



Mr. Darcy Came to Dinner

Jack Caldwell

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In this humorous re-imagining of Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice*, Elizabeth Bennet's pet cat causes an unfortunate accident to befall the haughty Mr. Darcy, forcing the injured gentleman to reluctantly take up residence at Longbourn-- more specifically, in the parlor of Longbourn!

In pain, forbidden to leave by his doctors, Mr. Darcy cannot escape the ridiculous antics of the Bennet clan.

And when Georgiana Darcy, Colonel Fitzwilliam, and Lady Catherine de Bourgh arrive to visit the invalid, chaos, confusion, and hilarity ensue!

Inspired by the classics of comedy, author Jack Caldwell transforms Austen's beloved novel into a tour de force of farce. The Regency will never be the same!

Mr. Darcy Came to Dinner Details

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Author : Jack Caldwell

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From Reader Review Mr. Darcy Came to Dinner for online ebook

Barb says

This is one of my most favorite fan fiction variations of Pride and Prejudice. A 1942 film entitled *The Man Who Came to Dinner* starring Bette Davis and Monty Woolley is one of my all time favorite films, and it obviously is the inspiration for this variation.

In the film, a very famous NY theater critic is in town to give a talk to a ladies group, has dinner with the Stanley family, whom he disdains, slips on ice outside of the house and breaks his hip. He and his entourage take over the house indefinitely causing all kinds of chaos. The critic, Sheridan Whiteside, is crabby, nasty and manipulative, and becomes a little tyrant, but we soon discover he has a soft heart underneath it all. Take this, replace the household with the Bennets and the unwanted house guest with Mr. Darcy and you have Mr. Darcy Came to Dinner.

Darcy falls off his horse when he and the horse startle Miss Elizabeth Bennet and the family cat, Cassandra outside Longbourn prior to a dinner party. The horse is startled, in turn, by the cat, and Mr. Darcy is thrown. He has broken a leg and both the apothecary and Mr. Darcy's personal physician believe his leg and life would be threatened were he to be moved. His valet sets up the Bennet parlor as Mr. Darcy's bedroom.

Mr. Bennet is highly amused and sits back to take in the action, leaving an un-amused Mr. Darcy to take charge in place of the ineffective master. This sets up an antagonism between the two men. Of course, we know Elizabeth dislikes Mr. Darcy, but he finds out only through an overheard conversation. However, Darcy is kind to the servants, takes Elizabeth's side in defending against Mr. Collins advances, arranges to have Mr. Bennet take credit for alerting the community to Mr. Wickham's faults, etc. thus causing Elizabeth to begin to reevaluate her feelings about the man.

In the meantime, Darcy, believing he needs to win Elizabeth's heart, begins to get to know the rest of the family. He finds ways to help out Mary with her music, Kitty with her drawing and Lydia with her heart's desire. Mrs. Bennet becomes charmed and sets out to feed him all of his favorites, to Mr. Bennet's consternation. Colonel Fitzwilliam chides him for his need to "fix the world" and his manipulative ways. But all in the family are beginning to see the warm, sweet and kind man behind the mask. Will Elizabeth?

I love so many aspects of this story. Darcy is seriously a kind man. As he speaks to each sister, he listens to them and appreciates what each needs to develop their own accomplishments. He encourages them and helps them to improve themselves and their confidence. Georgiana joins him and becomes just one of the sisters. We see the best of each family member being brought out through their interactions with the Darcys. The author takes the words of Austen and has them reutilized by other characters, making for some very amusing conversations. Colonel Fitzwilliam can't help himself from jumping into the world fixing process himself. There is just such a lot here to amuse the reader of JAFF. And, I think, if you were familiar with the film, there is just that extra little twist of fun as you see the similarities. Finally, the scenes of Darcy with the enamored cat Cassandra are just too cute for words. We all know the purring cat is the best judge.

I have read the book several times, but this last time I listened to the audio version. I will leave my rating of 5 stars for the book, but there are some issues with the reader for the audio version. First off, there are several mispronounced words that drive me crazy. De Bourgh is not pronounced De Burr, and this starts to drive me mad. Then, reading the book with an English accent, but then not pronouncing valet, lieutenant, phaeton, etc. with an English pronunciation sounds very grating to my ears. However, the character voices, and the ability to tell the story are excellent.

I love this variation and I know I will go back and read it over and over. If you have a chance, see the movie *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. It just adds to the fun. Highly, highly recommended. I love Jack Caldwell's writing and humor.

Sophie says

This is one of the funniest books I have read in a long time! If you want a book which will make you laugh, read this!

Warning: This book is not to be taken seriously, hence this is a *Pride and Prejudice* farce, not a variation.

To start off, Mr Darcy on laudanum is the funniest thing: his treatment of Mr Collins and also Lady Catherine de Bourgh who turns up is wonderful.

You know in situations with Mr Collins and Lady Catherine there are times when you know exactly what characters are thinking but they just can't say it, however much you want them to? Well, Darcy on laudanum does say the things he is thinking! (As well as sings a rather interesting song for the ladies of Longbourn...)

It was extremely clever with conversations we know from the original slotted in here and there, often spoken by different people to different people and about a different subject!

Mr Darcy is so wonderful in this version. He is the knight in shining armour (even though he did fall off his horse) and eventually, one by one, he makes all the Bennet ladies fall under his spell. Seeing Mr Darcy's relationships with all the different members of the household change was really interesting - Mr Bennet in particular - it was a great way for Lizzy and the reader to be shown Darcy's true character, through his actions towards others.

Ok so I would have liked more time between Darcy and Lizzy, but that isn't really the focus of this story as it is through his actions with the rest of her household that Lizzy too falls under his spell (but there are some sweet moments (and funny moments!) between them.)

The relationships between the Bennet sisters themselves and how they change through the story was also nice to see. I really enjoyed the further exploration of the characters of Mary, Kitty and Lydia, Mary and Kitty in particular who are very untouched in the original.

The ending few chapters were a lot of fun! They show what happens to all the characters in the future (which I always like to read about) - a few characters from her other novels make some very interesting appearances! I particularly liked Col. Fitzwilliam's and Charlotte Lucas' fate! (But I won't give it away!)

As humour is the main objective of this *Pride and Prejudice* farce, a final epilogue with Mr Wickham and Mr Collins really finishes the book with a bang - it was brilliantly funny!

This is a wonderfully clever, witty and laugh-out-loud book! I highly recommend it to anyone who wants a good laugh - I was laughing from start to finish!

Charlene says

"Mr Darcy came to dinner" is posted in a couple of JAFF sites and is a wonderful story written By Jack Caldwell. Mr Caldwell has published 2 other books "Pemberley Ranch" and more recently "The Three Colonel's" I certainly hope he has this story published because I think this story was wonderful,diverting and a definite must read for all the Jane Austen fans. Well done Jack!! :)

In this P&P alternative it starts out shortly after Jane and Lizzy leave Netherfield, when Jane is much better from her trifling cold. But unlike the original P&P, Mrs Bennet has envite the occupants from Netherfield to dinner and as we know that Mr Darcy has an awful lot on his mind he decides to take a ride on his horse before going to Longbourn. He is very concerned over his thoughts of a certain lady anyway he soon loses track of time and realises that he may be late for the dinner. Racing his horse so he can get to Longbourn in time he does not realise that the object of his debate is outside and holding onto the pet cat. As he rounds the corner the cat jumps out of Elizabeth's arms and hisses and spat at Darcy and the horse. Well, as you can imagine the horse rears and Darcy falls off and injuring himself. The occupants of Netherfield arrive by carriage and with the Bennets help to secure Mr Darcy in the house,in the front parlor, until the local apothecary can arrive. Well Mr Darcy is hurt bad enough that even his own physcian who comes and concurs that he must not be moved. That he is to stay at Longbourn for one month and cannot be moved.

Well the story takes off from there and there is definitely some comical scenes and a lot of misunderstanding and the friction between Darcy and the Bennets is wonderful done. Characters were true to Jane Austen's and this is now one of my favorite SS reads. The book is only about 160pages. Definiteley worth reading! Very entertaining 5 STARS plus

Talia says

This is one of my favorite P & P books. The writing is fantastic. Mr Caldwell has a gift. The writing is at a much higher caliber than the usual P & P variations out there. I highly recommend this one.

Reread: I will keep reading this one over and over and will be delighted every time. I love Lydia in this one. The whole family is great.

Katherine says

This is an enjoyable twist for any Pride and Prejudice fan! In this version Mrs Bennet invites Bingley and his friend Darcy following Janes recovery at Netherfield, hence the ball never occurs. Mr Darcy for a ride to collect his thoughts about Elizabeth when he realizes how late he is and gallops quickly, and his horse gets frightened by a cat that jumps out from Elizabeth which causes Darcy serious injury. It is determined that he has broken his leg and cannot be moved from Longbourn for 4 weeks and there the story takes off. Lizzy has a bad opinion of Darcy which he overhears one morning and thus begins his quest to prove her wrong. One by one all in Lizzys family take a liking to Darcy a Elizabeth be comes quite confused about her feelings. Collins is still part of this story and I loved hearing what Darcy would say to him next, Lol. Very diverting read!

Rita Deodato says

<https://frompemberleytomilton.wordpress...>

4.5 book for me :)

I had never read a book like Mr. Darcy Came to Dinner and that alone is a reason for me to praise Mr. Caldwell's writing.

In this story, a few days before the Netherfield ball, Mr. Darcy is out for a horse ride when he realises he is late for dinner at Longbourn, and rushes towards the house. At the same time, Elizabeth is outside the house with her cat Cassandra, and the small animal runs towards Mr. Darcy's horse that gets scared and throws his rider to the floor.

As a consequence, Mr. Darcy breaks a leg and is forced to remain at Longbourn for a few weeks until it is safe to travel.

The book is a farce, and its tone is completely different from the romances I usually read. The writing style is humorous and refreshing, perfect for readers who want a light hearted book to enjoy themselves with.

The first chapters are hilarious! I found myself laughing out loud several times with this book, particularly regarding Mr. Darcy's and Mrs. Bennet's behaviors and statements. Mr. Collins really got to my nerves, but I loved the way Mr. Darcy put him in his place!

Usually I do not like books where we do not see a lot of interactions between Darcy and Elizabeth, and this book doesn't have many, but I was already in the middle of the book when I noticed that! I think that means a lot:)

I always like to see Darcy and Elizabeth together but that is just not the tone of the book. I believe the author decided to go in a different direction, and use all characters from Pride and Prejudice to enrich Mr. Darcy Came to Dinner. For me, this made the book much more appealing.

It was different and exciting to see Lydia defending Mr. Darcy to Elizabeth. It is not very common to see that happen, or to have everyone at the Longbourn household loving Mr. Darcy! It was curious to see him reaching to all their hearts in different ways. After hearing Elizabeth's opinion of him, Mr. Darcy did what she never bothered to do herself: he stopped for a moment, and actually paid attention to the Bennet sisters. This allowed him to see something in each one of them that was valuable, helped them develop that characteristic, and befriend them.

Georgiana's presence was also very interesting as not only she was essential to bring about the best of each Bennet sister, but also because their lively manners allowed her to overcome her insecurities.

Col. Fitzwilliam's choice of wife is definitely different, I never imagine that happen before this book, and cannot say I like it, but it was interesting. I actually saw that coming in the book, but I shall not give you any more tips:)

The epilogue also shows us another pair that is quite intriguing, but I won't go into much details because I don't want to spoil all the fun you can find in this book, and believe me, if you read it, you will find It, as this is probably the most funny and amusing P&P book I've ever read.

Misty says

This was light and silly (sometimes too silly) and fun and random (sometimes too random).

I may or may not review it for Austen in August.

Victoria says

This was a most enjoyable story! I'm so glad I purchased it! What happens when misfortune befalls Mr Darcy and he's forced to convalesce at Longbourn? This is much more than just a romance! I loved what unfolded between Darcy and the Bennet girls. I love that both Darcy and Elizabeth kept their faults! A must read for any JAFF lover.

Meredith (Austen-esque Reviews) says

TYPE OF AUSTENESQUE NOVEL: Pride and Prejudice Variation

TIME FRAME: A couple of days after Jane's and Elizabeth's stay at Netherfield

MAIN CHARACTERS: Elizabeth Bennet, Mr. Darcy, Jane Bennet, Mr. Bingley, Colonel Fitzwilliam, and all the usual suspects...

THE SYNOPSIS: Mr. Darcy is thrown from his horse by a near-collision with Elizabeth's errant cat, Cassandra, and breaks his leg. Unable to be transported, Mr. Darcy must spend the next 4-6 weeks convalescing in Longbourn's parlor. What will the Bennet's do with such an august and unpleasant guest under their roof?

WHAT I LOVED:

- A Mad-Cap Romp: The first couple chapters of this story are pure comedic genius! Such a hullabaloo! First Darcy is injured, then the Bingleys arrive for dinner and Caroline faints from the sight of blood. Darcy is given brandy and then later laudanum for the pain, and some interesting things happen as a result... Then not more than forty-eight hours later the Bennet household is besieged by Darcy's concerned relatives, including Mr. Collins's very esteemed patroness...Lady Catherine de Bourgh! Oh! The havoc! The humor! Very Heyer-like!

- Staying Close to Home: Lately I've been loving it when the bulk of the story takes place at Longbourn. I love seeing the bustling and boisterous Bennets about their business! It was a refreshing change to not travel into Kent, London, or Derbyshire and spend some quality time with all the Bennets in Hertfordshire! (I'm such a home-body, even with literature!)

- The Improving of the Bennets: Not only do I love spending more time with the Bennets, I love seeing them lose some of their foibles and flaws! Mr. Darcy and his relations seem to be a good influence on the Bennets. I especially loved witnessing how each sister had their own special relationship with Darcy and how he was able to form a connection with each one (even Lydia!) I also enjoyed seeing the development and improvement of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet.

- Mr. Darcy: I loved Mr. Caldwell's characterization of Mr. Darcy. It was interesting to see Mr. Darcy as an invalid – immobile and needing attending to. He is so honorable and responsible, such a contrast from the other male characters in this story! I enjoyed seeing him put Mr. Collins in his place (reminded me of the "Drop. Your. Sword." scene with Westley from The Princess Bride. *swoon*), show concern and care to all

the inhabitants of Longbourn, and defend his actions to the quick-to-judge and prejudiced Mr. Bennet and Elizabeth!

- The Epilogue: So clever! Don't want to give anything away, so I'll just say that a very interesting alliance is formed which left me laughing at how perfect fate can be sometimes!

WHAT I WASN'T TOO FOND OF:

- Not Enough Darcy and Lizzy: I would have loved to have seen more of Darcy and Elizabeth together. Especially near the end, which seemed to progress at a much faster pace. I was disappointed that we didn't get to witness a proposal scene, declaration, or wedding between Darcy and Elizabeth. I would have loved to see more of Darcy and Lizzy's courtship and private discourse, and maybe even a stolen kiss or two! (Sorry, the romantic in me just wasn't fully satisfied!)

CONCLUSION:

Playful, witty, and full of satire – Mr. Darcy Came to Dinner is excellent choice for readers looking for some light-hearted and clever fun! As always, I greatly enjoyed and appreciated Jack Caldwell's prose, creativity, and humor and found much to love and admire in this story. (Even though it is nearly devoid of soldiers and cowboys!) ;)

Nicole Barton Sasser says

Read Mr. Darcy Came to Dinner when it was previously posted online.

Charlene says

I loved this book the first time I read it on line and felt it was still delightful.

Mr Darcy is riding his horse preoccupied when he realises he's late for the dinner at Netherfield. He supposed to meet up with the Bingley party there. Anyway he's riding pel mel and as he rounds the corner Elizabeth's cat jumps from her arms scaring the horse which throws Mr Darcy. He ends up being carried to the Bennet's parlor. The apothecary arrives and determines that the leg is broken and that he must not be moved from the house. Mr Darcy's own physician is called for and he concurs. Well you can guess how all feel about this situation. It is most comical and very diverting. At one point Mr Darcy is enibriated and been given laudinum and the scene is hysterical. I will not give it away but just say it is not to be missed!

In true P&P fashion there is lots of misunderstandings by all and how Darcy handles this and what he does to get the good opinion of all the Bennet's is incredible. They all improve(including Lydia and Mrs. Bennet)upon futher acquaintance and the journey was well worth it.

Truely wonderfully diverting story which will make you laugh and sigh!

Sheila Majczan says

Having read all the reviews on Amazon, I find that the first reviewer reflects my viewpoint about this book best in her first two and last paragraphs. I actually liked how Mr. Caldwell used JA's lines by placing them in other characters' mouths. I found very satisfactory how he developed each character and the fate in store for them. I think my favorite was that reserved for Mr. Collins. The dialogue and thought processes fleshed out an understanding of each character. I am not sure I agreed with how Mrs. Bennet changed but in attributing each character a talent her "table" was nicely attributed to the lady by this author. This is the second male author (the other being Stanley Michael Hurd) I have read in this genre and in reading the reviews, it seems I have to read Jack Caldwell's *The Three Colonels* and maybe his *Pemberley Ranch* takes on P&P. In the past a "ranch" setting would have been off-putting but after reading Kara Louise's *Pemberley's Promise* find I must broaden my allowances for "what-if" settings. Not only did I find humor in this story, but also found my eyes tearing up at one point.

Elizabeth did have to work through her misconceptions and/or poor opinions about Darcy while he learned why she felt so about him and tried to change. Mr. Bennett put it nicely in admonishing Darcy that he could keep no secrets from Elizabeth even if they were about good deeds Darcy didn't want her to know about as he wanted her love not her gratitude. It was nice to read that Elizabeth gained a new understanding of each of her younger sisters and to also read how Darcy recognized each sister's special talent and then nurtured it.

As an aside, I, too find proofreading mistakes in many books of this genre and keep a pencil to mark such.

Lynda says

I really enjoyed this book.

J. W. Garrett says

Darcy off his horse or...Darcy on the couch in the parlor: 4.5 stars

Those readers that are expecting canon...stop right now...this book is in no way canon. This is a variation, a parody, a hilarious 'what if' take on P&P from the point just prior to the Netherfield Ball. From that point on we have a series of misadventures for all the characters of our beloved P&P.

Anything that could go wrong did. There were misunderstandings and mishaps galore, delightful new characters and brilliant and insightful changes with everything we know of our dear characters. We also have a Mr. Bennet that has had his peace and tranquility completely turned on its ear. Most excellent!!!!

Jack Caldwell has a unique talent of taking the P&P puzzle piece, vigorously shaking them up and rearranging them into a completely different picture. His male POV gave the reader an insight into the working mind of our male characters that we generally do not have. Jane Austen did not write the male perspective and her books are silent on what was going on in their heads. That's why readers are so anxious to read works where we spend time in the thoughts and feelings of our dear Mr. Darcy.

This story begins with Longbourn hosting a dinner for the Netherfield party that included Mr. Bingley, Miss Bingley, Mr. and Mrs. Hurst, and Mr. Darcy. He refused to ride in the carriage with Caroline and had hired a Meryton horse [undistinguished by any standards] due to his having left his stallion in London. He had ridden on ahead of them and encountered Elizabeth near the Longbourn drive with her cat Cassandra in her arms. If this were a movie...this is where it would switch to slow-motion. The startled cat jumps from

Elizabeth's arms, runs across the lane, startles the horse, throws Mr. Darcy [like Mr. Rochester] and leaves him on the ground dazed and injured. Elizabeth runs for help and as they are assisting him, the Bingley party arrived. Everyone quickly exited the carriage and it is at this point that we the reader learn a vital secret regarding Miss Bingley.

Darcy is taken into Longbourn and they send for the apothecary. Longbourn on a good day is total chaos. Longbourn with such an august personage injured and in the parlor, [thoughts of being sued dancing in the heads of the master and mistress of Longbourn], completely shattered the nerves of all present.

Note: I know this is picky but...if his leg was fractured or broken...I am thinking about his boot. Well, he would have been wearing his best and they had to remove it. Imagine attempting to pull that Hessian boot off a fractured or broken leg. Or...horror of all horrors, having to cut it off. There was no mention of it. I cannot imagine him riding a horse without wearing his riding boots. Perhaps that was part of the problem, he wasn't wearing boots. Just a thought.

Darcy was given brandy to help with his pain. When the apothecary arrived, he gave him laudanum. We quickly learn that our dear Mr. Darcy knows a few drinking songs and he proceeded to serenade the company at Longbourn with a few ditties that left them shocked and amused. OMG!!! I have never seen Darcy portrayed in this manner. He was hilarious. All pretenses are gone. It is as though the outer layers he has had drilled and instilled in him have been stripped away. What we have left is a hilarious man who, it appears, loves to sing and can enjoy life.

The tone of the book changes as life within Longbourn changes. Darcy cannot be moved [for a month] for fear of his health and possibly losing his leg. The parlor is then refurbished in to a sickroom and daily life attempts to resume at Longbourn.

It is a natural consequence or human nature to want to portray a positive outward appearance to the daily world. But who and what are we when we are behind closed doors? Darcy has the unique privilege of seeing the Bennet family in a new light. He now sits in the nucleus of the Bennet household and watches as the Bennet world spins around him. He sees the servants, Mrs. Bennet and her nerves, Mr. Bennet's indolence, insolence, and attitude toward him, disrespect toward his wife, ignoring or worse laughing at, and not checking the silly outrageous actions of the younger daughters and their antics. He watched it all through a drug induced haze.

Mr. Collins was of course on the scene with his eye cast first on Jane and then on Elizabeth. This was a VERY different Collins. Keep your eye on him. In a drug haze Darcy roared at him for his ungentlemanly behavior. It was hilarious to watch the normally reserved and guarded Darcy rise in righteous indignation toward behavior that was unbecoming a man of the cloth. Way to go Darcy.

Our dear Colonel Fitzwilliam arrived with a distraught Georgiana after they received a blotted and scratchy express from Bingley. Their presence elicited a big influence on the Netherfield and Bennet households. It was wonderful watching Georgiana evolve in the presence of girls her own age.

When they first arrived Darcy tried to get his cousin to remove Georgiana immediately. He then informed him of the militia being in Meryton and that Wickham had taken a commission. Our Colonel was not best pleased. That set in motion a series of events that would clip the wings of a certain scoundrel.

After receiving an express from Collins, Lady Catherine soon descended during a rainstorm with Anne in tow. She was determined to remove Darcy from the polluted environment of Longbourn. She was completely indifferent to the fact Darcy was not to be moved and could endanger his leg. Her response was so Lady Catherine and so very shocking. We learn a bit regarding Anne and the physician that Lady C has managing her health. She soon exited the polluted environs of Hertfordshire with a righteous Darcy glaring at her as she left.

Every chapter is dedicated to a Bennet resident and Darcy's attempt to make himself practice conversing or interacting with people not in his sphere. It was delightful as he, one by one, won over the family members and soon they stood by his side in defense or defiance of any that would say anything against him. It was so cute, so creative as Darcy worked a magical transformation of one Bennet after another. I loved it. I loved how the slightest gesture made all the difference in their demeanor. Such a simple thing.

This; however, did not set well with the master of Longbourn. I've never seen Mr. Bennet portrayed in this manner. I had a hard time sketching his character. Elizabeth made a comment early on that sort of set the tone for me. On page 24 [kindle version] she said he was 'jealous of his peace of mind.' Darcy, from the start, had his number and Mr. B did not like it. Nor did he like the mirror that was thrust in his face so he had to face what he had become... what he had done or hadn't done for his family. It was a harsh reality and he had to come to terms with what he saw in the mirror.

This mirror view was experienced by several of our characters and their attitude adjustments were profound. Excellent Epilogue that will please and delight the reader. Caldwell left us with a shocking final scene that I could not believe. OMG!!! Brilliant and disgusting.

wosedwew says

Titles are important; I have them before I have books that belong to them. I have last chapters in my mind before I see first chapters, too. I usually begin with endings, with a sense of aftermath, of dust settling, of epilogue.

-- John Irving

Titles are Important: This one is a homage to a classic film!

Endings are Important: This story has the absolute BEST EPILOGUE ever! It's worth reading the book to get to the end (but the whole story is great).
