The Lizzie Bennet Diaries opted to change the Lydia arc in the story, which was very well done from the start, and this novel manages to properly finish that arc with Lydia's unmistakable voice and personality leading the reader through her ups and downs.

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## **Mary Bronson says**

Wow, I thought this was a great book! I really enjoyed reading it. Once I got started it was hard for me to put the book down. I loved the continuation from the "Lizzie Bennet Diaries" and have it from Lydia's point of view. I thought the plot was really well written. I have always wonder what happened with Lydia after the whole thing with George. Now all we need is a stand alone novel of Jane and how things are going with her. I want to hear her point of view.

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## **Daphne says**

I AM SO EXITED FOR THIS BOOK! I MEAN, EVERYONE IS!!!!



But I have to wait 'till September?

I can't wait to get more Lydia.

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## Susana says

### Arc provided by Touchstone through Netgalley

I had a hard time with this book, and part of it was my fault.

After all, this is Lydia's book. And Lydia **is Lydia**. Even in the aftermath of "Wickham's *I wanna punch you in the nuts SOB*" incident, she is still her same frustrating self piling mistakes after mistakes. The thing is, this contemporary version of Lydia is also extremely *adorb*.

My biggest complaint about this story is that \_for me\_ it just felt as if it went on and on. It's a very emotional, introspective tale of someone trying to pick up the pieces of herself, and trying to move on with her life. Basically, there is a lot of angst \_ understandable one\_ and a very new adult feel to it. Thing is, my tastes don't run alongside the new adult/angst kind of stories, therefore there were some moments \_ especially during the first half of the story \_ in which I got pretty tired with this. However, I just couldn't force myself to leave Lydia's tale unread. Because I actually like the girl. I like her for that **big heart of hers**, and basically for the fearless way she lives her life. Even if sometimes things don't end working as she would wish they would, at least she tries her best.

As for the secondary characters, I loved her *cousin* Mary and her cat, Kitty. :)  
In case you're wondering, Kitty is the one on the left...

Lizzie and Jane also make small appearances. Darcy not so much. --

So, all in all, this actually ended up being better than I thought it would turn out to be... considering how it started.

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## Gabrielle S says

Thanks to Eidelweiss for the ARC.

Like many people I fell in love with Mary-Kate Wiles's portrayal of Lydia Bennet in The Lizzie Bennet Diaries and so I was very happy to get my hands on this book because while Austen's Lydia Bennet is terrible this Lydia Bennet is delightful. This book starts off with Lydia's last summer at community college. She is working to take the last two summer classes she needs and there is a boy. Lydia learns a lot about

herself. For those Mary fans there is also a lot of Mary and she gets a great story. Of course there are appearances by both Lizzie and Jane but this is Lydia's story and Lydia grows up and comes into her own while still retaining the adorbs that makes her Lydia.

I have so much more to say but it would spoil it for the rest of you so I won't. Just read it.

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## Debby says

### 4 stars

In case you didn't get the memo, I adore *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries*. It's a fabulous modern day retelling of *Pride & Prejudice* in a webseries format, and now it's spawned TWO books to give even more depth to the story. *The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet* tells Lydia's story after the webseries ends... and boy. It's a doozy. It's only right that Lydia, arguably the series' most complex character, gets the chance to shine in her own story. I loved it.

This book is all about Lydia, so whether or not you like it will hinge on whether or not you like her voice. She's so complicated and flawed, but I find that makes her so much more interesting. You see her using cheerfulness as a mask. You see her running away from any dark feelings. You see her stubbornly pretend she's okay and *awesome*, when actually she feels anything but. Considering the ordeal she went through in the webseries, this book is not a particularly cheerful one. But it's a very realistic one. It perfectly captures the mess that's left behind after someone gets out of an abusive relationship. She's coping - badly - but gradually getting stronger.

The journey Lydia goes through in this book is a very intrinsic, character-focused one. If you're looking for super swoons or exciting plot, it may not be for you. But if you do like super duper depth in your characters, heartbreaking feels, and some genuinely good anxiety and therapy related scenes, you will likely appreciate it anyway. I was completely sucked into Lydia's story and hoping and praying so hard that things would get better for her. She deserves happiness, because despite all of her flaws, she's not a bad person. I just have a lot of feelings about Lydia. And I adore what this book did for her character.

I would also argue that this is very much a new adult book, though without the sexual content. It deserves the label, because Lydia faces a lot of the new adult struggles and anxiety that actually come with being in your 20s. She's been left behind by her successful sisters, she has almost finished community college, but she has no idea what direction she wants to go in her life. Or, she thinks she knows, but then she messes it up again. She's now an outcast from her community because of the sex tape scandal, and she faces a shit-storm of prejudice because of it. Your 20s are filled with stress, anxiety, and peer pressure, and Lydia faces all of that and more. It was seriously relatable.

You also get to see familiar faces - Lizzie, Jane, Bing, and Mary most prominently. Honestly I adored seeing how deep the friendship went between Lydia and Mary (despite their share of drama in this book). It was super heartwarming. And, yeah, Lydia doesn't really have a shippity ship of her own, but that kind of makes sense since she just got out of *such a terrible relationship*. She needs to learn to stand on her own two feet. But Mary does get a ship - one that's super exciting and full of F/F adorableness. And I love how Lydia's response to that again shows her growth and her genuine friendship with Mary.

Though I feel like Kate Rorick and Rachel Kiley caught Lydia's voice perfectly (seriously, it was like Mary

Kate Wiles was talking in my head), my main hangup about this book is the writing. Something about the style was a little bit off for me - it's mostly told in present tense but it awkwardly switches to past tense in some of Lydia's thoughts (which aren't clearly separate from the general narrations). This made me stop and start quite a bit and just kept the story from flowing smoothly. It took quite a bit of effort to just ignore it.

### ***Summing Up:***

Lydia is flawed, complicated, and eccentric, but she's also super endearing. Her voice shines in *The Epic Adventures of Lydia Bennet*, where she doesn't actually have epic adventures, but instead finds herself and her place in the world after the ending of the webseries. I loved this book - particularly because Lydia deserved to have her own story told. It was realistic, heartbreaking, and, ultimately, empowering. Not a fluffy book, but one definitely worth reading.

### ***GIF it to me straight!***

### ***Recommended To:***

Fans of the webseries.

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## **Gillian Berry says**

[image error]

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## **Erin Wert says**

I have been waiting a long time to be able to finish Lydia's story, so as soon as I received an ARC for this book, I couldn't wait to finally go on this last journey with Lydia. And it was a journey that did not disappoint. If you've felt like Lydia's story remained unfinished, if you've ever wished she could have made just one more video, this book is for you.

Unlike the corresponding book previously released by Rorick and Su, telling the untold behind the scenes of Lizzie's story during her vlogs, this book, by Rorick and Kiley, delves into the untold future for Lydia. The what comes after the camera turns off for good. Reading this book, it is clear to me that this story could never have been told on video, because it was crucial in Lydia's growth at this point to figure out who she is off camera.

No specific spoilers in my review, but I found this book very touching, and found myself relating to Lydia in even more ways than I had before. Vague spoilers of the overall emotional arc of the book: (view spoiler)

This book will speak to anyone who has ever been unsure how to move forward in life, unsure how to move out of who they've always known and who everyone expects of them, anyone who has been hurt or feels

they've failed and are filled with self-shame, blame, guilt, and doubt.

On a personal note, this book particularly resonated with me as I've been walking an albeit very different but still similar road to Lydia navigating your way after a failed relationship that leaves you sort of questioning everything... two moments in particular stood out to me (very vague slight spoilers ahead?), (view spoiler) This is a truth that I know, but I haven't fully felt all of the time yet. It's comforting to know that a friend (alright, a totally fictional character, but still someone who has felt like a friend over these years) has also struggled, but is starting to succeed at believing that truth and moving forward out of it. The dips in her journey remind me it's okay to have dips in my own, and the hope for new things, for potential... reminds me I can also have that hope for myself.

Looking past how much I enjoyed exploring the themes of learning how to navigate your failures, and finding your identity and your own voice, it was also incredibly enjoyable just to spend time with not just Lydia, but the entire Bennet crew. Fans of The Lizzie Bennet Diaries will be happy to know this book doesn't just provide a more satisfying conclusion to Lydia's story, but also provides snapshots into Mary, Jane and Bing, Lizzie and Darcy, even Mr. Collin's life post-video diaries.

This book is for everyone who knows you're only a secondary character if you let yourself be, everyone who saw more to Lydia than just a party girl or a screw up, everyone who believed she still had a story to tell and has waited for her chance to get to tell it. She finally has that chance, and I'm so glad she found her voice to share it.

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