



The Trials: A Pride and Prejudice Story

Timothy Underwood

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The Trials: A Pride and Prejudice Story Timothy Underwood Elizabeth and Darcy do not meet again at Pemberley...

After Mr. Bennet died, Elizabeth became the governess of Lady Catherine's unwanted ward. One day she collided with Mr. Darcy in the halls of Rosings. But though she now saw the good gentleman he truly was, it was too late: Mr. Darcy was engaged to his cousin, Anne.

Lady Catherine called Darcy to Rosings after she learned about Georgiana's near elopement to Wickham. She gave Darcy a terrible choice: Marry Anne, or I shall tell the world!

When Darcy saw Elizabeth again, he knew he never ceased to love her. Darcy was torn between protecting his sister and the desperate wishes of his heart. When Darcy at last sees a hope for himself and Elizabeth, something terrible happens that may keep them apart forever...

The Trials: A Pride and Prejudice Story Details

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EM Clark says

Really, really good!

I have had the happy accident of reading several very original Regency P&P variations lately and this is one of the best.

Lady Catherine is absolutely peak performance insane, and it is horrifying and satisfying at the same time. If you have always hated her, this will absolutely engross you. She is fascinatingly frightening.

Darcy is just wonderful. Everything about him is completely in character but in circumstances you haven't quite seen yet. Here is the man Elizabeth's Hunsford admonition created, for the better. Living, breathing, existing despite hopelessness of ever seeing her again.

Elizabeth is beautifully Elizabeth despite many tragedies in the last 5 years of her life. She is still strong, kind, witty, intelligent and true. She had grown up enough to be less judgmental and angry, but is still everything Darcy originally lived in essentials.

Other characters have changed over the years. Some of those changes were a little bewildering for me, but in ways that make sense ultimately as well as helping the story along.

There are many emotions the reader will experience here, happiness, hope, horror, desperation, confusion, joy, anger.. it is a wonderful ride. Worthy of your time!

Hazel Mills says

A rollercoaster ride with Elizabeth and Darcy meeting after the downfall of Elizabeth's family due to Darcy not meeting Elizabeth at Pemberley. She is now the governess to an illegitimate ward of Lady Catherine who has become deranged and completely unhinged. The book is also a murder mystery but felt a little unhappy with the unveiling of the actual culprit so the Elizabeth and Darcy can have their happy ever after, however it was a good read.

Debbie Brown says

This book is pretty darn awesome. I believe it's Mr. Underwood's best to date. It's also addictive, so make sure you have time on your hands to just sit and read once you start it.

Lady Catherine is at her most unreasonable; in fact, it's clear that she is mentally unhinged to a great degree. She has acquired an unwanted ward, the illegitimate child of a woman who was distantly related to Lewis deBourgh, and Lady C. is the little girl's only living relative once her mother dies. Emma Williams is adorable but high spirited. Unfortunately, Lady C. strongly believes that to spare the rod is to spoil the child, and she takes sadistic glee in punishing her. Emma's governess, who tries to protect her from this deranged

guardian? Miss Elizabeth Bennet!

In this imagining, things have gone from bad to worse for the Bennet family. Mr. Darcy never preceded the rest of his party to Pemberley and therefore never encountered Elizabeth when she was touring the grounds. He never learned that Lydia had left Brighton with Wickham until long after the fact. When Mr. Bennet went in pursuit of his missing daughter, he became ill and died. Mr. Collins wasted no time in throwing the remaining Bennets out of Longbourn. Lydia eventually returned to her family, unmarried and pregnant, and later left again, abandoning her child. Mr. Gardiner invested in a business speculation that did well for a while but then turned sour to such a degree that he went bankrupt. Lady C. is happy to employ Elizabeth, a ruined young lady, thinking she's an appropriate governess for a bastard brat. This is all the backstory.

Darcy is returning to Rosings for the first time in four years. His aunt plans to force him to marry Anne. Lady C. is colluding with Mr. Wickham and has evidence about his relationship with Georgiana, who is betrothed to Lord Chancey and set to marry in only a few months. If Darcy doesn't marry Anne, Lady C. will spread the gossip throughout the London ton. Making things even more interesting, Anne is furious with Darcy for caving into her mother's demands because she loves someone else.

You can just imagine the charged atmosphere in the moment that Darcy and Elizabeth unexpectedly lay eyes on each other at Rosings. They're placed in an impossible situation. Elizabeth will not leave her employment because she fears what Lady C. would do to Emma without her protection. Darcy (obviously) doesn't want to marry Anne but fears for his sister's happiness, since Georgiana dearly loves Lord Chancey. Colonel Fitzwilliam shows up, but he's changed over the years and is not the same dependable gentleman Elizabeth previously knew. Anne isn't exactly stable either. Then there's Wickham and Lady C. The number of antagonists in this story just pile up on top of each other, though Lady C. is by far the worst of them.

About midway through the book, a shocking event occurs. It's akin to the Hunsford proposal in that it changes the entire trajectory of the story. From that point, it becomes a mystery, and you can add Mr. Hawdry to the list of villains, since he's cut from the same mold as Mr. Collins. The last part of the book is a real nail-biter.

I don't usually enjoy when a story heaps misery upon misery over the heads of the hero and heroine, but it is really well done here because it's all centered on the same basic plot: Lady C's unwanted influence over everyone's life. There's a bit of melodrama in the evil/conflicted characters of the villains, but I admit they're necessary here to build up the tension. The yearning between Darcy and Elizabeth is palpable as they clear the air about all that's happened over the years. Emma is a delightful child with a believable personality- obviously smart, but not ridiculously so. The final revelation that resolves everything is not that hard to predict, though there is a lingering mystery in the air between two characters of precisely whodunnit. I know who we're TOLD is responsible, but there's room left to doubt that it's the truth.

Great on-the-edge-of-your-seat kind of read!

Madenna U says

This Pride and Prejudice variation is full of all kinds of crazy. Elizabeth is working for Lady Catherine as she never saw Darcy at Pemberley and her family is in total disgrace. Their situation was triggered by Lydia running away from Brighton and it got much worse from there for her family.

Lady Catherine blackmails Darcy into announcing his engagement to Anne, which causes feelings to be hurt in more than one quarter. During his forced stay at Rosings, he discovers Elizabeth is there too with her

small charge, Emma. While trying to come to grips with the situation he finds himself again in love. Strange circumstances force him to decide that he must choose his own path and despite his Aunt's insanity.

It is an odd path to their happily ever after. Of course, Darcy takes to much on himself. The man has an overdeveloped sense of responsibility!

Sara says

4.5 stars

I wanted to give this book 5 stars but I'm not sure I want to really read it again and that is my matrix for granting a full 5. I enjoyed this crazy tale. Lots of people were either insane, downright evil or a mixture of both. There were many times I had to put reality aside to follow the logic of the story or the characters. My friend Wordswew has a beautiful and accurate review so I will not relay the plot here. Let's just say that I did kinda predict the "who did it part" of the mystery that comes up. I just had a hard time believing that Darcy after wanting to prevent scandal would then suddenly take the actions he did for Elizabeth. Maybe the title of this book should have been who is NOT insane. Even Elizabeth shows signs in some of her decisions. I did however, enjoy the love story between D and E. I also enjoyed E's bond with Emma. I highly recommend this book as an enjoyable off cannon read. However, there is violence against children in this book (not terribly graphic) but if you cannot stomach that then don't read this variation.

wosedwew says

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Elizabeth and Darcy have not met since the DHP (di

Teresita says

Gripping!

Once you start reading this book,it will be almost impossible to put it down. It keeps you trying to read faster to find out what will happen next.

Highly recommended!

Mary Ann says

This novel showed many characters in a different light than what they normally are portrayed. Colonel Fitzwilliam drank and showed a dark side to himself. Anne de Bourgh showed a mean tendency filled with hatred for Elizabeth Bennet. Lady Catherine showed herself to not only being domineering but also psychotic.

Elizabeth was a governess for Lady Catherine's charge, Emma. At first, Elizabeth was her usual jovial and self confident self but later on in the novel she became scared and rightfully so as to how she was treated. There were many trials, trial of murder, trial of trust, trial of whether you had self confidence, trial of whether you were loosing your mind and these trials included several people.

I thought it was a great twist to Pride and Prejudice story and it was well written.
I did enjoy the plot and thought that Mr. Underwood did a good job exhibiting it throughout the novel.
I have enjoyed many of his novels and thank him for a job well done.

Dung says

This book was all over the place for me and had too many elements that bothered me. Most of the characters were over the top ridiculous but there wasn't an explanation to why they acted the way they did.

I did enjoy seeing Darcy and Elizabeth together especially how he is around children.

Sheila Majczan says

Even knowing that a HEA is guaranteed in JAFF stories for Elizabeth and Darcy, this story had me just a little on edge as Elizabeth seems to have motive and opportunity to off Lady Catherine, who, frankly, was really "asking for it". She deals out emotional and physical abuse and even a small child is not safe from her hand...or her cane.

Elizabeth working as a governess has been written before but it has been for Georgiana in other stories. This time she is in charge of Emma an illegitimate Fitzwilliam relation whose mother has died and of whom Lady C. has guardianship.

The story description paints a bleak portrait for the Bennets and the Gardiners: Mr. Bennet is dead, Mr. Collins kicks everyone out, Mr. Gardiner suffers bankruptcy after taking the family in, Jane is married to a parson while Mary and Elizabeth work as governesses.

Wickham and Lady C. team up so she now has the ammunition to force Darcy to marry Anne. Neither Anne nor Darcy want this but Anne is a coward and although she hates her mother she never stands up for herself. So many people have reason to want Lady C. permanently removed from their lives: even the cook at Rosings is sharpening her butchering knives.

This did keep me turning pages and I can say that if you like murder mysteries and romance tied up in a bundle then this is for you.

Carole (in Canada) says

I enjoy 'outside the box' variations and stories that have Darcy and Elizabeth separated for a number of years. I also enjoy a good murder/mystery novel as well. This story has both, along with a measure of abuse, both verbal and physical. Throw in an unhinged Lady Catherine and Wickham, whose spots have gotten bolder and brighter, and things go from bad to worse.

Needless to say, I am having trouble rating this book and writing this review. There were elements that kept me reading and elements that had me skimming along. There were, for me, too many incongruities that were just jarring, especially when it came to Wickham. Maybe, the story went in too many directions or maybe, I

was not in the right frame of mind.

Eliza Baum says

[Elizabeth as governess, Eliza

Leslie says

WOW! Dayam! Holy Cow! This is a wild ride of a P&P what if. In this book we are asked to imagine a world where when Lizzy & the Gardiners visited Pemberley Mr. Darcy didn't ride ahead of his friends and thus never knew that she has changed her opinion of him. So when they learn of Lydia's folly in Brighton there is no Darcy to save the day. Then things go from bad to worse when Mr. Bennet falls ill in London and dies. Then at the suggestion of Lady Catherine Mr. Collins evicts the Bennets from Longbourn and declares them persona non grata. Then things go from worse to catastrophic when Lydia returns unwed and with child and Mr. Gardiner goes bankrupt. The Bennets seemingly can fall no further.

Lizzy finds a job as a governess to a young ward. The ward of Lady Catherine deBourgh. As that the ward is a natural child Lady C believes Lizzy with her fallen sister is an appropriate choice. This lady Catherine is off the hook Cray cray! She is violent deranged and unbalanced. She still has unrealistic expectations regarding her daughter, Darcy and really the rest of the world.

To add to this we have an unrepentant Wickham who slips in and out of Rosings, messing with servants and feeding lady Catherine's delusions. He very much reminds me of Loki from Thor- he is an evil agent of chaos. He and Lady C are simply diabolical together. Using his information Lady C realizes she has the means, motive and opportunity to finally achieve her greatest desire the wedding of Fitzwilliam Darcy and Anne deBourgh. And lady Catherine doesn't care who she has to hurt to get her wish.

When Darcy arrives at Rosings his fate is laid before him; acquiesce or Lady C will ruin Georgiana. It is obvious that she is deranged and if the old Earl was alive might have been able to rein her in but he is deceased and Lady C won't listen to nephews. He agrees, because protecting Georgie is his only goal and soon encounters Miss Bennet and her charge.

Anne is dreadfully unhappy that she must marry Darcy; for she loves another and has been merely waiting and praying for her mother to die so she could live happily ever after. While Lady Catherine's gets more and more deranged and power mad the rest of her family plots to fake a wedding, rescue her abused ward and escape without ruining Georgiana. All while Lady Catherine has a new toad eater who will stop at nothing to appease his patroness.

All of this will come to a head in an unexpected way. Georgiana and her fiance will show themselves to be made of sterner stuff, Wickham will be just as mercenary as you would imagine.

Vaarin says

Thrilling!

Bingley begged Darcy not to travel ahead as the party was travelling to Pemberley.

Darcy relented and 4 years passed before ODC would meet again.

Elizabeth's circumstances had fallen from gentlewoman to servant, working as a governess for lady Catherine's ward.

Lady Catherine was a piece of work in this story, not only vile but utterly insane. Her daughter and the colonel was rather creepy as well...

Lady Catherine had just blackmailed Darcy into marrying her daughter when he discovered Elizabeth's whereabouts.

The budding relationship between ODC was lovely written, even when Elizabeth was on trial for murder.

Recommend.

colleen churm says

The Trials by Timothy Underwood.

Very interesting story. Timothy Underwood books are always intriguing and interesting. This story starts years after Darcy's disastrous proposal and Mr. Bennet has passed away trying to look for Lydia, same scenario, Lydia had run off with Wickham, and ruined the family name. Mr. Gardiner had taken in most of the family after Collins had thrown them immediately out of Longbourn. Gardiner made a huge business error and they were living in a run down home. Strangely, now, Lizzie ended up as Governess to a little girl, ward of Lady Catherine! Probably hired her to enjoy Lizzie's loss of status! Things turn in a different direction when Lady Catherine again tries to force Darcy into marrying Anne DeBourgh, but as soon as Lizzie and Darcy set eyes on each other, we know how that will go! But things go into an entirely different direction and it is worth it to read the story to find out! Never fear there will be a happy ending! Funniest part was Wickham was like a nineteenth century Charlie Sheen! Great read!
