



Lost in Austen: Create Your Own Jane Austen Adventure

Emma Campbell Webster

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Bringing together Jane Austen's most beloved characters and storylines-a clever, playful, interactive, and highly entertaining approach to the wildly popular novels in which you, the reader, decide the outcome.

Name: Elizabeth Bennet.

Mission: To marry both prudently and for love.

How? It's entirely up to the reader.

The journey begins in *Pride and Prejudice* but quickly takes off on a whimsical Austen adventure of the reader's own creation. A series of choices leads the reader into the plots and romances of Austen's other works. Choosing to walk home from Netherfield Hall means falling into *Sense and Sensibility* and the infatuating spell of Mr. Willoughby. Accepting an invitation to Bath leads to *Northanger Abbey* and the beguiling Henry Tilney. And just where will *Emma*'s Mr. Knightley fit in to the quest for a worthy husband? It's all up to the reader.

A labyrinth of love and lies, scandals and scoundrels, misfortunes and marriages, *Lost in Austen* will delight and challenge any Austen lover.

Lost in Austen: Create Your Own Jane Austen Adventure Details

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Beatriz says

La verdad es que el libro ha estado gracioso, sobre todo por los finales inesperados. Nada más empezar una panda de gitanos me dio una paliza que me desfiguró la cara, evitando así que me pudiera casar nunca con nadie. Los libros de aventuras siempre suelo empezarlos así, a lo grande, con palizas y muerte.

He estado a punto de casarme mínimo seis veces por lo menos. Unas veces podía seguir con la historia y otras moría solterona o me pasaba alguna desgracia, aunque casi que peor era casarse...

Lo malo de este libro es que la autora considera que o te casas con el señor Darcy o no vas a ser feliz en tu vida, y en muchos finales alternativos en los que te casas con otros personajes de otras novelas, te daba un toque agri dulce. ¿Y si ese era el final que yo quería? ¿Por qué me tiene que tocar las narices con eso?

También me reventaba tener que estar apuntado cada dos por tres puntos y mierdas cuando luego la mitad no hace falta para las elecciones (como lo de la lista de "Accompliments/Failings" o la de "Connections"... sólo sirven si acaso para el final del señor Darcy, porque el resto de la partida no influyen para nada en los resultados). También me reventaban los comentarios en los que básicamente la autora te llama subnormal.

Lo mejor son los momentos en los que tienes que elegir o pasar un test para saber si tendrás los puntos suficientes para seguir con la historia que tú quieres. Cuando se dedica a resumir la trama de cualquier novela de Jane Austen pero en inglés moderno, se llega a hacer pesado... Sobre todo si te sabes la trama de memoria.

Pero en general un libro muy entretenido. Me ha hecho mucha gracia morir en un accidente de carruaje provocado por la señorita Bingley XDDDDDDDD Eso y suicidarme porque mi matrimonio con Darcy no era feliz, jajajajaja.

Michelle says

I first saw this book at work in the bookstore and just the concept of a Choose Your Own Adventure brought back fond memories of library time in grade school. Plus, couple that with Austen, and I was sold on this book.

It is a cute premise, but as you get further into the book, it ends up rather disappointing. Rather than creating Austen-inspired original situations, the book just follows "Pride and Prejudice" with a bit of "Emma" thrown in. As long as you've read P&P and know it by heart, you'll be able to pick the right choices and get the happy ending. If you pick the wrong choices, there's weird endings, such as getting accosted by gypsies for money and your face ends up mutilated due to their excessive pressing on you; another weird one is accepting Col. Fitzwilliam instead of Darcy, the men prepare to duel it out but Lady Catherine shoots you because she hates the idea of you marrying ANYONE in her family, Darcy shoots Lady Catherine then Fitzwilliam and you die of your gunshot wound.

Some choices aren't so straightforward as "Go to page 144" or whatever. Some actually ask questions like

"What is the difference between a piano and pianoforte?", and then whatever answer you pick you turn to the page that goes with it.

In all, this book was a bit disappointing and predictable if you know your Austen very well.

Georgiana 1792 says

La mia esperienza di gioco

Dopo aver percorso le linee di *Orgoglio e pregiudizio* (e aver rischiato di rimanere uccisa da Miss Bingley!) con brevi sprazzi di *Mansfield Park*, ho deviato dalla retta via non appena mi si è presentata l'opportunità di entrare nel mio romanzo preferito, *Persuasion*. Qui mi sono ritrovata confusa, molto confusa: ero innamorata contemporaneamente di 4 uomini diversi (!!!). Mr Darcy, naturalmente, poi il Capitano Benwick, il Capitano Wentworth e Mr Bennet (l'alter ego di Mr Elliot in un fritto misto di parentele poco plausibili - l'autrice doveva aver dimenticato l'esistenza di Mr Collins come erede più prossimo a Mr Bennet in linea maschile!) Insomma, mi sono sentita Brooke di *Beautiful*, o anche peggio, altro che Lizzie, e mi sono vergognata profondamente di una tale leggerezza! Ma sono riuscita a concludere il mio percorso con successo (forse!) e giocare e ridere con le altre Lizzies è stato impagabile!

Per scoprire tutto, ma proprio tutto sull'esperienza delle Lizzies con questo libro-game, leggete **QUI**

Emlen says

Good silly fun. The first time I tried, I ended up getting into Marianne's plot from *Sense and Sensibility*, then, after coming back to *Pride and Prejudice*, slipping on some ice and breaking my neck. The second time I ended up marrying Henry Crawford from *Mansfield Park*, which the book does not allow to be a happy ending, but I went into it with my eyes open. After that, I stopped following the (hilariously complicated) rules, and just flipped through trying to check out the different possible stories.

You quickly learn how it works: basically, if you fail to stick to P+P's plot, you either digress into a different Austen novel (or, in one case, into Austen's biography), or you meet some terrible disaster. The only exception is (view spoiler). There's also an ongoing, chatty/snarky commentary on your (that is, Elizabeth Bennett's) behavior; I didn't always share the author's view of the novels, but an idiosyncratically opinionated tone is still much more fun than a conventional one.

Of course, trying to stick Elizabeth Bennett into other Austen novels never works perfectly (e.g., she's too young for a long-ago engagement with Wentworth to make very much sense); and I was disappointed that there wasn't more room for really weird developments, farther from the familiar plots. Also, there's no way of getting to Sanditon, which seems like a real missed opportunity.

AMEERA says

absolutely loved it .

Cami says

This book was SO MUCH FUN! It got me through a very bad day with strep throat.

It's just like the choose-your-own-adventure books from your youth (or your children's youths), except you get to be Elizabeth Bennett. Depending on your choices, you'll see characters from all of Jane Austen's works as well as people she knew herself. Everything is expertly woven together and so many times I found myself laughing out loud, especially when my carriage ran over Mr. Elton (from Emma) in his effort to stop it to make his affection for me known. The book also has a points system by which you can judge your progress on marrying for love and not ending up in the poor house. It made things extra funny for me. I highly recommend you keep track of your points.

Anyway, this was really well put together and very enjoyable.

Jenny says

I died. Not the ending I was hoping for. It was a really good book until I died.

Sophia says

I spotted this fun 'choose your own adventure' style story based *mostly* on Jane Austen's Pride & Prejudice (all the novels and Austen's life are represented).

The reader is given a mission and can then start tracking points earned or deducted on a separate sheet as they go along. There are places where the reader chooses the path or where responses to quiz questions determine the path. There are dead ends- game over, there are lesser choices (leading to a snarky lecture and less points) and best choices (where the snarky remarks are still there, but not so pointed).

Yes, I am saying this is meant to be light and fun as you go.

I personally hit three dead ends and was forced to backtrack, but I did finish the game with some points in the positive which had me crowing a bit.

While I wouldn't say its riveting, it is most certainly diverting and I could see myself whiling away some time taking another go at the book game at a later point.

It does tend to favor those who have a fairly good knowledge of Austen's works, but common sense and a sense of humor will get pretty much anyone through to the finish. I could see this being a fun gift for an Austen-lover with a sense of humor.

Sara says

This choose-your-own-adventure populated by characters, settings and decisions faced by Jane Austen

heroines is a very enjoyable read.

The book includes instructions so the reader can keep track of their Intelligence and Confidence points, Accomplishments and Failings and Superior and Inferior Connections. I chose to, although the book assured me it wasn't mandatory. I enjoyed the aspect of crossing out points every time I cursed my lucky stars and rejoicing when I answered the occasional multiple choice question correctly and was rewarded with something unexpected: like adding fluent French to my Accomplishments.

The reader is given the chance to make choices that they know the "right" answer to, such as whether or not to marry Mr. Collins from "Pride and Prejudice." But they also face choices they can't rely on their Austen familiarity for: such as whether to turn left or right on their way to Netherfield. I also appreciated the inclusion of period trivia questions because it helped mix-up the decision making process.

I never ended up happily married, although I did end up married a few times. At other times, I was also left spinsterly, broke and once, torn apart by Gypsies.

The author has created a humorous and charming interactive opportunity and Austen fans will enjoy it.

Christina says

I know, I know. A Choose Your Own Adventure book set within *Pride and Prejudice*: sounds too good to be true! This really was an amusing diversion, and I stayed up WAY too late last night trying to complete the mission of a fortuitous and loving marriage. First I was disfigured by gypsies. Then I eloped with Mr. Wickham and had to join a traveling troupe of actors. Then I was murdered by Caroline Bingley. Then I married Captain Wentworth (from *Persuasion*). But after lots of cheating, I won (married Mr. Darcy) in the end.

I thought this was such a clever idea, and I loved the way that the author wove in characters and plot lines from multiple novels. I also liked the questions about regency-era life. It was really very well done, and one can tell that Emma Campbell Webster is a true Austen scholar. But I tired quickly of keeping score, and then was really annoyed when it turned out that you weren't supposed to go below zero (not explained in the instructions) and my scores were all screwed up anyway.

I bristled at the author's implication, in the end, that the only intelligent thing to do is to abandon Darcy and not marry at all. Come ON. It was obviously her own, modern idea, and it just didn't fit. I also really hated the ultra stylized illustrations. Call me a purist, but I wanted something a little more period-accurate. All in all, though, really fun. I'd definitely recommend this to Austen fans. Actually, I think maybe it would be more enjoyable to somebody who didn't know the novels very well; sometimes it was too easy for me to make the right choices, since I knew who the good guys were and who were the bad'uns.

Moir Russell says

Amusing, but not quite as fun as I expected. Some of the wilder endings are silly (couldn't she have borrowed more from the juvenilia if she wanted to go nuts?), when you/Elizabeth Bennett are put into *Northanger Abbey* you/she still act(s) like Catherine Morland, and, as other reviewers noted, sometimes a modern viewpoint seems privileged over Austen's own time (especially in the uber-ending, which nearly wrecked the book for me, but I pretty much ignored it. If I'd been in my twenties I might have neatly ripped

out the pages). The snark also occasionally gets out of hand, and it's a good thing Webster designed the book so you don't have to keep track of scoring, because I am unsuited to do so both in basic cussedness and because I have a horrible case of the flu and can barely spell my own name right now. But this book was fun enough to entertain me while terribly sick and light enough it wasn't a strain to read, and sometimes do we really ask more of books than that? As Sir Walter Scott wrote of Ann Radcliffe,

Perhaps the perusal of such works may, without injustice, be compared with the use of opiates, baneful, when habitually and constantly resorted to, but of the most blessed power in those moments of pain and languor, when the whole head is sore, and the whole heart sick. If those who rail indiscriminately at this species of composition, were to consider the quantity of actual pleasure which it produces, and the much greater proportion of real sorrow and distress which it alleviates, their philanthropy ought to moderate their critical pride, or religious intolerance.

Oh I forgot, it's not a GoodReads review without pictures.

Elisabetta says

Ho ucciso Mr. Elton!!

Mi sono divertita tantissimo nel leggere e giocare (ma soprattutto giocare) con questo libro.

Ecco la mia avventura.

Inizialmente catapultata in *Orgoglio e Pregiudizio* nei patti di Elizabeth, ho leggermente deviato strada quando, preoccupata per la salute della mia adorata Jane, mi sono attardata qualche giorno in più in casa di Mr. Bingley dove ho potuto conoscere Mr. Crawford (direttamente da *Mansfield Park*) che, dopo aver corteggiato spudoratamente Mrs Hurst (sì, donna sposata!) e contemporaneamente Miss Bingley (quale sfacciataggine!!), pensa bene di corteggiare me e di farmi la proposta... Ma chi si crede di essere?? Un no secco è d'obbligo!

Arrivo a casa e chi mi vuole affibbiare mia madre? Ovviamente Mr. Collins che, altrettanto ovviamente e prontamente, viene rifiutato.

Improvvisamente devio e mi ritrovo in *Emma*, dove acquisisco alcuni difetti, ma anche alcune nuove conoscenze, tra cui Mr. Knightley.

Ahimè, faccio una scelta sbagliata e decido di partecipare ad una festa dove, nonostante tutti i miei buoni propositi per piacere ad Emma, finisco accanto all'odioso Mr. Elton, che sfortunatamente e accidentalmente finisce sotto i cavalli della mia carrozza.

Volendo evitare di passare i migliori anni della mia vita in prigione, faccio qualche passo indietro e ricevo la proposta da Mr. Knightley... Sarebbe perfetto, ma il mio cuore batte per un altro e così anche lui viene rifiutato..

Dopo questa parentesi finalmente ritorno nel mio amato *Orgoglio e Pregiudizio* e ripercorro la fine del romanzo fino all'epilogo... Evviva!! **Mr Darcy è mioo!!**

Questo libro è stato davvero un divertimento. Mi ha fatto sorridere moltissimo sia per le illustrazioni davvero simpatiche che per gli avvenimenti davvero improbabili (ho riso tantissimo quando ho ucciso Mr. Elton!!)

Questa è stata la mia esperienza di gioco-lettura, e la vostra?
Buon divertimento!

Sandra says

I'll admit to not finishing this book completely, but I think I've died often enough to be able to add it on here.

In this book you 'play' as Elizabeth Bennet, and you get the mission to marry. How to go about this is sort of up to the reader. To totally get into the fun, the reader is encouraged to keep lists of things like Fortune Points, Failings and Superior/Inferior Connections. It stuck with me, because it seems like within no time you have no fortune points left, your list of failings is exceedingly long and you only seem to know inferior people.

The book itself was random. It's basically Pride & Prejudice retold with facepalmy comments thrown in. Occasionally you will be asked to make choices (this is where the "create your own Jane Austen adventure!"-bit comes in) but they don't seem to have real relevance to the plot, mostly. The book kind of forces you to stick to the actual Pride & Prejudice plot, and the other storylines are either:

- a) awkward, because the P&P plot gets mixed with the other Jane Austen novels and it's not very well done;
- b) plainly annoying, as in every non-related P&P or other Jane Austen plotline you are either killed off or the story is otherwise brought to a quick end (view spoiler).

But overall this wasn't exciting, very predictable and though it did make me laugh a few times, that definitely could not make up for all the facepalming that was going on.

Angela says

This book is a great experience for a P&P junkie like myself! Before I get to my spoilery endings, I gotta say that the best part of this book is the choices. I didn't read much of it - just skimmed it because I knew the story so well. It's the choices (especially the bad ones) that are so entertaining and allow you to explore the "what ifs" that the movies and books don't explain.

There's MANY different endings, happy and sad and most of them incredibly humourous! I did not explore even half of them, I would guess!

Okay, now for the semi-spoilery part.

So far I've had the following endings:

- 1) I was attacked by gypsies on my way to Netherfield to take care of my sick sister Jane. I was so disfigured that I will never attract a husband. The book reproaches me with: "That didn't take you long, did it? You have failed to complete your mission. You didn't even get NEAR completing it, in fact. You deserve to be

disfigured. Be ashamed." Ouch.

2) Not that I wasn't trying before, but I try to make the decisions that will lead me to Mr. Darcy - I refuse Mr. Collins, I am interested in Mr. Wickham, I go to Hunsford to visit the new Mrs. Collins . . . BUT this time I accept Mr. Darcy's proposal. Why not? I've always been curious what would have happened in that scenario. Um, I end up having an affair with the one of the gardeners at Pemberley and we are banished from polite society to live in poverty for the rest of our sinful lives.

3) Okay, so clearly I need to refuse Mr. Darcy when he first proposes at Hunsford. But this time, I also refuse to read his letter of explanation about my accusations of his treatment of Wickham. Then I run into Colonel Fitzwilliam, who ALSO proposes to me. He's cute and nice, so yeah, I accept. When Mr. Darcy finds out, he challenges his cousin to a duel. Lady Catherine will have nothing to do with me marrying either of her nephews, but they still insist on the duel. Guns in hand, the count down begins, but before it is finished Lady Catherine shoots ME! Darcy runs to my aid and then shoots his aunt. Then, waving off the Colonel who can't possibly love me as much as he does, he shoots the Colonel dead in a jealous rage. Then he turns the gun on himself and shoots himself. I can't blame him - I wouldn't want to live without me either! ;)

4) Okay, this time I'm trying again. I make all the right "Elizabeth Bennett" decisions. This time I have another mistaken choice such as in ending #1 where I am not sure which direction to go. I choose the wrong direction (and so do not unexpectedly meet up with Darcy on his way home to Pemberley) and end up getting run over in a carriage by Caroline Bingley who is jealous of me and wants Darcy for herself. Ouch.

5) SUCCESS! I finally get Mr. Darcy. We marry and are happy forever and ever! Aren't you all jealous??

Maria says

It only took me a few days but I finished my mission and was married to Mr. Darcy!

This was a fun book with some very interesting twists and cameos by Austen's other characters make it such a treat.

Through my various attempts of failure, which there was not shortage of, I was led astray, attacked by gypsies, got lost, fell into puppy love with Henry Tilney, kidnapped by Fanny Price, called idiotic more times than I can count, lost and gained everything but I laughed and giggled along my choices and the patch they took.

Overall a fun read!
