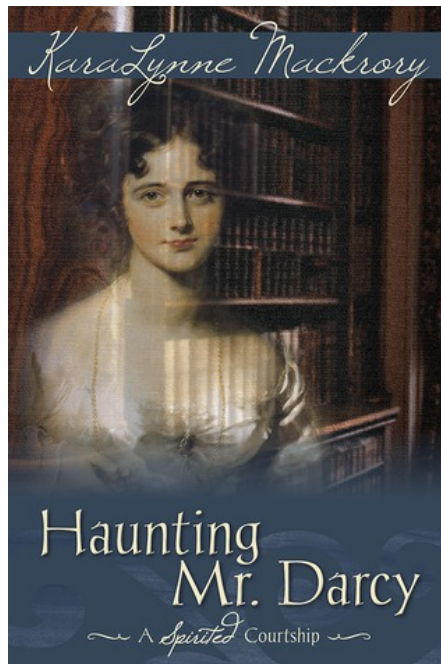




Haunting Mr. Darcy - A Spirited Courtship

KaraLynne Mackrory

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What happens to the happily ever after when the ever after has already happened? A "spirited" courtship indeed! Jane Austen's much adored Pride and Prejudice is transfigured in this Regency adaptation. That fickle friend Fate intervenes when an unexpected event threatens the happily ever after of literature's favorite love story. The gentlemen from Netherfield have left, winter is upon the land, and after a horrifying carriage accident, Elizabeth Bennet finds her spirit transported as if by magic into Mr. Darcy's London home. Paranormally tethered to the disagreeable man, it doesn't help that he believes she is a phantasm of his love-struck mind and not the real Elizabeth. Somehow they must learn to trust, learn to love and learn to bring Elizabeth back to her earthly form before it is too late.

Haunting Mr. Darcy - A Spirited Courtship Details

Date : Published March 17th 2014 by Meryton Press (first published March 10th 2014)

ISBN : 9781936009350

Author : KaraLynne Mackrory

Format : Paperback 286 pages

Genre : Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Historical, Regency, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review Haunting Mr. Darcy - A Spirited Courtship for online ebook

Sheila Majczan says

The story is similar to the movie JUST LIKE HEAVEN (2007), in my opinion. Almost exact same story line with different characters, setting and era. Main female is Elizabeth.

Second reading: December 1st, 2017 - again my attention was riveted to the pages and I again had tears in part. I won a paperback copy of this book from The Darcy Monologues blog tour as part of the grand prize.

First reading: I did very much enjoy this story. It kept my attention: had me turning pages and arguing with myself not to stay up late to finish it. The angst was throughout much of the book. I had tears in my eyes several times. I ached for Darcy when Elizabeth remembers nothing of their "spirit" world together, not even the kiss which reunites her spirit with her body. Lydia's changes were so very heart warming: it seems she was out to rescue her sister in the variation. Mrs. Bennet finally shows her love for Lizzy, when our heroine is in a coma. And Jane learns to confide in her father (and learns of his hidden stash of chocolates). I also enjoyed the twist in which the dress our ghost was wearing turns out to be the dress her Aunt Gardiner commissioned the modiste to make for her...and she then wears on her wedding day...so sweet.

I have read other books by this author.

Chelsea says

This was another great book by KaraLynne Mackrory! I love her Austenesque books and the way she breathes new life into the characters from Pride and Prejudice. This was a very fun and entertaining story with an intriguing plot that drew me into books world. Seeing the relationship between Elizabeth develop while they are forced into each others company like this was really fun and I loved Richard Fitzwilliam and Georgiana in this book even though I would have liked to see more of them. The epilogue at the end of the book was really sweet as well. I hope to read more by this author.

Ceri says

*This review first appeared on **Babblings of a Bookworm**: <http://babblingsofabookworm.blogspot....>*

This Pride & Prejudice variation begins on New Year's Eve. Darcy is in London, having fled Hertfordshire and the bewitching but unsuitable Miss Bennet. He has been making some laughable attempts to get over his infatuation with the Hertfordshire miss. Elizabeth is leaving an assembly in Meryton early with her upset sister and her thoughts touch on Darcy too – she is trying to cheer up Jane with a joke which refers to his comment about Elizabeth at the last Meryton Assembly. Just before midnight, both make a New Year's wish. She wishes for Mr Darcy to want something he cannot have, while he wishes for the end to his search for somebody to replace Elizabeth in his heart, and to see her one last time.

When the carriage Elizabeth is travelling in crashes in the icy conditions and she suffers a head injury both of their wishes are granted. She finds herself in a wonderful, unfamiliar library (where Elizabeth discovers the

ability to read the books just by touching them, every bookworm's dream for powering through our TBR lists!) and she is extremely put out at the sudden appearance of Mr Darcy in her 'dream'.

'This was her dream, for heaven's sake, and who is to show up and ruin it? One Fitzwilliam Darcy of Pemberley! It was just too much.'

However, this isn't a dream; while Elizabeth's body is in Hertfordshire, unconscious, her spirit is haunting Mr Darcy. Darcy, as can be expected, believes he has conjured the apparition himself:

'He allowed himself to contemplate the truth of the matter before him. He was imagining her in perfect detail, and his infatuation with her had surely reached proportions beyond sanity.'

For the evening he is happy to believe it's a dream, but when she's still there the next day, and the next he genuinely fears for his sanity, and tries to rid himself of his ghost. When this doesn't work, he again pays attention to Elizabeth's spirit, and thus begins one of the most unusual courtships you are likely to read about. Elizabeth is unable to move more than 10 paces away from Darcy, which means she is in his company 24 hours a day. Seeing him live his life, watching his interactions with others and interacting with him herself leads Elizabeth to re-evaluate her views of Darcy. Being together so much also blurs some of the lines of propriety that Darcy would usually be so keen to uphold, and they become much closer.

'Elizabeth's heart began to beat unsteadily at hearing him call her the object of his admiration. Much to her dismay, the idea settled most stubbornly in the proximity of that traitorously beating organ.'

Sigh! But is it real or is it a dream? And how will Elizabeth's body and spirit become reunited?

I was hopeful I'd enjoy this book since it comes from the author of one of my favourite Austenesque books, 'Bluebells in the Mourning' and I did, it was just beautiful. So, so romantic, humorous, with wonderful characters. Personally, I prefer characters to be as close as possible to Jane Austen's creations unless their character change is part of the variation from canon, and I felt that this author did a very good job of it. Obviously, due to the nature of the story Elizabeth and Darcy get the vast majority of page time, which is no bad thing, but the other characters that were present were affectionately portrayed and felt real to me. Mr and Mrs Bennet have their faults, but their love for their daughters was ever-present and I was very pleased to see some character growth for Lydia as she discovered some sisterly solidarity and decided to put sisters before misters for once! Colonel Fitzwilliam was in role as Darcy's trusted advisor and did well in drawing him out, aside from a really amusing scene when he got drunk on Darcy's port! I really enjoyed the portrayal of a somewhat more feisty Georgiana who is worried about her brother and determined that she won't be shut out of helping him overcome the problems he is experiencing.

The only downside for me was that I was a little disappointed when Darcy retreats the instant he had a setback. One of the things I like best about Darcy is his persevering nature. In *Pride & Prejudice* when he first meets with Elizabeth at Pemberley he has very little hope, but yet he still keeps trying to see her, and even follows her later to Hertfordshire on the basis of what little hope he has. However, this really is a minor quibble.

For those of you who prefer to avoid sex scenes you will be pleased to know that there is nothing of that sort in this book and for those of you who like sex scenes, you may well not miss them when there is this much romance to enjoy! I would most definitely recommend reading this book, I thought it was wonderful!

Joana Starnes says

I've known for a very long time that this was an excellent book! I read the Amazon reviews, the Kindle sample and all available excerpts. Also, over several cups of hot chocolate, I had the plot outlined to me in great detail by a dear friend, who absolutely adored this book. So I had the highest expectations when I bought it and settled to enjoy it at last – and this lovely story exceeded them all!

I'll start with the very original premise, which creates amazing opportunities for interaction between our beloved couple. It allows them to correct all misconceptions they have of the other and clear every thorny point in their relationship. It allows for humour and progressive closeness. It allows for intimacy without the need to worry about the strict requirements of propriety, while at the same time remaining perfectly chaste and clean. It allows for openness between them, without the need to conceal innermost thoughts, for indeed – as Mr. Darcy, or rather, the author skilfully puts it – why should anyone conceal anything from a figment of one's imagination?

I absolutely adored their time together, the exquisite humour of their interactions, their slow adjustment to their unusual predicament, the way they both came to embrace it and discover their feelings for each other at last. I have always had a soft spot for books that orchestrate reasons for Elizabeth and Mr Darcy to be thrown together and be forced to face the issues they have with each other and find ways to put them to rest. A beautiful journey, made even more beautiful by this author's exquisite prose, where every word is in its rightful place.

The story progresses apace, and we come at last to the difficult problem of restoring Elizabeth to herself. I loved the ups and downs of the process, and that it was not made to look simple – in no way a quick fix. The initial failure should have been heartbreaking, yet it was not. The author's amazing sense of humour brings light-heartedness in the difficult hour, and Elizabeth is bright and sparkling, just as we would have expected her to be. And then of course the perfect solution is found. In my opinion, it was also a perfect metaphor. Bewitched, body and spirit – which is just as it ought to be! I loved finding this line in the closing chapters, by the way, just as I loved finding hints of all the Darcys and the adaptations that we know and love. They were all there: P&P 1995, P&P 2005, Lost in Austen, and it was such a thrill to find them all!

Need I say that I loved this book? I guess not. I think I'll quote another UK reviewer: "Just read it! End of!" :)

Barb says

This has to be one of my favorite P&P variations. As so many others have reviewed it with witty style, I can only say "ditto". Haunting Mr. Darcy is a sweet and funny story with both characters charmingly daunted by the crazy premise - Elizabeth has been knocked unconscious and her "spirit" leaves her body to haunt Mr. Darcy. He is the only one who sees and hears her. Both of them think they are going crazy, so act in a totally uninhibited manner. Add this to your list of variations to read as it is just so sweet and funny.

Maria says

After a carriage accident, Elizabeth falls into a coma. While her body lies motionless in her bed in Longbourn, her spirit unexpectedly finds itself in Mr. Darcy's library in London. Elizabeth, after a moment

of shock, thinks she is dreaming. Darcy, on the other hand, upon discovering her beloved Miss Bennet in his house, thinks his impossible love for that girl led him to craziness. Worst of all, they soon discover that the lovely Elizabeth (whom nobody else can see) is tethered to Mr. Darcy and cannot leave him alone. At first they are not at all pleased with that situation, but as days go by they slowly realize that maybe that is the best thing that could have happened to them both.

The idea of reading about Elizabeth Bennet as a ghost did not intrigue me that much at first. I like some paranormal stories every now and then, but I was not sure this one could work. I love Elizabeth and Darcy too much and I confess I was prejudiced about this story. Then I started to read many reviews that stated that this was one of the best JAFF books ever. Could it be possible that they were all wrong!? My curiosity slowly grew and then something unexpected happened. I was so lucky to win an e-copy of this novel and I thought that was a sign of fate. I had to read it. Plus, I won it at Halloween! I did not need more proof that I had to get to this story... immediately.

Be still my heart! How foolish I was! Why did I wait so long? Why did nobody force me to read this book? I knew that KaraLynne Mackrory was great at describing the sweet and romantic aspect of Darcy and Elizabeth's relationship, but this was a complete and wonderful journey into their souls. I loved it so much also because it reminded me of a movie, *Just Like Heaven*, with Reese Witherspoon and Mark Ruffalo which is one of my favourite films and it is lovely. Plus, the protagonist's name was Elizabeth, too!

I basically read it with a silly smile on my face the whole time. I could not stop it! I could not control my lips. Even when I was reading some sad, heartwrenching moment I could not help myself. Because I knew that Darcy and Elizabeth, no matter all the difficulties and unlikely situations, would end up together. And I loved, loved how that happened!

There were so many sweet, stirring scenes that I found myself giggling like a silly girl. Lucky me nobody was around to see my crazy behaviour. I loved the part where Darcy taught Elizabeth to fence. I loved all the tender words he always had for her, both when he was convinced she was a figment of his imagination and when he realized she was the real Elizabeth Bennet. I adored the moment when they both realized they loved each other, and I also liked the fact that Darcy was less strict in his attitude because of the peculiar situation they both were leaving. Reading about a man and a woman in the Regency era that behaved without caring about restrictions was refreshing and, oddly, it did not bother me in the least! And that ending... *Sigh* It was just perfect! Great job, Ms. Mackrory!

Of course, I need to add something more about this Mr. Darcy. He is probably the best Darcy I have met in an Austenesque book. He is loving and thoughtful but has also his haughty moments that made him believable and definitely similar to the original character. A wonderful portrait of my favourite hero!

Enchanting and totally mesmerizing, "Haunting Mr. Darcy" is a wonderful fairy tale beautifully written that I heartily recommend.

Talia says

Another author who can do no wrong. A wonderful story.

Reread again: Have to say another favorite book! This one might be my favorite by this author but when I read her other books I think each of them are my favorite. :)

Debbie Brown says

This is undoubtedly one of my top-ten JAFF favorites. My fifth reading was just as enjoyable as the first time- perhaps even more so, since I picked up on some nuances I'm sure I missed originally.

Anne says

Let me list the reasons why I love this book:

*The writing is superb; elegant, Regency-like and witty.

*The paranormal aspect is wonderful! After Lizzy hits her head during a carriage accident, she loses consciousness and her spirit is transported to Mr. Darcy's library in his London house. There is a bond that "ties" her to him and she cannot stray away from him. Darcy is also the only one who can see and hear her.

*Because Darcy thinks he's going mad and that Lizzy is only a hallucination stemming from his deranged mind, he throws all caution and propriety to the winds, and they have the BEST Regency courtship EVER!! Darcy doesn't hesitate to tell her she's beautiful and that he admires her, and Lizzy even goes with him to his club and to the Fencing Academy, where there are tons of hot guys in their shirtsleeves, and possibly also shirtless! ;)

*The original Lizzy Bennet from P&P wouldn't have struck me as the kind of girl who would accept to be taught fencing by a gentleman, but in this story Lizzy is super fun and energetic, and she is delighted when Darcy shows her how to fence (without a weapon though, since she can't hold it!). That scene eventually turns hilarious because Georgiana sees her brother and thinks he is giving himself a lesson!

*Lizzy has this gift of being able to "experience" books by simply touching the spine. The contents of the books are delivered to her that way, and it's as if she had read the books without having to open them!! I am so totally jealous of that gift!

*Same thing with food; she only has to touch the food slightly for its feel and flavour to be delivered to her. Darcy knows that she likes lemon pastries, and he actually doesn't like them at all, so when he keeps on ordering them and they return not eaten, his staff thinks he's crazy. It's hilarious.

*The style of this book is overall very funny, and there are lots of good jokes and funny situations. It's tons of fun! There is a scene where a drunk Colonel Fitzwilliam tries to confront Darcy about his madness, and another where Darcy has to hide under a bed.

*We get to really see the *real* Darcy in this story. No reserve, no aloofness, no shyness, just *him*. And he is so wonderful. *swoony sigh*

*We also get to see a really cheeky and playful side of Elizabeth, as she takes pleasure in tormenting Darcy by asking him a whole bunch of questions and commenting on every thing in his house, when he is determined to ignore her because he thinks he going mad and on his way to Bedlam. I loved that Elizabeth, she sounded so fun!

**Haunting Mr. Darcy* moreover focuses almost exclusively on Darcy and Elizabeth. Of course there are other characters, but they are really all secondary, and the focus is all on the main romance.

*Speaking of which, the romance is so tastefully done!! Any modern author who have probably included many very sensual scenes given the singular nature of E. and D.'s courtship and their ignoring the proprieties, but I am so thankful that KaraLynne Mackrory did not have to do that in order to convey a wonderful and passionate romance. It was all tastefully done, with just the right amount of sexual tension and a perfect, beautiful way of getting Lizzy back into her body.

*The HEA is just like a fairy-tale and so sweet!!

Even if you're not a big fan of Jane Austen fan-fiction, I would still recommend this incredible novel to anyone who enjoys a good, clean romance. It's simply a delightful novel and I cannot wait to read it again!

Thanks again KaraLynne and Soph for the generous giveaway!! :D

Sophie says

After thoroughly enjoying both Falling for Mr Darcy and Bluebells in the Mourning I could not wait for this third variation, and my high expectations were not disappointed, in fact, they were exceeded! I would give this more than 5 stars if I could!

I believe I can say that this has just become my favourite of all the variations I have read! It was absolutely brilliant. The paranormal aspect to this story was very different and unique. When I first read about the plot, I was a little dubious as I never thought that me and paranormal would mix. However, firstly, this was not Darcy turning into a vampire or Elinor and Marianne coming across sea monsters; this was not too wild or too crazy, and secondly, I love this authors work and so I had faith that she would be able to make it work. And I was right, I had no need to worry as I loved it - I seem to really enjoy the more far-fetched or obscure variations!

Before I comment on anything else, first let me say how well written this story is (and her others ones for that matter!) and how much I enjoy the authors style of writing. She has a wonderful talent for description - she can even manage to make the action of removing a cravat and throwing it across the room seem so beautiful and also so meaningful! The language used was brilliant and the writing always flowed really well. One of my favourites was the description of Darcy's library where Lizzy finds herself - from the way it is so beautifully described, I defy anyone who doesn't wish to go there!

What I also love about the authors style is the clever use of quotes or short passages we know from the original used in a completely different context or spoken by a completely different character! There are many that will make you laugh and many that will make you sigh, in a good way. For example... There is a bit of a role reversal during the conversation we know during the dance at Netherfield, a play around with the oh-so-famous opening line as well as many other famous quotes, and some clever use of the first proposal but in a rather different context!

As well as quotes, some events from the storyline have very different twists or outcomes. (*cough* the time spent at Rosings for Easter *cough*)

Ok, returning back to the paranormal aspect to this story. Although this is, I suppose, a ghost story, it doesn't feel like it at all and even if you think "ghost stories are not for me" I would give it a go.

Lizzy's ended up in Darcy library in his London town house of all places, and is even tethered to the man himself, being unable to move more than 10 paces from Darcy. (Just think about that for a minute. Sleeping

arrangements were certainly... interesting!)

Lizzy thinks she is dreaming, and Darcy thinks he is slowly going mad, and so hilarity and brilliance ensue!

If Lizzy is just a hallucination of Darcy's mind, then why should he hide his thoughts from his own imagination? Cue flirtatious, bold comments and a relaxed, charming and teasing side to Darcy we haven't seen before.

If this experience in Darcy's townhouse is all a very peculiar dream, then why shouldn't Lizzy enjoy the new ghost-like state she has found herself in, as well as make the most of this new, more charming Mr. Darcy she has discovered? Cue a teasing and sarcastic commentary to accompany Darcy's everyday life, making things difficult for Darcy to not let on to the fact that there is another participant to every conversation he has!

Such peculiar circumstances, as well as the fact the neither believes the other is real, mean that proper rules, correct manners and strict propriety all go out the window. The freedom this allows creates humorous, and sometimes embarrassing (again I say bedroom arrangements), situations and conversations, but it also creates some of the most romantic scenes I have ever read (again I say bedroom arrangements) whilst staying completely clean.

Darcy has an interesting journey through this story, thinking he is going mad, but eventually deciding that "if he was to lose his mind, it would be a comfort to know it was in pursuit of Miss Elizabeth." We really get to see the real Darcy, the Darcy when he isn't having to be the master of Pemberley at balls and soirées. The Darcy when he is alone, has finished all his duties for the day; his relaxed and open personality really shows through and he is most charming (and a little flirtatious, with Lizzy at least!)

Elizabeth also has an interesting journey - she is a ghost or spirit for most of it! I loved how the author described her new state and what it meant she could and could not do; she floats not walks, can move through furniture (this causes some hilarious moments!), is invisible to all but Darcy (again, very fun for Lizzy to be able to make Darcy look like a complete idiot taking to... the air (or even seeming to be giving himself a fencing lesson)) and one of my favourites, the ability to touch a book and feel and 'read' the book in a matter of seconds - now that would be really useful; so many books, so little time!

This is a very hard review to write without giving anything away, especially regarding the rather problematic situation of Lizzy being either a ghost, in a dream or in Darcy's imagination. All I will say is that how everything works out and resolves is very clever and the significant theme of fate and why Lizzy and Darcy have been tethered together and the importance of each of them to the other is just wonderful. It's no surprise that Lizzy eventually becomes 'whole' again and you will not be disappointed with how! It really was a brilliant, thoroughly thought through story. Did you ever think Fitzwilliam Darcy of Pemberley would break into a house or hide under a bed? No? Well you need to read this story then!

As I have already commented on a few times, the unusual situation results in some wonderfully romantic scenes. The connection between Darcy and Lizzy as it builds and builds is just so strong, and anyone who likes plenty of Darcy and Lizzy 'screen time' (or rather 'page time') will certainly enjoy the amount of time these two are forced to spend together, given that Lizzy can't ever be 10 paces from Darcy!

Another thing which made the romance and emotion even more for me was the fact that they couldn't touch each other, however much they wished to be able to at certain times. It really added to the emotion.

Aside from Lizzy and Darcy, as will always please me, we have a strong and more mature Georgiana, and a brilliant and funny Colonel Fitzwilliam, both who prove very useful at different times through the story, even if Colonel Fitzwilliam begins "to feel like a director having to deal with the emotional fits of his actors."

Now you may be thinking, with Lizzy stuck at Darcy's house, what about the rest of the Bennets? They do feature and many undergo a bit of a change; accidents and illness in families really puts things in perspective, and this has a profound impact on the Bennet's as a family, and Mrs Bennet and Lydia in particular. We also see more to Jane and to Mr Bennet. I enjoyed the glimpses back to Longbourn and what effect the accident was having on them.

And fear not, Wickham still makes an unwanted (and yet wanted - we just love to hate him) appearance - he even gets his due from a most unexpected quarter!

Of course, after a few more trials and tribulations we reach the much anticipated happy ending and what an ending it is! Due to the nature of the story and the relationship between Darcy and Elizabeth, the emotional tension and build up throughout the story means that the ending is even more wished for and anticipated, making it all the more romantic and perfect when you read it! My romantic sensibilities were going crazy!

I really cannot express just how much I loved this story! The plot itself was extremely clever and unique, it was absolutely hilarious and also supremely romantic. Just read it. End of.

Mary says

I absolutely LOVED this book. When I read about it initially I dismissed it as I was not keen on the "haunting" idea. How wrong was I!!!! The plot of this book and its development are so well written that the reader simply gets swept away. I couldn't put this book down and went to work wrecked each day after reading it into the wee small hours!! Set aside a few days, tell your friends that your phone is out of order, relax in your favourite armchair and prepare to be totally enthralled from page one to the end. It is the literary equivalent of a hot cuppa and a choccy biscuit..... Enjoy.

James S says

Normal story? No...paranormal

Lizzie is in a terrible carriage accident. While in a coma her spirit looks for a safe haven and latches onto Mr. Darcy.

With this unexpected beginning the real story starts. Darcy doesn't believe the spirit is real. Lizzie wonders why she is dreaming of Darcy?

It's like watching the old movie, 'Topper'.

Very well written. Very entertaining. Very unexpected. I recommend this book highly.

Eliza Baum says

This book was cute and fluffy. Sometimes a little *too* fluffy, but that's probably a matter of preference. The concept was interesting and fun. I would have liked for Elizabeth to have taken a little longer to come around to her love for Darcy, but the circumstances of the story didn't really allow for it. The conflict was fairly low,

and even the Wickham storyline got almost entirely brushed over, so I admit I was doing a quasi-skim at times to get to the next major events. Enjoyable for a few hours entertainment, but not something I imagine myself ever rereading.

Meredith (Austenque Reviews) says

Phantasmal and Fantastic!

With over 80 reviews on amazon – at least 60 of them 5 stars, I don't think you need me to tell you this is one excellent and praiseworthy Pride and Prejudice variation...But I'll tell you anyway. ;) Haunting Mr. Darcy is brilliant, masterfully executed, and most deserving of all the praise it has received. So far, it is my favorite Pride and Prejudice variation I've read in 2014.

Both Darcy and Elizabeth make a wish on New Years Eve and fate surprises them by granting these wishes, but perhaps in a manner they both didn't expect. After a carriage accident on an icy road, Elizabeth wakes up in Mr. Darcy's library with some strange new capabilities (and limitations). She believes herself to be in a dream. Mr. Darcy, depressed, dejected, and overtired is able to see, hear, and converse with this vision of his lady-love but attributes it to his long-suffering heart and exhausted mind. Surely he is going mad! Poor Lizzy, tethered to the last man in the world she could ever be prevailed upon to marry! And poor Darcy, his staff and family are really starting to question his sanity! ;)

"You say you are dreaming, madam, but surely that cannot be, for it is you who haunts my dreams." Mr. Darcy, Haunting Mr. Darcy

What I loved most about this variation was how this intricate/fantastical/paranormal premise and series of events was executed. Even though we were dealing with spirits, invisible tethers, and fate, the actions of this tale felt plausible and credible, not at all outlandish and unbelievable. I loved how the resolution was brought about in bits and pieces, and the obstacles for Darcy and Elizabeth were not easily solved. I delighted in every turn and twist the author made, just when you think Darcy and Elizabeth will come to an understanding and all will be well she lifts the rug out from under them! ;)

Darcy and Elizabeth go through an incredible journey together and separately in this tale. It was lovely to witness their begrudging acceptance of their situation, budding friendship, and charming playfulness with each other. Darcy was adorable as always – Karalynne Mackrory consistently creates a Darcy that I fall extremely hard for! *sigh* Loved how this Darcy was a little more informal and bold around Elizabeth (but that was because he truly believed she was a figment of his imagination!) He was all kinds of adorbs! And we mustn't forget Lizzy! She was lovely too; I loved her impertinence, provocations, and saucy remarks!

I'm so very eager to see what KaraLynne Mackrory comes up with next, her enchanting and sensitive Pride and Prejudice variations belong in every Janeite's library! Written with keen observations, sharp wit, and deep emotions – Haunting Mr. Darcy is the kind of story that entralls the reader and keeps them captive until the very end (and haunts them all the while in between!)

Sophia says

I was in the mood for something supernatural to go with my Austenesque fiction and already had a love affair with this author's writing so it was an easy choice to join in a group read for this story.

Austenesque variations are fun reading to see how authors can be so very creative with Jane Austen's stories and characters. I found this one a lovely and gentle handling of the original story and characters while blazing an entirely new trail from the point that the Bingleys and Darcy leave Netherfield for London.

Darcy thinks he is dreaming as does Elizabeth when she appears in his library. They both take advantage of this to set aside the stiff politeness that society dictates and discover the truth behind his reserve and her impertinence. They are both astounded by what they learn and grow more uneasy as the true state of affairs dawns on them. Fate has gotten involved and they both cling to the hope that all of the fantastic happenings meant that they were to be together even when matters seem hopeless.

I enjoyed this variation that treaded lightly over what could have been angsty and difficult ground. In fact, much of the early story was vastly amusing. The reader knows what Darcy and Elizabeth do not and can only wait to see how they will respond when they know the truth, meanwhile, the pair are delightful and amusing.

I also appreciated how the author was able to build up suspense each time the reader starts to get complacent about how things are going to happen. The end was more triumphant and romantic as a result.

On a side note, the changes in the Bennets and other surrounding characters altered the story even further. Seeing devoted parents in the Bennets and even a Lydia who has an interesting twist on her story with Wickham was a great pleasure to read.

So, all in all, this was a fantastic read that I heartily recommend to Pride & Prejudice variations fans who would enjoy sweet paranormal historical romance.
