



Consequences

C.P. Odom

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Consequences is a cautionary tale about the evils of hasty judgment, revisiting Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and one of those pivotal moments when Elizabeth Bennet throws away Mr. Darcy's offer of marriage so decisively. What transpires from that point is well known to Austen's extensive readership, but what if even one element in the chain of events in her novel turns out differently? Does Austen's happy ending eventually come to pass, or is the outcome more bleak?

And if, in order to secure financial security for her loved ones, Elizabeth does not reject Darcy, is she married to a proud, arrogant, disdainful man who, as she feared, forces her to deny her own relatives and thus condemns her to a lifetime of misery? Or does she find herself married to a man who cares enough for her to reject the opposition of his family and chance his very standing in society in order to marry a woman he loves beyond measure?

Consequences, written by the author of *A Most Civil Proposal*, explores two alternate realities—both tragedy and triumph.

Consequences Details

Date : Published December 17th 2013 by Meryton Press (first published December 3rd 2013)

ISBN :

Author : C.P. Odom

Format : Kindle Edition 278 pages

Genre :

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From Reader Review Consequences for online ebook

Monica says

I'm glad that I knew prior to reading this that it was basically two what-if tales in one; otherwise I may have given up halfway through and had to retrieve my pitchfork from under the bed to present to Mr. Odom. ;) I don't think I'm giving too much away by saying that in Part 1, Elizabeth rejects Darcy's proposal which sets off a completely different sequence of events for everyone. Thus, it's angsty - not in a suspenseful way but just sad, as it is when bad things happen to good people. It's likely that not all of these events would've been avoided by Elizabeth's acceptance but at least we'd have seen them handle life together, as we like to do. There's just enough light to get you to the end of the tunnel, so I stuck with it. In Part 2, Elizabeth decides to be more rational and accept, prompted not only by Charlotte's advice but by gut instinct; nightmares experienced at Rosings have left her with a sense of forboding if she does not do the prudent thing. It almost felt like she was getting a glimpse into a former life, and I think it was a great way to tie the two parts together. Was the first part all a dream? It's ambiguous.

It surprised me that, sad as it was, I actually preferred the angstier part. There were times where I had to put it down for awhile, but overall, it was more of a page-turner (again, perhaps because I knew there was a Part 2 ahead). There's nothing wrong with Part 2, in fact the entire book is very well written, it just progresses in a normal way as they work out their issues. Elizabeth does find her feelings for him along the way, but I would've liked to see more past that point. It may not be completely fair but I guess after all the turmoil of Part 1, my heart wanted Darcy and Elizabeth's relationship to progress more quickly, more passionately, more romantically, as if they were making up for lost time which, of course, they aren't. My mind knows that they had to start from scratch but my heart is a little greedy sometimes.

This is a story I would read again and I definitely look forward to more from this author.

Sheila Majczan says

4.5 stars for me. "How would you describe the plot of this book?" There are 2 different books within: one with lots of twists & surprises and the other fairly predictable. I have read none of Mr. Odom's books before. This kindle version was a loan.

This is a very difficult review to write. I was warned, and if you read the longer reviews you read the same types of warnings, (even from male reviewers) that you need a box of tissues handy. I also found that there were spoilers in many of the reviews and in thinking of how to word mine, I understand why. I/We want you to read this book, but how do we get you into both "books" without a "carrot". The first book is like no other JAFF variation I have read....and I have read over 200. Doom and Gloom galore! Surprise after surprise and I am not talking about gift-wrapped-with-a-pretty-bow surprises. What's the saying?...Oh, If anything can go wrong....(Murphy's Law)

Two things were superlative: the quotes by various persons of renown at the beginning of each chapter along with the setting. I often wonder how an author finds such intuitive, such apropos poetry. Is he one who has memorized portions read? Or does he spend hours referencing and cross-referencing passages? Hats off in either situation. The second thing is the Q&A at the end. This part is something I would say, "Please, don't skip this." I finished reading the book/books in one day but left that part for this morning as I wanted a clear head. One bite of information that I gleaned is that this man is an engineer, as is another JAFF author I recommend, Stanley Hurd. I am in awe that these men write such romantic novels in a departure from the

world they inhabited in their professional lives.

Now, back to the story. I agree with several of the reviewers (and I read all the longer reviews) that the second book could have had more time, more pages to give us better resolve to Elizabeth's path in understanding Darcy's character and in falling in love with him. Yes, everyone keeps telling her that her impressions are in opposition to what she thinks and feels about him but we barely get, "I like you" before the epilogue. Here, Charlotte and Jane, both step up in making Elizabeth look at her options and THE CONSEQUENCES. I needed by this time in the book, after all the tears and sadness of the first book, some sexual chemistry, some admiration, some "light-bulb turning on" when her feelings are the opposite of how she felt at the time of the proposal, i.e., "I was in the middle of it before I knew I had begun."

And going back to the first book, I have to reiterate, this book is very powerful. It breaks the contract we assume JAFF authors have with their readers, the HEA. Without the second book, I would say, "No, No, No". The Sleeper Awakes reminded me of an episode on the TV show Dallas (debuted in 1978), in that a whole season got this treatment. Breathe deeply, clear your eyes - there is hope on the horizon.

Yes, in exploring the world of JAFF, this is another one I would highly recommend you read. This approach is something I have not read, but which has to have lingered on the edge of our consciences when in reading canon we hear Mrs. Bennet exclaim about being thrown into the hedgerows when Mr. Bennet dies.

Mirta Ines Trupp says

I understand the brilliance of the concept, but the first section is a difficult read. I have to rate this 3.5 stars, rounded up to 4 only because of the emotional impact I suffered!

Erika says

I loved this book! I know if you have read other of my reviews I've said that many times, and I usually mean it, but this but has such a grip on me. I remember reading this from an internet JAFF site and loving it then with such emotion as well. I always cry towards the end on Book 1 every time I've read a version of it!! C.P. Odom has such a gift at writing and capturing the attention and imagination of the reader that you just can't help but be glued to his work!! I read this book all yesterday, there was never many minutes between when I wasn't reading it throughout the day. This book easily ranks in my top 10 JAFF books and I would rate this higher than 5/5 star if I could. Anyone and everyone could read and enjoy this book, though I know that most all Janeites will love this book. Reading the Q&A at the end was most enjoyable for the explanations to questions I didn't know I had. Thank you C.P. Odom for this book and look forward to more from you!!

Ceri says

*Review first posted at **Babblings of a Bookworm**: <http://babblingsofabookworm.blogspot...>*

This is a variation on Pride and Prejudice in two books – the first explores a less happy outcome, which Elizabeth dreams prior to Darcy's proposal at Hunsford, and the second book looks at what could have happened if she'd prudently accepted his proposal and so doesn't give him the vehement response that

changed his behaviour.

To make sense of this book I think it's important to appreciate something of the state of affairs in the Bennet finances – Mr Bennet's estate was entailed on Mr Collins. In the event of his death pretty much everything Mr Bennet owned would revert to Collins, and he could evict the Bennet ladies. Mrs Bennet would have a minuscule income and would probably have to rely on family such as the Gardiners and the Phillips family to support her and her daughters. The girls could potentially find genteel work but their options were very limited. Jane, Elizabeth and possibly Mary could perhaps have found jobs as governesses, but the younger girls had a poorer education. Ladies could become a paid companion (such as Mrs Jenkins, Anne de Bourgh's companion) but I think these tended to be widows rather than maidens.

The only way to secure the future of the family after Mr Bennet's death is for his daughters to marry, preferably all of them, but if just one of them married a man who was rich it would secure the future of all the sisters. Yet, in *Pride and Prejudice* Elizabeth spurns not one, but two advantageous proposals. A modern reader can understand and sympathise as to why she does this – she has no respect for Collins and actively dislikes Darcy, but I wonder what somebody reading *Pride and Prejudice* when it was first published would have thought. Would they have thought Elizabeth was selfish to have put her own happiness ahead of her family's security? When Elizabeth tells Jane that she has rejected Darcy's proposal she asks Jane "You do not blame me, however, for refusing him?" so Elizabeth is certainly aware of the difference it could have made. She doesn't seem to feel the same about Collins' proposal, but that was nowhere near as good a match.

In Book One, C P Odom explores what could have been the consequences of Elizabeth turning down Darcy's proposal if she'd never met him at Pemberley. Here, Elizabeth gives the scathing refusal that she gives in canon, and events follow the path of *Pride and Prejudice* until Elizabeth and the Gardiners go to visit Pemberley. Darcy's horse gets a stone stuck in his hoof, meaning that Darcy arrives later to Pemberley than in *Pride and Prejudice*, so he doesn't see Elizabeth. This in turn means that there is no follow up visit to Pemberley, and obviously when Elizabeth gets the letter telling her that Lydia has eloped Darcy is not there to tell, meaning that Lydia is not found in time to prevent lasting damage being done to her sisters' reputation, leading to them being shunned by Hertfordshire society. This is how bad things get, look at this quote from poor Jane:

"I cannot deceive myself any longer that everyone is good – I have become aware there is indeed evil in the world."

The story follows on for the next forty or so years, showing what Elizabeth's life could have become. Obviously, this is not the happiest of stories, but I thought it was an interesting exercise in exploring what could have been. Much of the book deals with happenings that are in *Pride and Prejudice* anyway, so it doesn't really start feeling sad until they miss each other at Pemberley. I felt it wasn't too far-fetched or unkind, although the fate of the Bennets could have been happier. I thought Elizabeth faced adversity courageously and with good humour.

Book Two sees Elizabeth waking from her dream. She doesn't remember the details, only a vague recollection of some things, but she knows it was a bad dream. Charlotte Collins suspects that Mr Darcy is interested in Elizabeth, and, being a prudent person, she sees all the advantages of it. She works on Lizzy to extract a promise that if he were to propose that Lizzy won't dismiss it out of hand. She has some interesting arguments in regard to Darcy's behaviour in Hertfordshire, and his likely reasoning for interfering with Jane and Bingley. Charlotte is so persuasive that when Darcy proposes to Elizabeth, although he makes offensive comments regarding her family, she manages to bite back the words of her retort and asks for time to consider.

When she does, she can't help but think of all the financial advantages her family would receive from the marriage – lifetime security for her mother and her four sisters, and the probability that Jane and Bingley will

cross paths again, thus securing the happiness of Elizabeth's most beloved sister. Lizzy wryly tells Charlotte "It is truly distressing to have such sensible arguments occur to me when I want to ignore them".

The thing that swings the balance towards accepting Darcy is her vague recollection of the dream, that it could be a terrible mistake to reject him. Elizabeth has also begun to wonder whether she's judged his character correctly; she's obviously massively misjudged his feelings towards her at the very least. After considering, Elizabeth decides to act prudently and accept the proposal, politely making it clear that since she is only just aware of his interest she cannot pretend to have the same level of feelings for him that he's expressed to her.

At first, I wasn't very keen on this calculating portrayal of Lizzy who sees Darcy as a bit of an improvement project:

"Perhaps she, in time, could soften the harshness of his pride and arrogance. It would need slow, careful work; his character had been formed over the years, and modifications could not be accomplished overnight. In the meantime, it was essential she not damage his regard for her, for his affection would be the motivation to induce him to change his manner, if such were actually possible."

In this view I am joined by Jane, who calls Lizzy out on her obstinate view of Mr Darcy as an unpleasant man:

"I would only ask you respond to him in a more kindly and less calculating fashion than was indicated in your letter."

Go Jane! From Jane Bennet, this is the equivalent of what would be strong disapprobation from anybody else. Luckily, Lizzy makes a conscious effort to improve her attitude, and finds many good sides to Darcy that she never suspected. The Gardiners love him, she finds that he has a sense of humour, and she cannot fail to appreciate his loving behaviour toward his sister.

I felt a bit sorry for Darcy in this book (as opposed to the first book where I felt very sorry for them both!) because he realises that Lizzy has accepted him solely for prudent motives, and that she finds him lacking. He has a number of moments when he realises times when he has not done himself justice in her eyes, such as in his behaviour in Hertfordshire, and when he finally hears the lies that Wickham has told about him he then finds out that Lizzy believed him capable of such behaviour. I am pleased to report that there is a lovely happy ending to this book, but it was a little sudden. I felt the book could have done with a few chapters after they finally had equal feelings so I could revel in it a bit. I think the reader deserved to wallow a bit in happiness at the end of this book to balance out the book overall.

One thing I particularly appreciated about this book was the care taken with the language, as often these books have language that doesn't fit the setting. There were very few instances throughout the book that jumped out at me, which was refreshing, although Mr Bennet says at one point that Lydia won't get a cent from him, this was a rare lapse! Since I knew it had quite a sad first book I started it when I had time to read right through the first half and that approach worked well for me! On the whole, I really enjoyed this book, and I'd recommend it. I will only add, for the benefit of those who prefer to avoid them, that there are no sex scenes.

Nicole says

This was superbly written, but the total devastation of the *Book 1* variation far outweighed the enjoyment of the brighter variation in *Book 2*. I could not get past that feeling. Not sure how I could actually see the words to be able read through the sobbing...

I am just sad now. So the rating is probably slightly less than deserved at **3.5 Stars**.

Meredith (Austen-esque Reviews) says

TYPE OF AUSTENESQUE NOVEL: Two variations (approximately 120-140 pages each) that explore two different possible outcomes of Darcy's proposal at Hunsford Parsonage

TIME FRAME: The first variation (The Road Not Taken) begins the day of Darcy's proposal and continues forty-two years into the future. The second variation (The Sleeper Wakes) begins early in the day of Darcy's proposal and continues seven months into the future.

MAIN CHARACTERS: Elizabeth, Mr. Darcy, Jane Bennet, Lydia Bennet, Charlotte Collins, and the whole gang...

SYNOPSIS: The Road Not Taken explores the questions: What if the coincidental meeting at Pemberley never took place? What if Darcy didn't learn about Lydia's scandalous elopement until it was too late? The Sleeper Wakes explores the questions: What if Charlotte addressed her concerns and suppositions more forcefully with Elizabeth? What if Elizabeth realized ahead of time the negative consequences her refusal of Mr. Darcy might have on her family and more specifically her sister?

WHAT I LOVED:

The Little Touches: I loved how the two variations were plausibly and cleverly connected to each other by a thread. I'm always a fan of when authors begin each chapter with an epigraph and/or date. I admire the time, thought, and work it takes into finding apropos quotes and I appreciate having a definite timeline or being able to know the passage of time. Loved the Q&A at the end of the book; very informative and thorough.

Writing Style: In both variations, readers can expect to spend a lot of time in Darcy's and Elizabeth's heads. And by his emotive and expressive writing, I can tell that Mr. Odom spent a lot of time in their heads as well. Rather than tell what the characters were thinking, Mr. Odom showed it. I loved the myriad of emotions I felt when reading this novel: despair, hurt, shock, sorrow, apprehension, relief, and happiness, to name a few. :)

Exploring the Consequences: Loved that this book was 2-in-1! The Road Not Taken, while completely heart-wrenching (and maybe a tad more depressing than it needed to be) sort of reminded me of an Austen-esque version of *It's A Wonderful Life* – we got to see what Elizabeth's life would have been like if she never encountered Darcy again after rejecting him. I must add how much I loved Darcy in this variation. We thought he was noble, protective, and a man violently in love before...but, oh my, is he ever more so during these unfortunate events! I loved how *The Sleeper Wakes* explored Elizabeth's feelings and ideals. Elizabeth goes against her natural grain in this one and wrestles between Charlotte's practical and prudent beliefs and her own partial and prejudiced ones. Loved seeing Elizabeth ponder over Mr. Darcy and his proposal, rather than lash out with barely-repressed anger.

WHAT I WASN'T TOO FOND OF:

Ending on a Wickham Note: Even though I love me some angst, I was much more in love with the second variation of this piece. I loved everything about it up until the end, where Wickham and his sordid past started to take up too much valuable Darcy and Elizabeth page time! ;) Perhaps I'd be okay with Wickham's twenty-page hijack if there were another twenty pages following his interruption showing more of Elizabeth's change of heart rather than jumping to the epilogue six months later. (The dastardly Wickham strikes again!)

CONCLUSION:

While there are many Pride and Prejudice variations out there that explore similar scenarios to the two presented in this novel, I really enjoyed the thoughtful way these variations were constructed and intertwined. Consequences is emotionally turbulent and inherently reflective, so be ready to have your heart and mind engaged and occupied!

Candy says

Consequences is a unique Pride and Prejudice retelling broken down into two sections. The first gives you a chance to see what could happen if Elizabeth rejected Darcy at the parsonage in Hunsford, and never saw him again at Pemberley. How devastating to her family that could be. The second shows what could happen if she accepted him right then, before all her prejudices are corrected.

I found the first book hard to read. It's just so sad. The series of events set off by that refusal is tragic. But as unpleasant as it is, it's interesting to see how badly things could have turned out; the harsh realities of life. And I liked that, despite everything, Lizzy stays strong.

As for the second half, I would have liked to see Darcy and Elizabeth spend a little more time together while Elizabeth is learning who Mr. Darcy really is. Her opinion of him changes by observing him and Georgiana, since Darcy never writes that letter to clear his name of all the injustices she accused him of.

I loved how insightful Charlotte is! In this story, she puts more of an effort into making Elizabeth listen to reason. Not only does she tell Elizabeth of her suspicion that Darcy might be in love with her, and encourage Elizabeth to say yes should he propose to her. Reminding her of how dire it would be for her and her family if her father should die. She also reminds her how being with Darcy would most likely bring Jane and Bingley together again. And maybe she shouldn't believe everything Wickham says.

The ending of Consequences definitely gave me the warm fuzzies! I would recommend for any Pride and Prejudice fan! Just push through that first section! ;)

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the publisher for my honest review.

victoria says

Best Pride and Prejudice Variation

Although it pained me to read through the first part, I did appreciate it. We often forget how tragic it may have been had the chance encounter at Pemberley had never happened. I loved the second variation. C.P. Odom did not lose the essence of the characters at all.

Talia says

I know that I am coming late to the book and am sure everyone here has read it. I avoided it due to the promised tragic storyline. I did like the book very much but was rather disappointed that Jane and Elizabeth fell into such friendly and comfortable circumstances in the tragic storyline.

Anna says

Consequences is a thought-provoking retelling of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, with two novellas joined together into a novel about the consequences of missed opportunities and how doing just one thing differently can turn everything around. The first part imagines how Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy's lives would have played out had she rejected his proposal at Hunsford and then missed running into him later on when she tours Pemberley with her Aunt and Uncle Gardiner. The second part has Elizabeth, with the help of her best friend, Charlotte, taking a more practical approach to Mr. Darcy's first proposal, accepting it as a means of saving her family in the event of her father's death despite her fears of being trapped in an unhappy marriage.

I will not divulge any more of the plot because this is a novel that should be experienced the way I experienced it, not knowing how either journey would play out and going through a roller-coaster of emotions. I even teared up at one point and had to explain to my husband why I was so sad. I couldn't believe an Austen-inspired novel made me cry, but that's what I loved so much about it. Odom's tale felt almost too real at times, as some decisions lead people on a rocky path lined with tragedy, and a bittersweet ending is the most that can be hoped for. But there also were times when I sighed with relief and cheered on the characters (scenes involving Mr. Darcy and Mr. Collins and Mr. Darcy and Lady Catherine immediately come to mind).

Odom's take on *Pride and Prejudice* is thoughtful, emphasizes the complexity of the novel and the many different outcomes that could have occurred, and prompts readers to think about the characters' motivations, decisions, and ultimate fates in the context of Austen's time. Having read a number of *Pride and Prejudice* retellings, I admire Odom's courage in taking the characters on at least one journey that many Austen fans might find difficult to imagine for their beloved characters. For readers who wonder about the proliferation of Austen fiction these days, *Consequences* really drives home the point that one seemingly small change in the plot can have a dramatic impact on the outcome of the story and highlights why many people are fascinated by all the different ways it could have been told.

Review posted on [Diary of an Eccentric](#)

I received a free copy of this book for review.

Jeffrey says

This book was unique in this genre' in multiple ways: It is a "what-if" re-imagining of *Pride and Prejudice* beginning with Elizabeth Bennet's considering Fitzwilliam Darcy's initial marriage proposal; it is written by a man which sets it apart; it is really two novellas combined into a single work.

The first novella explores the 'consequences' of Miss Bennet's refusal of Mr. Darcy's marriage proposal at Hunsford and draws this out in a worst-case-scenario over their lifetimes. To say it is unrelentingly sad and tragic is an understatement. Just when the reader thinks it cannot get any worse, it does. The author explores the feelings, emotions, and reflections with great emotional depth and pathos. The unfulfilled lives of the principals are drawn out in exquisitely painful detail. I had a difficult time keeping my own emotions in check so ladies, get a box of Kleenex and press on!

The second novella is the glorious exact reverse of the initial one with Miss Bennet actually accepting Mr. Darcy's bungled marriage proposal and the repercussions that trickle down from that momentous decision on the lovers, their families, friends, and acquaintances.

If you, dear reader, can make it through the initial and disastrous novella without going to pieces you will be fully rewarded with the results of the second novella!

The only reason I did not rate this work five stars was the extended length of the first novella and the curtailed length of the second one. I would have liked to have read further into the future on the second novella to see what transpired in the lives of Elizabeth and Fitzwilliam. However, this is just my personal preference but reading the author's beautiful "what if" rendition of Miss Bennet's acceptance of Mr. Darcy's initial marriage proposal is worth the misery of slogging through the first novella's consequences.

There are so few male authors plying the rich soil of this genre' that I wanted to give C. P. Odom a huge "attaboy" from another incurable romantic.

Leslie says

WOW!!! This book is completely amazing. It is the singularly most unique Pride and Prejudice 'What if' I have read!

The book examines how seemingly tiny events can have profound impact upon the time that follows or the consequences of your decisions. The author weaves two separate outcomes into one book. Both are imaginative and unique.

What if: Lizzy didn't meet Mr. Darcy at Pemberley because his horse came up lame, so his expertise wasn't available to find Lydia, and Lydia was never recovered? it's not good and conversely what if Charlotte persuaded Lizzy to carefully consider Mr. Darcy's proposal in Kent so instead of her fiery spiteful reply she begs for time to consider and weighs his words.

This book is compelling and clean and insightful. I loved it

Kim says

Life is a series of calculations, steps and decisions that make up all of our experiences. What would happen if we had the ability to see how certain decisions affected the rest of our lives? Would we willingly change our fate and the fates of others or would we follow our instincts? C.P. Odom explores these questions in his latest Pride and Prejudice variation, Consequences.

We often see the consequences of Elizabeth Bennet's choices in a different light via Pride and Prejudice retellings. In Consequences we find her rejecting Mr. Darcy's first proposal at the Hunsford Parsonage, only to set forth a series of events she could not possibly have imagined. This fateful decision affects not only her

own path, but the lives and livelihood of her entire family, with shocking final results. Of course, Elizabeth could not possibly have known that one single decision could have such a lasting impact on her life; but would reflecting on the potential outcome change her decision? C.P. Odom shows us how one single point in the seemingly endless parade of decisions in one's life can have such a visceral impact on the paths we travel.

Every so often a book will come along that has the ability to take us on a wild emotional ride. Consequences is just such a book. I'm still reeling from the extreme emotions that this book was able to incite within me. There were times that the writing was so moving that I had to put the book down and just reflect for a bit. Odom is certainly a person who understands the depths of human condition. The inner musings that Elizabeth and Darcy experience throughout the book are extremely reflective, and in my opinion certainly resemble the inner turmoil they must have felt in Austen's original work. There were times that the writing got a bit depressing (the first half of the book in particular), but I was pleased to see the events turn around enough to lift my spirits in the end.

Consequences may very well be one of the most unique variations on Pride and Prejudice that I've ever read. It's difficult to write about why the book is unique without giving away what makes it so special. So instead of ruining it let's just say – the beginning of Part II of the book will absolutely surprise, astound, and shock you.

It's also refreshing to see Elizabeth and Darcy's story written through a male author's perspective. Prior to reading this, I'd only ever read one other male JAFF (Jane Austen Fan Fiction) author's work by Jack Caldwell. I think that in most retellings/variations/what-ifs I've read, the majority of the blame for the multiple misunderstandings between Elizabeth and Darcy is placed on Darcy. And while I agree that he is at fault for his haughty behavior, I also know Elizabeth is just as responsible for misjudging him. Odom writes the inner thoughts of Darcy and Elizabeth very self-reflectively. They both realize the errors of their previous actions and take pains to make amends. Moving, deep, and thought-provoking, Consequences is a unique reading experience you're really going to want to go on and on.

Kimberly (Reflections of a Book Addict)

Originally Posted: <http://austenprose.com/2014/02/10/con...>

Tamara says

I really do not know how to write this review without giving anything away! Where do I begin? Okay maybe I should start by confessing I have been more naive than Lydia Bennet when it came to reading this book! Reading an excerpt of the book I thought I knew what this book was about, how wrong was I. While not intending to read this book just yet, a few reviews had me intrigued, one in particular from Austenprose said "There were times that the writing was so moving that I had to put the book down and just reflect for a bit! - Kimberly Denny-Ryder

So while sitting in the car during my son's football practice, I began....

At first the story was mostly a recount of parts of Pride and Prejudice using much of Austen's original prose and I felt I was just going through the motions (although I did acknowledge that this was probably for the benefit of people who are not familiar with Austen's work). But looking back now I see I was actually being led up the garden path, into a false sense of security. When I reached the excerpt I had read previously, I thought here we go! Thinking I knew exactly where I was going. Ha well that must be the biggest understatement of the year, because I never could have imagined the emotional roller coaster I embarked on

from that moment in the car until five am the following morning!

"So severe was the shock on his first sight of Miss Bennet's attractive form and her expressive face that he almost imagined himself struck by lightning." - P.O.Odom

Five in the morning and at the midway point in the book my emotions were so spent and at breaking point that I cried myself to sleep. I am glad I had time to sleep on it because if I had not I would have been in a melancholy mood the whole day. My temper I would not have been able to vouch for (partly due to lack of sleep, but also because Mr Collins and Lady Catherine had left me incensed beyond belief). Please understand that I have no regrets, I just did not see the rug being pulled from under my feet (hence the naive Lydia comment from earlier).

Of course finishing the book then took precedent over all else and by the next evening I had accomplished just that and am pleased to say it was with a smile.

"She closed her eyes in pain, as she comprehended the unwelcome truth that her angry and absolute rejection of Mr. Darcy unwittingly made it a certainty Mr. Bingley and Jane would forever remain separated." - P.O.Odom

This book is pure genius, so deep in retrospection that I will never look at regret in the same light again. The start of every chapter begins with a quote which leaves you deep in thought, which is a delightful extra indeed! I fear or should I say I know, I have told you nothing of the book. So hear it is in a nutshell P.O Odom has given us a double dose of JAFF 'what if' scenarios whilst performing an autopsy on P&P, the consequences of one's actions, of ignorance and of presumption. The price of fear, gullibility and the influence of societies norms and values. They are laid bare in this book. Can we really rely on chance and good fortune? What if Elizabeth missed Darcy by five minutes at Pemberley, what would be the consequences? Well you will have to find out for yourself, as I highly recommend you go get this book!!!!

"Elizabeth glared furiously at Darcy. "Humour, Mr. Darcy? You have developed a sense of humour and have decided to display it during soup? I must insist on adequate warning next time, sir!" -P.O.Odom

Originally posted on My Kids led Me Back to Pride & Prejudice
