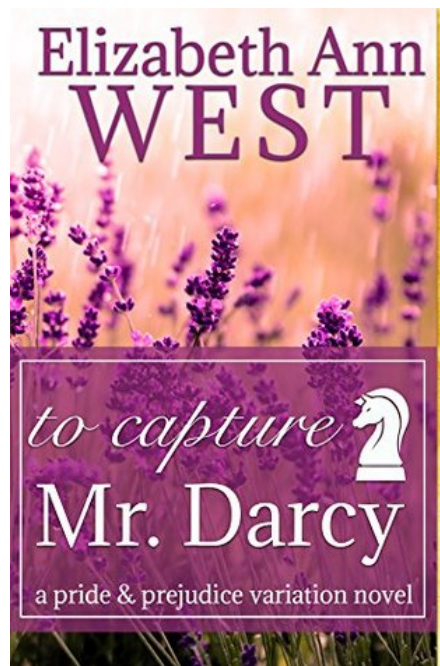




To Capture Mr. Darcy: A Pride and Prejudice Variation Novel

Elizabeth Ann West

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Nature's a fickle thing. When four days of rain occur earlier in Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice* to trap Jane and Elizabeth Bennet at Netherfield Park, new romances, misunderstandings, and alignments are made. Volatile tempers never did well cooped up together. Not even when there's a chessboard to help pass the time.

Fall in love with the romance of Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet all over again in this new variation by author Elizabeth Ann West. A stand-alone novel of over 300 pages in paperback, this story is sure to make you sigh and swoon many times over!

To Capture Mr. Darcy: A Pride and Prejudice Variation Novel Details

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From Reader Review To Capture Mr. Darcy: A Pride and Prejudice Variation Novel for online ebook

Victoria says

What if Darcy and Elizabeth were allowed a bit more time at Netherfield before Mr Collins arrived, before the ball, before Wickham?

A very entertaining story, that's what!

I really felt that West did a great job keeping most of the characters IC (with the exception of Darcy near the end, and Jane once she recovered). It was good to see a stubborn Elizabeth, and to see a Jane with a backbone. While Jane is all that is good in the world, it was nice to see her be described in a more well-rounded, honest way.

A wonderful stand-alone from Elizabeth Ann West!

Carol Perrin says

To Capture Mr. Darcy: A Pride and Prejudice Variation Novel

Loved the Darcy in this story. He was taken with Elizabeth from the beginning. His comment from the Meryton Assembly still left him in hot water with Elizabeth, but she began to see a different Darcy when staying with Jane at Netherfield. Darcy was still socially awkward and Elizabeth still misunderstood his comments. An innocent chess game started Darcy's determination to win Elizabeth's love. At first neither knew who the other player was, but when he found out it was Elizabeth playing the game, he was impressed especially since she won the game. Both Jane and Elizabeth were at Netherfield when their silly, stupid cousin, William Collins arrived. Before leaving Netherfield, Bingley asked Jane to marry him. Returning home, he focused his attention to Elizabeth. However, Elizabeth's interest in him was nonexistent and she tried to push Mary for him to marry him. Bingley tells Caroline to plan a ball to honor their engagement. Caroline was her usual obnoxious self fawning over Darcy and sending barbs at Elizabeth constantly. Elizabeth's witty rejoinders went over Caroline's head every time Elizabeth commented. Darcy had to stifle many laughs. Darcy asks Elizabeth for a courtship, and she agrees. Then Collins tells Elizabeth that Darcy is engaged to his cousin, and Elizabeth calls him a cad and liar. When that lie is laid to rest, Elizabeth and Darcy's relationship is restored by her father showing her misunderstandings in front of Darcy. At this time she realizes that she loves Darcy. Collins is still smarting from her refusal. Not knowing that Collins wrote, under Caroline's direction, to his most esteemed patroness, Lady Catherine de Bourgh, she invites herself to Netherfield. So we have an angry aunt, a refused suitor, and a very jealous Caroline Bingley. The day of the ball, Lady Catherine shows up to berate her nephew's choice of bride in front of all Meryton. Add to that a very vindictive refused suitor, Collins grabs her and rips her dress. Between the verbal and physical attack, Elizabeth loses her self control and is taken home. Darcy tells her ladyship that he will marry Elizabeth and threatens to do harm to Collins. Mr. Bennet calms him down and Bennet tells him call on Elizabeth tomorrow. In the morning, Elizabeth hopes to avoid everyone to go for her walk, but unfortunately Collins is down. When he repeats his offer of marriage telling her that she needs to set her sights lower and that Darcy will never propose to her. Grabbing her pastry she hurries out the door to walk to Oakham Mount. As she approaches the summit, she sees Mr. Darcy sitting on the rock sleeping. Startled, he jumps up, calling her name, and begins to apologize for his aunt's behavior. She tells him that he is not responsible for the

behavior of others. He proposes on the mount, she agrees. Mr. Bennet gives his approval and blessings, but he wants Elizabeth to have a season in town. Finally, they are married in June. When their children about their whirlwind romance and Elizabeth tells them that all she did was move a pawn to capture Mr. Darcy. Good story with a little less pride and a little less prejudice.

Carole (in Canada) says

My Rating: 2.5 * rounded up to 3*

I read several years ago Ms. West collection "Longbourn to Pemberley" which I quite enjoyed. So when 'To Capture Mr. Darcy' went on sale last year, I bought it. I quite liked the premise of this book and the fact that it was mostly contained at Netherfield during Jane's illness.

'That he was already in very grave danger of more than a passing fancy with this dark-haired, bright-eyed creature was a foregone conclusion, but now he was in the the thralls of a very thrilling chess match with a worthy opponent.'

The anticipation with which Elizabeth and Darcy looked forward to moving their chess pieces against each other was delightful. For two very intelligent individuals, they certainly knew how to set each other off and misunderstand the others words...Elizabeth most of all.

The drama going on within Netherfield was high, and I found it came across to me as if I was watching a play. Miss Bingley was her usual rude and obnoxious self but Charles has bit more spirit and understanding with what was going on. He also didn't let anyone come between him and Jane!

Mr. Bennet in this story had a much better handle and understanding of the women in his household. Mr. Collins is more greedy and nastier than ever! Wickham himself plays a very limited role, and I felt his presence was truly not necessary to this variation. Lady Catherine does make her entrance, but she is for the most part ignored despite her viciousness.

Overall, this variation did not capture me. I enjoyed parts but at times found little inconsistencies that nagged at me. One being the scene where Darcy knocks on Elizabeth's bedroom door. One editing issue that jumped out at me is the beginning of Chapter 5...it states her 'third morning' when Chapter 2 already stated her 'fourth day'. That being said, I do look forward to reading another book by Ms. West.

Eliza Baum says

[-Darcy's initial confession of his affec

Sheila Majczan says

This variation captured my attention quickly with the game of chess going on at Netherfield (while Elizabeth and Jane reside there due to Jane's illness) with both players unaware of just who their opponent is.

Elizabeth is both frustrated at having to stay at Netherfield but also at her interpretations of just what Mr.

Darcy means with his various comments. She interprets the word mistress to mean its lowest form while Mr. Darcy is speaking of it as "Mistress" to his "Master" of Pemberley. Then there are her mixed feelings also reflecting her sister's wanting to stay longer as Mr. Bingley pays close attention to her and spends time at her side. Elizabeth doesn't want to take that away from Jane BUT with Caroline snipping at her and Mr. Darcy's confusing and seemingly insulting comments she wants the familiar uproar of her own home.

I don't play chess but found the use of the game, its moves and references as to how such could apply in relationships made this tale all the more interesting.

Mr. Collins is downright appalling in his actions and in his words. Lady Catherine shows up and there are added insults and untruths to confuse the relationship between Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth.

Mr. Bennet seems to be stirred to add some wise words and even orders in regard to what he observes. Part of this is a reflection as to Mr. Darcy speaking to him early after the sisters return home.

This was a fairly quick read and kept my attention.

Erika says

What could come from a few extra days spent together at Netherfield?

Though I have a majority of Ms West's books, To Capture Mr Darcy is the first I've gotten around to reading, and I must say I loved it!!! I loved the simplicity of this story plot: No deaths, kidnappings or other major mayhem. In this story we find Jane and Elizabeth at Netherfield as Jane recovers from her illness. They are thus prolonged in their stay by continued rains for several days longer. Elizabeth at first enjoys this idea for Jane's sake to get to know Mr Bingley further, but it proves very challenging for her in the way of Mr Darcy (and a very tiresome Miss Bingley).

In between periods of rest for Jane, Elizabeth meanders down to the library in search of new books to read. While there she noticed a chess board and starts a game, though notices that someone else is playing along. What she didn't realize was that it was Mr Darcy thinking he was playing a game against Mr Bingley. So when he sees Elizabeth make a move he feels irritation that she would choose to make a play on a game she is not involved in, therefore when he looks at the move he realizes he is actually playing against Elizabeth.

This prolonged time provides lots of sparring opportunity for Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth and seals his determination to pursue her. Unfortunately, for Mr Darcy this extra time does nothing to help their misunderstandings; if anything, it increases them. What I get irritated at is that Miss Elizabeth continues to interpret Darcy's words in the worst possible ways. The poor guy is can't seem to dig himself a whole further by being tongue-tied and expressing his thoughts clumsily whenever he's with her. Then there's the newly-arrived Mr. Collins dropping details about his beloved patroness' daughter's impending marriage to Mr Darcy, sinking Darcy that much further in her esteem. She can't help feeling attracted to him, but she is convinced that he must be toying with her and would never consider actually marrying her. For all Elizabeth's wit, she sure is a numbskull!!!

I have to say that I love Mr Darcy's persistence and Mr Bennet's excellent observation and wit. I love how Elizabeth finally spoke back to Miss Bingley, even though Jane continues to reprimand Elizabeth for it. I LOVED how Mr Bennet finally yelled at Mr Collins to put him in his place, even though Mr Collins is still too stupid to realize when it's in his best interest to shut up!!!!

Yes, Lady Catherine and Mr Wickham make a show of things only they know how to. Mr Collins truly demonstrates what a toad he is. And Miss Bingley is the same delusional harpy as always.

If this is what to expect from Ms West's other books, then I will surely enjoy them. I highly recommend this to all JAFFers, there is no mature themes for those who are squeamish.

Debbie Brown says

I love the simplicity of this premise: No deaths, kidnappings or other mayhem. Instead, several successive days of rain extend the stay of Elizabeth and Jane at Netherfield. This allows time for the romance between Mr. Bingley and Jane to progress much more quickly. It also provides lots of sparring opportunity for Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth and seals his determination to pursue her. Unfortunately, it does nothing to help their misunderstandings; if anything, it increases them. I actually felt miffed with Miss Elizabeth, who always interprets Darcy's words in the worst possible way. The poor guy is further hampered by being tongue-tied and expressing his thoughts clumsily whenever he's with her. Things get even worse when Elizabeth returns to Longbourn, where the newly-arrived Mr. Collins drops the bomb that Darcy is engaged to Anne DeBourgh, sinking Darcy that much further in her esteem. She can't help feeling attracted to him, but she is convinced that he must be toying with her and would never consider actually marrying her.

There are two plot elements here that I particularly enjoy, starting with the two chess matches that the two have at Netherfield. Elizabeth begins the game with an anonymous opponent, and both she and Darcy keep sneaking to the board to move their pieces. The second is the wonderful characterization of Mr. Bennet, who is observant, wily and wise, and who also leads ODC to the book's turning point.

Even the unedited version I read on a fan fiction site is beautifully written, as Ms. West's books generally are. She creates vivid characterizations and always provides lots of heat between D&E. As JAFF readers always enjoy, there are plenty of scenes between the two of them.

Barbara "Cookie" Serfaty Williams says

To Capture Mr. Darcy: A Pride and Prejudice Variation Novel

The love story of Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy. This a story about how Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy romantic begin and end OK story if you like Pride and Prejudice you like this take on it.

Susan says

While staying at Netherfield Jane and Elizabeth find themselves spending a lot of time with their hosts. For the weather has made it impossible for anyone to leave. Does this bring Jane and Bingley together quicker, do Darcy and Elizabeth come to understand each other or will they always misunderstand each other. An enjoyable, well-written variation.

Chelsea says

This was the first book I have read by Elizabeth Ann West and I really enjoyed this story and seeing how everything unfolded. The characters were all well written and I enjoyed getting to see all the different interactions between the various characters as well as how Elizabeth and Darcy would overcome one misunderstanding only to find themselves misunderstanding one another over something else, although it could become a bit frustrating for the reader who wants them together. I enjoyed seeing this Mary and felt bad for her as well although she wasn't a major character. I look forward to reading more by this author in the future.

Leslie says

This is an excellent stand alone P&P variation. Originating during the Bennet sisters stay at Netherfield due to Jane's illness after Mrs. Bennet's embarrassing visit. Lizzy and Darcy begin to play a chess match not knowing the opponent. Unfortunately Lizzy seems determined to willfully misunderstand Darcy and really everyone else.

This Lizzy is a little neurotic (O/T I am seeing this character trait in a lot of books and I don't understand it nor do I like it) thinking that Darcy and Bingley want them for doxies and will not make a respectable offer. Every time Darcy attempts to explain his meaning or intention she storms off.

Quickly Jane & Bingley are engaged but this doesn't calm Lizzy's overactive imagination. And she continues to jump to the offended position at every statement. It is a little tiresome. I also felt the ending felt out of balance.

Barb says

I enjoyed this story very much. The additional time at Netherfield basically helped solidify Darcy's feelings for Elizabeth, although they appeared to really confuse the issue for her. Darcy is still his totally awkward, socially inept self when it comes to wooing a woman. Elizabeth, however, seems to be a bit more unforgiving and quick to judge negatively pretty much every time there is any kind of misunderstanding or disagreement. I give it 4 stars and a definite recommend.

J. W. Garrett says

Who knew chess was the game of love

This was a quick read that had all the elements for a HEA between our dear couples [Jane and Bingley, Elizabeth and Darcy]. Since that was the outcome, then I suppose you could say it was predictable. All points leading to everyone getting their hearts desire.

There really wasn't anything new to add to the mix, other than Jane and Elizabeth being stuck at Netherfield extra days due to excessive rain. During that time a lot happened.

Bingley had more time to solidify his feelings for Jane Bennet and secure her affection for him. Caroline was a bit more creative in her attempts to garner Darcy's affection, or at least demonstrate her qualifications to be Mistress of Pemberley.

Cousin Collins was a mean, conniving man. Even Mary wouldn't have him after his behavior at the Netherfield Ball. Her comments that he shouldn't be a man of the church said it all.

Lady Catherine was more obnoxious than canon. The author's description of her did the poor lady no favors. Her appearance mirrored her behavior.

Mr. Bennet kept surprising me with his actions and behavior. I rather liked him in this variation. Mrs. Bennet, Sister Mrs. Philips, Kitty and Lydia were the same characters as canon.

Wickham made an appearance but was whisked away as quickly as he showed up. That was a very creative way to get rid of him. I've not seen it done exactly that way before.

Darcy and Elizabeth...man. What can I say? When you have two passionate people, you have all the ingredients for fireworks. Their marriage will not be dull. That is for sure. It was hard watching them struggle. You have all those misunderstandings, pride and prejudice and anger combined with raging feelings. How do they do it?

I felt for Darcy in this version. It seemed that he couldn't do or say anything right. Elizabeth was misunderstanding at every turn. It was their differences that kept getting in the way of their understanding. Their expectations were different and their problem solving skills were skewed toward what they knew and have experienced. It was no wonder they were constantly at each other's throats. And then, when you fire up that passionate side...fireworks!!

I liked the epilogue.

Note: I, like other reviewers, thought the price too high for work this short. If it wasn't for the fact I had read parts of it as a WIP [work in progress], and was anxious for the release, I wouldn't have bought it. That is one disadvantage to reading a WIP. You don't know what the purchasing price will be until it is launched. Note to self....reconsider WIP.

Hazel Mills says

Poor Darcy! Elizabeth seems to wilfully misunderstand him at every turn! I really wanted to sit down and give her a right talking-to, but Mr Bennet understands his daughter more than she does herself. I really liked Mr Bennet in this story, showing that he understands his family well and does care for their welfare. An enjoyable read with a truly obnoxious Mr Collins that even Mary would not want and a patroness to match! I would have liked to have seen them pay for their actions more than we did but it worked fine as it was.

Petra says

[(catcalling at a wedding, really?) (hide spoiler)]

