



This Disconcerting Happiness: A Pride and Prejudice Variation

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When familial discord and a terrible illness upend their well-ordered lives, Darcy and Elizabeth find in each other an unexpected source of strength. Yet their growing regard may cause more harm than good -- for their families, and for themselves.

This Disconcerting Happiness: A Pride and Prejudice Variation Details

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From Reader Review This Disconcerting Happiness: A Pride and Prejudice Variation for online ebook

Joreen Belocura says

A Clear-Eyed Romance

THIS DISCONCERTING HAPPINESS is an example of the best that JAFF can inspire: a romantic, bittersweet, realistic, and ultimately very human portrayal of these beloved fictional characters. The characterization not only of Darcy and Elizabeth but of all the secondary and tertiary characters was surprising in many ways. Not only did Ms. Morland place them in rarely explored circumstances, she also had them react in unexpected though not unrealistic ways. She also managed to make them sound naturally of their time without employing overwrought diction or syntax that would be a tiresome approximation of Regency English.

I could not get enough of Darcy and Elizabeth's relationship, both during their unorthodox courtship and upon their marriage. Wit and romance flowed delightfully unimpeded between them, but the mutual respect and affection was sincerely yet profoundly moving. I also have to applaud the delicate rendering of Georgiana, who is utterly different in this story from the conventional portrayal of her in JAFF. She is a much richer subject for a character study because of the singular combination of her youth, her diffidence, her enjoyment of Society, her romantic experiences, and her unfailing love for Darcy.

This novel will linger in your memory like a fine wine in its complexity and depth.

Vaarin says

I am half-hearted about this book. It has some lovely moments especially between E and D. I think it feels real in the sense that it is not described as a walk on roses for the newly wedded couple. Mr Bennet death on their wedding day of course sets the tone of their "honeymoon". Love the affection between Mr and Mrs B. What I find irritating in this book (and several other P&P sequels) is that Caroline Bingley can be rude but Lizzy can not. I find that illogical... There is a lot of letters at the end that also feels like a lazy shortcut. The end is also a bit puzzling to me, maybe there will be a second book... I do not think I will reread this book and am uncertain if I will read more from this author

Tamra says

3.75 Stars. How do I rate this? I really, really liked it but a part of me didn't. I'm so frustrated because I didn't want it to end which has left me wondering how I couldn't like it. I loved that we dug deeper into real world issues Elizabeth and Darcy would have faced, their private relationship and their life adjusting to marriage. I didn't care for the way Georgiana was portrayed and Elizabeth's lack of courage at times. I missed any growth for Mary and Kitty and Lydia certainly didn't deserve her happy ending, half the happy ending would have been more than enough. The beginning of the final chapters hinting at a difficult life ahead for Elizabeth was such a downer. Especially for a woman who looks on the past as only its remembrance gives pleasure.... The ending seemed rushed and wanting more. Maybe this is another one of those dreaded volume books and there will be more to come. As much as I despise P&P variations in a series, I will most likely

read the next installment.

Claudine DiMuzio / Just Jane 1813 says

Review and giveaways at Just Jane 1813..<http://justjane1813.com/2016/11/29/th...>

Katherine says

What a different take on P&P.. within the first few pages we learn that Mr Bennet has a life threatening condition and only Elizabeth is brought into his confidence originally. Darcy stumbles across a distraught Elizabeth at the meryton assembly and she sees an empathetic side to him that no one else does. Darcy seems to be in a custody battle of sorts over his sister due to her near elopement. Colonel Fitzwilliams father is intent on taking over Georgiana's care while Darcy is determined to get her back even if that means getting married. Darcy and Elizabeth get close due to sharing heavy burdens they carry with each other but their path to love is not easy or without obstacle. No one understands Darcy the way Elizabeth does, and Georgiana is coming to know herself and may not be who Darcy thinks she is either. Hurt feelings, grief, and anxiety are paramount in this novel but Elizabeth and Darcy must learn to rely on each other. Sorrow shared is half sorrow and yet you feel so much sorrow for these characters. We get to know the depth of these characters and get emotionally vested. That's what made it a good read for me even though it was more angst than I prefer reading.

Susanne says

When Elizabeth is informed the very afternoon of the Meryton Assembly that her father is dying of cancer, she has quite the burden to bear, especially knowing that her family must leave Longbourn after her father's death because of the entail on the estate. Mr. Darcy is also struggling with familial problems in that Georgiana has been removed from his care following the debacle at Ramsgate and is extremely unhappy at Rosings Park with Lady Catherine. But being married would give Darcy the legal standing needed to gain back custody of his sister.

After several frank conversations at and following the Meryton Assembly where they meet and talk on the balcony, Elizabeth and Darcy decide to marry, thus providing for the Bennet family after Mr. Bennet's demise and hopefully regaining custody of Georgiana. But when all does not go to plan, Darcy and Elizabeth find themselves happier than they ever thought could result from a marriage of convenience.

A very different variation, focusing as much on Georgiana's growth and decisions as it does on Elizabeth's family as her father's health fails. Nothing seems to go as planned, yet *This Disconcerting Happiness* gives them both the strength to carry on while grieving with one another.

NOTES on Second Reading:

I found myself in tears several times as I re-read this book. It was so compelling, yet so little filled with happiness, or, at least, happiness seemed so far out of reach as to even dim one's hopes of an HEA. I appreciate that the book ended with a pale HEA which is far more realistic than most JAFF. Still, I find this book even better the second time reading it. If I could give it a 4 1/2, I would.

Shauna says

Real and romantic

I can honestly say that this is the most realistic portrayal of Darcy and Elizabeth's relationship that a variation could offer. The differences in station and family were a problem, which they would have been, and reading about the couple's attempts to adjust were agonizing. I did love how much they tried to help each other, and I never felt that all the sacrifice was one-sided.

Sheila Majczan says

4.5 stars

This story is deep, at times depressing, at other times surprising, and definitely melancholy. Both Darcy and Elizabeth have reason to be distracted while in company: loved ones have given them pause in their well-ordered existence. While she can't change the event he might have a way to soften the blow and while he can't immediately reorder his and his sister's relationship, she might give him the claim to take back what is dear to him.

His sister's Ramsgate affair and the family's reaction to it and Elizabeth's sole knowledge of Mr. Bennet's cancer lead this story's premise.

Thus this story becomes one about a marriage made to solve problems but even before the vows are taken we read of both finding redeeming and dear qualities in each other. So while they rush to the altar it is not so much their own "arrangement" but how it is viewed and acted upon by his family and then how her family fits into his stratosphere. Richard, Georgiana, and Wickham have parts to play as past acts and decisions affect a range of people. Even Mrs. Annesley has her say about how to fit in.

I found some of what Elizabeth experienced, all voluntarily, to be heartbreaking. She was not the Elizabeth he married and while he waited for that woman to appear, was it not he who hired a companion so as to bring her up to standards? Who was this shadow sitting in the Matlocks' drawing room?

And in Darcy's stepping in and providing for all the material loss her family suffered did he also expect her to turn her back on "unacceptable" connections? Isolated from her family and cut by his is it possible to be happy with one's self and changes forced upon one?

The Ana in this story was not a figure from canon. Many times she reminded me of Lydia with her desire to be in London, at dinners, at balls and even being allowed to dance and meet so many eligible young men. This was not what he wanted for her at all. Were his plans for her future so much more important than her own desires? Were they more proper?

Mrs. Bennet's reaction to their engagement gave me comfort in that, although she is speaking from the position of ignorance, she is wanting Elizabeth not to be in a marriage with a cruel man.

Although the end was a very acceptable stating of how Our Dear Couple came to be comfortable with friends and family and choices made in lives around them, I am one of those who like to read a little about the

future, especially as one aspect was left hanging.

This story was well written and delved much deeper into the chasm between levels of society and behaviors demanded by those of the higher order. We also read much of Darcy's (and Elizabeth's) reflections about the necessity to change or the need to flaunt that requirement for peace with one's own nature.

Madenna U says

In this variation, Elizabeth and Darcy meet under different circumstances at the assembly. They are each dealing with a heavy emotional burden and each recognize it in the other. They find empathy and understanding leading up to the usual awful proposal. The story continues past the wedding, not as a happily ever after, but as a true emotional transformation of our happy couple. They must learn to be strong and to recognize, understand, and allow the feelings of others.

This book kept my attention and I could not put it down. This included me reading until 2:30 am. I enjoyed the depth of emotion and development of the characters. While Elizabeth, Darcy, and Georgiana evolve, the others surrounding them are hyped up versions from the original story. There are a few new characters thrown in to the mix to develop the plot.

I can't wait for this author's next work.

Leslie says

A problem shared is a problem halved.
~ English Proverb

This is a full throttle angst story that puts the pedal to the metal and never lets up. Our story begins the day of the Assembly in Meryton when Lizzy is taken into her father's confidence and informed that he is ill, very ill, dying ill - so have a good time at the assembly. Here Lizzy stumbles through the assembly as if in a fog, far from being insulted by Darcy I don't think she even notices. And Darcy's life is no bowl of cherries; as bad as it was in JA's version this is 100 times worse.

Loose lips sink ships -American English idiom Here a bit of 'over sharing' by Col. Fitzwilliam alerted his father the Earl that Georgiana had almost eloped with Wickham and the Earl took advantage of the Late Darcy's will and seized Georgiana and settled her with Lady Catherine in Kent. Now Darcy's 'family' is using Georgiana as a cudgel to force Darcy to follow their rules.

When Lizzy is sharing her woe with the heavens Darcy overhears and empathizes. They speak of Shakespeare. Thing progress much like canon but Lizzy and Darcy are more open with one another, albeit in private. Darcy knows that a codicil in his father's will negates the Earl's claim on Georgiana if Darcy is married, so the night of the Netherfield ball he proposes. Lizzy says yes, sort of and he promises to speak to her father.

Soon she and Jane are both engaged and will marry soon, but the angst is far from over. The author shows us why Georgiana was easily influenced by Wickham, she is a shallow, vapid thing, whose head is quickly turned by fashion and frolic. Honestly Darcy is much more upset about Georgi's loss than Georgi is about his. And while he struggles to regain custody a huge rift in the family is revealed and we learn that the Fitzwilliams didn't like Mr. Darcy Sr. very much and felt that Lady Anne had lowered herself to marry.

I had a real love / hate with this Darcy the private Darcy is wonderful but when he is trying to impress his relatives to return his sister he is a bit of a stick in the mud. Mrs. Annesley joins the family as Lizzy's companion to teach her to navigate the drawing rooms of the Ton and Lizzy constantly feels like she isn't measuring up.

The angst doesn't let go it keeps up until almost the last page. This book was virtually error free and is a clean read

Debbie Brown says

This is a tale of two dysfunctional families, the Bennets and Darcy/Fitzwilliams, each in crisis, with Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy caught in the maelstrom surrounding their respective clans. I found both the characters and the situations to be achingly real and their problems to be way beyond simple misunderstandings. If you're looking for something light and fluffy, this isn't it. Instead, this reaches the more difficult goal of realistically depicting two people who must make difficult choices, balancing the needs of their families against their personal needs.

There is no pride or prejudice when Darcy meets Elizabeth at the Meryton assembly. Instead, each recognizes a kindred spirit who is also bearing an unbearable burden, and they quickly develop an honest rapport. Neither of them has anyone else to share their troubles with. To some extent, when they first consider marriage it's to help solve their problems: Elizabeth does not want to marry Mr. Collins, but her family is in a precarious situation if she doesn't, and Darcy has his own reasons for needing a wife, and soon. It doesn't take long for them to admit their love for each other, which is well established early in the story.

Unfortunately, their marriage really doesn't solve anything. The book is well-titled because they DO find happiness in each other but continue to grapple with the challenges they face with the rest of the world... almost too much like real life.

Elizabeth's boisterous and inappropriate family members continue to be a trial, especially Mrs. Bennet and Lydia. Lord and Lady Matlock and the rest of the Fitzwilliams (with the exception of the good Colonel, though he and Darcy are not always seeing eye-to-eye here, either) do not welcome Elizabeth into the family with open arms, to say the least. It is truly impressive how well all the scenes with family members (whether Bennet or Fitzwilliam) are written, featuring very natural-sounding conversations and observations that make it easy to visualize and understand all the characters. In particular, wee Charles Fitzwilliam is about the most believable child I've come across in the pages of a book, and he steals a scene at the Matlock's London townhouse that provides a brief moment of much-needed comic relief.

Georgiana features very strongly in the plot and certainly is not a shy, uncertain girl. That development of her character is as much a surprise to Darcy as it is to the reader. Lydia's storyline is absolutely startling and very cleverly worked up by Ms. Moreland in that it appears to follow canon and then unexpectedly swerves to a most ironic conclusion. LOVE the surprise ending!

While there are descriptive passages, much of the story is in dialogue form. I love the relationship portrayed between Elizabeth and Darcy and the way they relate to each other. Their conversations with each other show great humor and depth, and yet the rest of Elizabeth's family believe that she hardly knows him because she can't even identify what his favorite foods are. Other parts of the story are told through various letters, which are also very well done.

In describing this book, I just keep coming back to the word "real." This isn't just a sweet romance. No

kidnappings, stabbings, poisoning, or other outlandish plot devices. It's a real-feeling slice of life during a particularly difficult period where the hero and heroine find joy and solace in each other as they roll through storms together. The tone is definitely melancholy much of the time, but I am happy to report that, as unlikely as it appears right up to the final pages, there IS a HEA.

Carole (in Canada) says

This was a thought provoking variation that has both Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy dealing with very upsetting familial situations. Elizabeth, Mr. Bennet's favourite daughter, is the only one who knows how truly ill he is. She is heartbroken and resentful for the burden he has lain at her feet. This creates such guilt and angst within her. Mr. Darcy is dealing with the consequences of Georgiana's near elopement in Ramsgate with Wickham. She has agreed to live with Lady Catherine as well as Lord Matlock to keep the family from being completely torn apart. Darcy is angry, guilt ridden and lost. Seeing the same unhappiness in each other, brings Darcy and Elizabeth closer together, but at the same time causes much astonishment within both families.

I found this book riveting along with having a strong dose of reality to it. Both Elizabeth and Darcy are greatly affected by these circumstances and have a hard time finding solid ground to stand on. Both are floundering and having great difficulty coming to terms with the situations. I love how the author portrayed their insecurities and their growth through trial by fire. Whenever they are together, the scenes were compelling and the banter delightful.

Georgiana (Ana) also grew from her experiences, not only at the hands of Wickham, but through living with her Fitzwilliam relatives. She wanted the best of both worlds but didn't realize how much she hurt her brother to get it. However, in time, each had their own epiphanies and each had to learn compromise.

This was a beautifully written variation that will stay with me for some time. No true happiness is ever without challenges. It is all in how you deal and grow from them.

Christine Baglow says

More please.

Please write and write and write some more. Beautifully written.
Well rounded characters and a very thoughtful piece. Thank you.

Talia says

This maybe one of my favorite Mr B dies stories. E & D are happy in the end but it is far from the fairy tale ending that we are used to seeing. I found that I liked it very well.

wosedwew says

Remember, we all stumble, every one of us. That's why it's a comfort to go hand in hand. ~Emily Kimbrough

We all know Georgiana had a stumble. This story concerns her choice of who will be her "hand in hand."

"This Disconcerting Happiness" will rank with my favorites of the "Papa Bennet is dead/dying" genre. Although I read this as a Kindle Unlimited, it is one of a very few I have also purchased.

Elizabeth and Darcy have strong reasons outside of their newly-formed mutual affection to marry quickly. Their decision to marry is unacceptable to Darcy's Fitzwilliam relations (Lady C, of course, but the one exacting the most pain is Lord Matlock).

Two things were painful to read:

1. Darcy feels tremendous guilt over the situation with Lord M, blaming himself for weakness. In fact, he feels weak over many areas: his relationship with his Father and the Wickham debacle chief among them.
2. In her attempt to repair the relationship with the Fitzwilliams, Elizabeth temporarily loses herself trying to find acceptance in London.

Things I liked:

1. Papa B and Mama B have a level where they love each other – though they don't show it openly. They also BOTH love ALL their daughters. It was good to read a "Papa B dies" story where Mama B actually grieves! (but NONE of the Bennets are shown wearing black and officially mourning)
2. Great resolution to the Lydia/Wickham scandal!! Chortle-worthy and not the usual outcome.
3. Bingley and even Jane actually have backbones and occasionally stand up to the evil Caroline.
4. The author assumes her readers have a knowledge of canon P&P and doesn't include a lot of introductions (of people we probably already know) or descriptions (of events we probably already know). A person who has never read the original might occasionally be a bit confused but for the rest of us it's a quicker path to the variation the author had in mind.
5. Darcy is forced to acknowledge some truths about his parents' marriage and his relationship with his father and becomes stronger for it.

As with Christina Morland's other book "A Remedy Against Sin" the writing here is outstanding. Not only are errors at a minimum but OH! THOSE WORD IMAGES!!!

A Sample:

"Strange, then, how it all felt extraordinary, as if there had never before been a man who had looked upon a woman with bright eyes and flushed skin and thought: we have changed everything."

Recommend this to all JAFF readers.
