

Wild Goose Chase

A Pride and Prejudice Variation



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Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth are off to Gretna Green.

A dastardly scheme enacted by Miss Bingley sends them on a wild ride through England's northern counties in pursuit of Lydia and Mr. Wickham. Accompanied by her relatives and pursued by his, they join a succession of carriages streaming along the busy road to the border.

New friends are made along the way, as well as some unexpected choices. Mr. Darcy never imagined that he would help anybody to elope, but he learns that sometimes the circumstances justify drastic action. He is a willing accomplice to the marital extravaganza at the culmination of their journey even though he would never choose to marry over the anvil. Would he?

Confusion and misunderstandings abound in this comic romp.

Wild Goose Chase: A Pride and Prejudice Variation Details

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From Reader Review Wild Goose Chase: A Pride and Prejudice Variation for online ebook

Jenny says

This is a really funny and different read. When Elizabeth and the Gardiner's visit Pemberley, they meet with Darcy who invites them stay... Miss Bingley is quickly thinking of ways to get rid of these interlopers so decides to forge a letter to Elizabeth from Jane to say Lydia has eloped with Wickham and they are on their way to Gretna Green and she is needed at home. This ill considered course of action starts a chain of events and misunderstandings she did not predict!

It's difficult to more without revealing the whole plot but let's just say our favourite characters end up chasing each other all over the countryside!

This book had me in stitches at times, the misunderstandings were hilarious. I was a bit sorry not to see Caroline getting her comeuppance and I thought the actual getting to Gretna Green was a bit drawn out in places. However, all in all this book was really good fun and a relatively short read so definitely worth a read!

Tamara Thompson says

Awesome!

A funny and original plot! Sophie Lynbrook has done it again. I look forward to her next book exclamation mark.

Vaarin says

This book was all pleasure and no pain.

Light and airy despite the dire circumstances. Usually, a light and airy read does not reach 5* heights for me but this one certainly did. Kept me smirking and snickering throughout and the banter was exquisitely written.

Entering at Elizabeth's visit to Pemberley with the Gardiner's.

I have not come across Darcy eavesdropping on Elizabeth and the Gardiner's when Mrs Reynolds gave them the house-tour, before... He eventually invited them to stay at Pemberley, to Georgiana's delight and the chagrin of miss Bingley.

When the letter from Jane arrived (with an unexpected twist), they agreed to give chase to the elopers. Bingley on the other hand, decided to rush off to Hertfordshire to comfort Jane with his sisters hot on his heels to prevent him from doing so.

Lady Catherine paid an uninvited visit to Pemberley and miss Bingley gave her the wrong impression of who was eloping. Then the Colonel was off to reach Gretna Green too warn Darcy of his aunts intentions. Add several other eloping couples, stranded and in need of rescue along the way, made a hilariously entertaining read.

A chaste read without even a kiss. Would have liked a kiss but as it was not to be had, I am quite content with what was...

Heartily recommend this book!

wosedwew says

I have found out that there ain't no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them. ~ Mark Twain

My GoodReads book list has more than 1200 entries – and all but about 100 are JAFF stories read within the last 3 years. With so much JAFF, it always feels great to find a totally new idea!

Although this begins with a familiar premise – Elizabeth visits Pemberley and encounters Darcy – it soon takes off in its own direction.

Darcy has invited the Gardiners and Elizabeth to reside at Pemberley during their visit to Derbyshire, throwing the Bingley shrew – uh, the delightful Caroline – into even greater panic. She must eliminate her rival. How to convince the intruders to return to Hertfordshire? Of course, a plea to Elizabeth from Jane! What could motivate an immediate return? What if Elizabeth believed her youngest sister had eloped? What was the name of that officer Darcy didn't like?

A forged letter is delivered; a quick trip home is planned. But wait, if Lydia and Wickham are heading to Gretna Green, there is a good chance the pursuers could reach Scotland before the runaways! Travel plans change. Darcy will accompany the travelers on their dash north.

This isn't turning out the way the Bingley sisters planned! And now their brother has gone to Hertfordshire to console Jane Bennet! They must follow him at once to stop his proposal!

But wait – why is Lady Catherine involved? And the Colonel? And Georgiana?

The fool's errand creates a stream of travelers heading north – and a pursuit heading south.

The most important trip you may take in life is meeting people halfway. ~ Henry Boye

On the way to stop Lydia and Wickham, our travelers encounter other elopers. Should they offer help? Or should they aid other pursuers? As the guardian of an almost-eloper, will Darcy's sympathies lie with the pursuers or the pursuees?

Most important of all – how many marriages will happen “over the anvil” – and will there be a Darcy marriage?

Oh, and what about Lydia and Wickham? Was Caroline clairvoyant? Is Wickham's conscience clear? Did they actually elope?

Chortle-worthy all the way to Scotland!
Ya Gotta Get This One!

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime. ~ Mark Twain

Lynn says

A Charming Story

This is a delightful, sweet read. Miss Bingley sets off a series of events that she could never have foreseen. This book is full of humour and lightness. There are several new characters who are wonderful additions. It is a delightful story that I will read again and again.

Carol Perrin says

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This story was one wild ride! From the moment delusional Caroline Bingley wrote her wicked letter trying to ruin the Bennet family, and the various modes of conveyance left Pemberley, it became a race to Gretna Green. Except for Bingley, who raced to Longbourn for Jane. Unable to stop Darcy from going north, Caroline and the Hursts follow Bingley to stop him from offering for Jane. Unbeknownst to them, Georgiana and Mrs. Annesley have told the postilion to take the most convoluted, indirect route to get to Hertfordshire. Meanwhile, on the road north, ODC and the Gardiners meet several other couples that need their help traveling to Gretna Green. Adding to the caravan heading north, Colonel Fitzwilliam (aiding Darcy), Georgiana and Mrs. Annesley (they know the letter sent was a hoax), and Lady Catherine (she thinks Darcy and Elizabeth are eloping) are trying to catch the couple trying to save Elizabeth's wayward sister from Wickham's perfidy. Picking up one more gentleman going to Gretna Green along the way, he helps the couples avoid their relatives and sneaks them in the back way to the blacksmith. After the wild dash north, the older couple that tried to elope twenty-five years ago and failed, romantically achieved their HEA and treated all the newly married couples to a fantastic celebration. When the newly married couple return to Longbourn, they find out that Lydia's real elopement managed to be stopped by Mr. Bennet's observation of Kitty's response to the supposed hoax. ODC marry a second time saying their vows in front of family and friends and travel to Cornwall for their second wedding trip, figuring they've been from one end of the country to the other. Caroline's punishment - she's no longer invited to any of the homes owned by the Darcys or the Bingleys. And poor Lady Catherine is trying to figure out why everyone is laughing at her. Darcy from the moment he greets Elizabeth and the Gardiners at Pemberley to the trip north towards Gretna Green and helping the young couples is worth the read to see the change from his first visit to Meryton.

Sheila Majczan says

The story description is perfectly complete in informing us, the readers, as to the premise of this story.

A wild and varied procession on the way to Gretna Green includes some intending to marry and others also intending to prevent such and then even an older couple whose elopement plans 25 years ago were prevented and for the romantic notion of completing those plans in their autumn years are now on to Gretna Green.

This story has many a laughable moment, and others of irony. Caroline Bingley's journey is not to Gretna Green but she has well earned all the side trips and even those in reverse as she attempts to again thwart her brother's plan to travel to Longbourn to be at Jane's side and to offer comfort, first, and maybe an offer of a second sort of felicity.

Elizabeth's and Darcy's being together but accompanied in another vehicle by "chaperones" leads to assumptions by strangers they meet and by persons known to them from Meryton who unknown to ODC pass them by on the road. What must they think?

Yes, this is rather a comedy of errors, I will agree. It certainly kept my focus wondering what else was going to go wrong and how it would all come together in the end.

Debbie Brown says

This is a cute bit of inspired goofiness in the *Pride and Prejudice* universe. Everyone is rushing off to somewhere, thanks to a letter forged to Elizabeth by Caroline Bingley supposedly written by Jane, begging that Elizabeth come to Longbourn immediately because Lydia has eloped with Mr. Wickham.

The Gardiners and Elizabeth are staying at Pemberley, having been invited by Mr. Darcy when he discovered them touring the estate, and Caroline is furious at the interloper and intent on driving her away. Instead of getting rid of Elizabeth and making Darcy and Charles disgusted with all things Bennet, Caroline's letter sets off a Keystone Cops-type series of events.

It does begin with the Gardiners and Elizabeth immediately making plans to leave but, instead of Longbourn, their destination becomes Gretna Green. (I hate to interject logic in such a fluffy story, but their goal is supposedly to ensure that Wickham follow through and actually marry Lydia so the Bennet sisters aren't ruined. Why do they think Wickham would actually take Lydia all the way to Gretna Green if he DOESN'T plan to marry her? They can't deduce that his destination would be someplace to hide?)

Bingley grabs a curriicle so HE can go to Longbourn and offer his support to the Bennets--particularly Jane. Inspired by Bingley's determination, Darcy joins the chase to Gretna Green, knowing the value of both his money and his experience dealing with Wickham to the success of their mission.

Caroline and her sister Louisa are appalled at the turn of events, and they try to give chase after Charles to prevent him from proposing to Jane. I'll just say this decision is as successful as the one they made to forge Elizabeth's letter.

There are still more vehicles that join the chase to Gretna Green. But that's not all. The adventure grows to include other eloping couples encountered on the road. By the time everyone gets to the smithy and the anvil, the story has become truly ridiculous...but who cares? Good triumphs, and evil gets its just desserts.

I dare you to finish it without a huge grin on your face. It may not be Shakespeare, but it's sure fun to read.

Bronwen Chisholm says

Highly amusing, poorly edited

The storyline might have been far fetched, but the characters and dialogue were wonderful. I would have given more stars, but I was forced to reread several portions to clarify who was speaking or to whom they were referring. Missed words were another stumbling block. This author has great potential, but should seriously consider investing in an editor.

Donna says

ODC In a Pilgrim's Progress to Gretna Green

Caroline Bingley tried to get rid of Elizabeth Bennet and the Gardiners who were staying at Pemberley and drawing Darcy's attention away from her (which she would not have had anyway). She and Louisa forged a note and made it appear to be from Jane requesting Lizzy and her aunt and uncle to go home because Lydia had eloped with Wickham before such an event happened, so it was not true. Lizzy and the Gardiners decided to go to Gretna Green to meet them, and Darcy decided to go with them while Bingley went to Netherfield to ask for Jane's hand in marriage. This was not at all what Caroline had in mind so she and Louisa tried to follow to stop Bingley. Georgiana who figured out the truth tried to slow them down, which was easy to do when Caroline's snobbery and high handed manner alienated everyone. Meanwhile Lizzy, Darcy, and the Gardiners befriended several couples on the way to Gretna Green while Georgiana and Mrs. Annesley set out to tell them the truth. Col. Fitzwilliam set out to warn them of Lady Catherine's pursuit, as she thought they were eloping.

This is an amusing tale with Lady Catherine and other pursuers of eloping couples gong after them. It was brilliantly written and amusing. The villains cause unintended consequences. What happens to our dear couple as they grow in love and understanding of one another while helping others. You must read this. There's great word pictures. This is another movie worthy book. I loved it and could not put it down.

Madenna U says

This Pride and Prejudice variation starts when Darcy discovers Elizabeth touring Pemberley. Caroline, in her attempt to prove that the Bennet family is undesirable, sends a forged letter to Elizabeth from Jane about Lydia eloping. This letter sets off a chain of events and a wild goose chase. Everyone is traveling to either start, stop, or communicate something followed by many happily ever afters.

This was a great story!

Pradnya says

The plot is as outlandish as her other work that I've read (in which Darcy is a suspect for a murder) - Darcy and Elizabeth chase Lydia and Wickham through Gretna Green and in the process fall in love. However to make this believable, author built scenario whereby Elizabeth initially leaves with her uncle and aunt and Darcy joins them in the quest. Thus the question of propriety and chaperon etc is solved. I mean the author cleverly digresses from original plot still trying to reflect the regency society and lifestyle. Her style of

writing is enjoyable. I personally do not prefer sex or sleaze in regency romances because it feels absolutely out of character based on all the original works I've read. I like the author (her 2 works that I have read) for maintaining this, maintaining the language as well as making her digressions from the plot seem palatable and plausible. So I felt it deserved 3.5 stars rounded off to 4 on Goodreads.

pamela k cronister says

Highly recommend

This book was so much fun to read.. it was light and amusing with great new characters. Will look for more from this writer.

Leslie says

This is just what a P&P what if should be; clean, sweet, funny and exciting. We begin with Darcy discovering the Gardiners & Miss Elizabeth touring Pemberley. Soon an invitation to say is given and accepted, needless to say Miss Bingley is most put out. This is Caro at her most scheming (or most psychic) and has ODC and the Gardiners rushing off to Gretna Green hoping to intercept Lydia and Wickham! On the way they make new friends and have several adventures. Eventually Lady Catherine, Col. Fitzwilliam and Georgiana and Mrs. Annesley join into the chase.

This story is clever and heartwarming. And Caro gets her comeuppance

Rebecca says

Funny, short, cute

I love this book. An excellent and short read that is very funny and tidy in its dealings with all known characters while sprinkling in some new. Nothing is really out of line with the original characterization but this is out of cannon starting in Lambton.

A cup of tea and a good book is an excellent diversion for an afternoon. Enjoy!
