



A Royal Disposition: A Pride and Prejudice Novel

Amy Cecil

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What if....Elizabeth Bennet outranked Fitzwilliam Darcy? The familiar love story featuring two of the most celebrated characters in our history comes to life again in a “what if” story with a twist. Elizabeth and Darcy are in love and plan to marry, until Elizabeth comes face to face with Lady Catherine De Bourgh. Although standing strong during the worst confrontation of Miss Elizabeth’s life, she soon realizes that she cannot marry Mr. Darcy and refuses him. Futile attempts by Mr. Darcy to win her back fail, until he finds out the most astonishing information about Elizabeth Bennet.

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Jenny says

In this book, Darcy apologises to Elizabeth immediately after the 'tolerable but not handsome enough to tempt me' moment. Consequently, they find themselves falling in love very quickly. I really loved this part of the book, the story was really romantic. But of course, things have to go wrong... Lady Catherine visits and offers the traditional argument that Elizabeth would be an embarrassment to the Darcy name. Elizabeth deals with her beautifully.... but then decides Lady Catherine is right and breaks Darcy's heart and her own. This is where it all went a bit wrong for me....

It's so frustrating.... I loved so many aspects of this book. Darcy is lovely, Georgiana is lovely, the story is romantic with mystery, family secrets, Wickham being a scoundrel... but there were lots of aspects I didn't like. Elizabeth's argument to the marriage was inconsistent with her confidence in the first half of the book. She's always changing her mind, crying and came across as a bit pathetic but only in the second half of the book. The Royal connection is about Elizabeth and adds something extra to this story.

Despite all the things that frustrated me, overall, I really enjoyed the story and read this in one sitting. I also found I could overlook the errors in language and HUGE breaches of propriety because I liked the story.... so it must have been good!

Patricia says

A sequel (whether a book or movie) seldom lives up to the original. We should leave Pride and Prejudice to Jane Austen instead of Amy Cecil's "what if . . ." book. Many phrases seem to be lifted from Austen.

Chaste kisses and embraces
No violence or bad language

Sheila Majczan says

3.5 Stars

One of my main complaints about this story is that the dialogue was very uneven. The fact is that it just did not flow smoothly. The passages were awkward and choppy, in my opinion.

One does know to take a leap of faith with JAFF in that they are variations and the author has license to change events. However, one of the main points, main premises, in canon is that class divisions are ignored by ODC in finally falling in love and reconciling. So, even though Elizabeth repeats most of her arguments from P&P in her debate with Lady Catherine, to then turn around and break her engagement with Darcy due to how this will affect his and Georgiana's standing with the ton is unbelievable. But if you can get over that major "what-if", you may find merit in this variation.

I recently read “A Royal Bennet” by another author, so this idea was not new to me. The Sample tells us that Prince Frederick and Lady Sophia were prevented by the King’s command from marrying...after they had already anticipated their marriage vows. They certainly were equal in class but the King had his own plans for his second son. The mother dies and their offspring is adopted. Only three people are aware of the child’s true lineage, her biological father, her adopted father, Mr. Bennet, and her mother’s brother/her uncle, Lord Murray...who just happens to also be uncle to Charles Bingley.

Year pass and we happen upon Bingley leasing Netherfield, and subsequently his and his guests’ attendance at the local assembly. Yes, Darcy makes his insulting remark about Elizabeth not being handsome enough to tempt him. BUT here we depart from canon. Darcy pauses, contemplates that statement and goes to Elizabeth and apologizes. She accepts his apology and a pleasant conversation ensues. Elizabeth is again in his company after she trudges through the mud to attend her sick sister at Netherfield. We read of how ODC come to fall in love and then how shortly afterwards Darcy visits Mr. Bennet to seek permission to marry. All is well...except for the disgruntled and spiteful Mr. Collins who was just rejected by Elizabeth in his marriage proposal and now learns it was because of her accepting of Mr. Darcy’s proposal. He is determined to set her in her place and runs to Lady Catherine, as he “knows” Mr. Darcy is engaged to her daughter, Anne. So we have the infamous scolding by Lady C. in her visit to Elizabeth. Elizabeth knows how to stand up for herself BUT immediately upon Lady C.’s departure is struck with the truth of what Lady C. claimed. His marriage to her will be disaster. Society will shun the family and so Elizabeth now breaks her engagement despite the arguments of everyone around her. This includes Lord Frederick, her biological father, who, as friend to Lord Murray, has accompanied him on a visit to his nephew’s newly leased estate, Netherfield.

Much of this novel expounds on the secrecy of Elizabeth’s parentage and whether or not to reveal it; first of all to her, to Darcy, to their families, (including the King and Queen), and to society in general. That revelation would then bring the additional stigma of “illegitimacy”, a further reason why the ton would look down on Elizabeth and her family and anyone who might marry her. Elizabeth seems to dig her heels in harder and harder as each consequence is considered. But then tragedy strikes Darcy with another perhaps fatal blow! Has fate settled the question of her bringing disgrace to the Darcy name? Has their chance for even a small bit of happiness passed by?

As I said, if you can suspend holding onto the premise from canon that class structure can go hang then you may find pleasure in reading this variation on Pride and Prejudice.

J. W. Garrett says

“I believe that two people are connected at the heart, and it doesn’t matter what you do, or who you are or where you live; there are no boundaries or barriers if two people are destined to be together.” Julia Roberts

This was a clean romance and I simply loved the story. There were many new characters from the highest circles of the realm. I mean really high circles. There was a secret regarding the Prince of England and it involved Elizabeth Bennet of Longbourn. This was such a neat twist to our regular JAFF. It was off canon and I admit many liberties were taken in propriety, comportment, and manners. Man, this was so neat.

Wickham was, as always, a scum-bag-rat-bastard trying to garner funds from Darcy. He thought he played his cards well, only we knew that Darcy held the winning hand, and that end was so cool.

Mr. Collins was the subservient toad of Lady Catherine and both acted out and acted badly. I was so upset, that I was moved to violence, and wanted to stab him in the heart, and smash Lady Catherine with her own cane. I felt really bad about that.

Mr. Bennet... OMG! This was such a sweet man. I shall love him forever for his kindness to Elizabeth. Of course, on the other hand, I am angry at him for allowing Mrs. Bennet to become a ridiculous woman and allowing the younger girls to become such silly creatures. Lydia's disgrace and behavior falls at his door step and at the feet of her mother.

Elizabeth Bennet: "If you love someone, set them free. If they come back they're yours; if they don't they never were." Richard Bach

I absolutely sustained whiplash from the going back and forth with her feelings and emotions. I grew tired of her vacillating, mercurial feelings. Her actions spanned the length of the emotional scale and I was dizzy as she worked through an issue only to revert back to that of a simpering, sniveling, quaking, diva. I grew tired of her manipulating poor Darcy into an emotional wreck. How many times did they need to reassure each other of their devotion and love? How many times did he need to find the bottom of a bottle for relief to his pain? And how many times did he have to dredge, once again, an emotional commitment from Elizabeth? I wanted to tell him to run. Elizabeth would walk away, and then cry her eyes out, only to do it all over again. It was too much and too OOC [out of character]. At every turn, she was a flight risk. I mean, seriously, I am surprised Darcy didn't post a guard on her to make sure she didn't bolt.

Darcy: "When a woman is talking to you, listen to what she says with her eyes." Victor Hugo

Thank goodness, Darcy was persistent. I grew tired of his having to, once again, settle the frayed nerves of his intended, ex-intended, re-intended [is that a word?] and then almost wife. Lawd, my neck hurts from jerking back and forth as I watched scenes between these two characters.

Mrs. Bennet: "They do not love that do not show their love." William Shakespeare.

This was a perfect quote that epitomized the feelings and emotions regarding Mrs. Bennet. Everyone knew that there was no love lost between Mrs. Bennet and the second Bennet daughter. Mrs. Bennet was angry in so many areas where Elizabeth was concerned.

The Epilogue was cute as it looked back over the last fifteen years. There were a few surprises and a few tears. Not every thread had an ending. We were left to wonder about a few of the characters. Over all I enjoyed the creative twist of our P&P characters.

Susan says

What if Elizabeth Bennet was the illegitimate daughter of Lady Sophia Murray and Prince Frederick, of course this does not make her a princess as she is illegitimate but still has the connection to royalty. But this is unknown to Elizabeth or Darcy when they fall in love quite quickly. But still the path to a happy ending does not go smoothly, probably a bit too roughly, and Elizabeth was just too perfect. I admit to not understanding or approving of Mr Bennet putting Elizabeth before his actual daughters. As he knew Elizabeth's real connections he really should have tried harder to be a better father and husband to his family.

Lisa Mettler says

Love it!

I can never get enough of Pride and Prejudice in any form. I love that someone picked up these awesome characters and gave us a new depth. The inner thoughts of so many is delightful and keeps the plot moving along. I did not want to put it down. If I had even a couple minutes in the bathroom I was reading this book. Now off to start the next one. Cheers

Victoria says

I was really excited to read this story because a "higher ranked" Elizabeth is something I have't read before. I enjoyed the concept but I do wish that the "royal" part went further. The story almost didn't need it. I'd like to see one where she out ranks him and knows it from the start!

Anyta Noor says

The one thing that bother me most was Frederick was a Royal. Should he to be treated as such?

Carol Perrin says

Pride and Prejudice: A Royal Disposition

Fascinating story in which Elizabeth Bennet is really not Mr. and Mrs. Bennet's child. Somehow Lizzy didn't think she belonged to the Bennets. Could it be that she was disliked by her mother and was shamed by her two younger sisters? Age ten, being curious Lizzy, she asked her father. He explains that they indeed are not her birth parents, but he is her uncle and that her mother died shortly after birth, and her distraught father killed himself over the grief. She came to them at three months old to be raised by the Bennets. At the infamous Meryton Assembly, Darcy makes his awful statement about her beauty, walks away but returns to apologize. Stunned by the comment, she is still seated where he stood. Remaining to talk to her, he assures her that he did not speak the truth, and she was beautiful. They did not dance, but they enjoyed talking. When she walks four miles to Netherfield to take care of Jane, he is completely enamored with her, and they both share some secrets that they've never shared with relative strangers. Love immediately happens, and he requests her hand in marriage. This happens so quickly in the storyline that Mr. Collins is still at Longbourn. Bingley's ball is quite the affair. Darcy's aunt and uncle, Lord and Lady Matlock, Bingley's aunt and uncle, Lord and Lady Murray, and Prince Frederick, the Duke of York and Albany. Prince Frederick accepts because Netherfield means something to him, and he is trying to reconnect. Mr. Collins' proposal was rejected the day after the ball, and now she is engaged to Darcy. He is angry, max, furious, and vindictive. He immediately returns to Rosings to blab. The evil witch from Rosings shows up and really does a number on Lizzy causing her to break the engagement. Collins, with a smirk on his face, is pleased with himself. Both are in London by design of Georgiana and Richard, but after months Darcy is rejected again. Hurt, he

feels destroyed, leaves on horseback to Pemberley. When his horse returns to Pemberley, a search party finds him five miles from home. Georgiana sends a message to Lizzy, panicked that her brother will not live, and she needs her as well as Darcy. Lizzy is shocked when she sees Darcy and when the doctor says there's no change in his status, there is little hope. Lizzy refuses to leave his side, praying to God, reading to him, talking to him of her undying love, and when that fails screaming at him that he can't leave her. When he finally wakes and opens his eyes, he is staring at his beautiful Lizzy. He now refuses her when she wants to leave and after hashing everything out, she tells him she will not leave and run anymore. Darcy now recovered, sets the wedding in London for three weeks. Lizzy, Georgiana, Mrs. Gardiner, Lady Matlock, and Colonel Fitzwilliam travel ahead of Darcy, Mr. Gardiner, and Lord Matlock to buy her wedding trousseau and dresses that she'll need in the next couple of weeks. Darcy also tells Georgiana to order a particular color dress especially from him to match the heirloom necklace given to her by her birth father. When the gentlemen return to London, at the same time her receives a blackmail letter from Wickham, and Lizzy a letter from Mary telling them that Lydia has run off with Wickham. The plot thickens. Darcy, Colonel Fitzwilliam, and Lizzy's birth father take off for Ramsgate to deal with Wickham's treachery. I'd love to see his face when his demands are thrown in his face, and he finds out that Lizzy is not a Bennet, and Darcy's terms will be accepted or the Tower of London will be his home until his death is decided. At their Wedding Ball held by the Matlocks, Mr. Bennet, her birth father, her uncle on her father's side, and her uncle on her mother's side are all present for the invited TON to see. Caroline's remarks throughout the ballroom throw Lizzy into the same rejected feelings that she'll destroy the Darcys, but Darcy reasons with her, and with chin up, faces the naysayers. At dinner her heritage is declared and the naysayers are stunned to silence. Wedding day arrives, and Lady Catherine and Mr. Collins try one more time to stop Darcy from marrying Lizzy. When her birth father steps in, his threats far override hers, and she is silenced forever. Yes, good story and a great read.

Michelle Fritz PA says

"Always, Only You" ????

Could there be a more perfect quote for a love story, nevermind a Darcy and Elizabeth story!? I loved this version on a beloved classic novel! The twists were so very imaginative and I loved that it was so easy to accept them and that these changes flowed effortlessly with the original version. The epilogue was marvelous! I loved how Ms. Cecil humanized them so perfectly and that they faced very real trials and still remained so much in love. The best part!? How Mr. Collins was so truly evil! I knew he had it in him! For those wishing there was more Austen in the world, read this!! Ms. Cecil took up the Jane Austen mantle and delivered a brilliantly witty, diverting and emotional novel ?

Kemberlee Snelling says

Delightful

This is a delightful what if rendition of pride and prejudice. I loved it and would suggest it to anyone who loves spins on pride and prejudice.

Rai Cook says

Fluffy, easy read.

Won't reread. Was OK for a brief distraction. Plot holes left unexplained were irritating but not worth getting worked up over.

Madenna U says

In this Pride & Prejudice variation, Elizabeth and Darcy are attracted right way and find themselves in love sooner than canon. However, this story has another plot line within. Elizabeth has been adopted by the Bennets and told that her parents have died. The story of her true heritage and her parents love and obligations has a significant impact on her life and then on her understanding of love in general. It comes as quite a surprise for many of the villains in the story to discover her association with not only the highest society, but royalty.

Cassia says

Elizabeth Bennet an adopted child and daughter of royalty? This plot intrigued me very much! Unfortunately, the over-polite, over- abundant conversations in the novel, plus the dull passages inspired by the original Austen's story keep your reading slow and boring. With a bit of restyling this Pride & Prejudice variation could be so much more pleasant!

Susan says

Due to the holiday season and book commitments for two book groups, I have been slowly savoring this JAFF novel. In this version of Elizabeth and Darcy's story, there is a very intriguing twist with Elizabeth being of the higher position in society. Fun to read it all play out!
