



Matter of Trust: The Shades of Pemberley

P.O. Dixon

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Fitzwilliam Darcy has a history of cleaning up after George Wickham—the person whom he despises more than anyone in the world. First, he acted to save his sister from the villain when he set out to elope with her while she was only fifteen. Not long thereafter, Darcy impetuously declared his intention to marry a charming young woman from Hertfordshire, whom he secretly admired, to save her from scandal and ruination at the hands of his nemesis.

Darcy hoped he had seen the last of Wickham. Then an aunt he never knew showed up on his doorstep, after three decades abroad, shrouded in mystery and armed with secrets threatening his family's legacy.

For reasons of her own, his aunt invites George Wickham into their lives. Wickham's reappearance sorely tests Darcy's relationships with his bride, his aunt, and his sister.

Knowing Wickham better than anyone, Darcy sets in place a trap that is certain to ensnare the scoundrel, thus revealing the man's true character to everyone.

MATTER OF TRUST is an engaging Pride and Prejudice “what-if” story with a hint of intrigue and a touch of romance!

Matter of Trust: The Shades of Pemberley Details

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Barb Dyck says

Hmmm...found myself saying, "Oh brother" many times while listening to this audiobook. I got tired of the evil Wickham and his repeated attempts to reinsert himself into the plot. But mostly I was not comfortable with Elizabeth and Darcy's relationship - where is the mutual admiration? why is Elizabeth just resigned to their life together? This, a result of making the characters marry very early in the plot, which would be OK, if there followed a chance to indulge in the 'getting to know one another better' phase. Instead the plot drives on painting Darcy as haughty beyond the ability to change. I actually didn't like him. Georgiana's character also did not click for me - naïve and defiant to the core apparently due to her brother's history of over-protectiveness. I don't buy it; she's supposed to be dedicated to him. Two stars are because I listened to it all anyway just to be immersed in the P&P world for a while longer...sad, I know. Well, of the five or so variations/sequels I've read I don't think I will allow this one to stick in my memory. I prefer Pamela Aidan's take on Darcy's character and may choose to leave it at that. Summary: Plot and characterization issues in this novel lead me to recommend you give it a pass. I'm 3/4 through and will give it a chance to redeem itself and update it I have changed my mind!

Mo says

November 29, 2012

I received a copy of this book courtesy of a GoodReads contest. My thanks to the author. I can't wait to read the book!

September 16, 2013

I was notified last week that I was once again a GoodReads winner (for a different book), and my eyes shifted guiltily toward my bookshelves. Sitting there was 'Matter of Trust: The Shades of Pemberley', which I received in the mail last November. I had started to read the book on 3 separate occasions, and each time I gave up in frustration.

As a child, I was always taught that if you receive a gift that you do not care for, you smile, thank the donor, put it away, and forget about it. But the implied deal with these GoodReads give-aways is "we send you a free book - you read and review it". So I girded my loins, and dug into the book for the 4th time... and remembered why I had such a hard time with it.

I did not recognize any of the characters in this book as being true to the Jane Austen novel. They bore little resemblance to the original characters in 'Pride and Prejudice', neither in their speech, motivations, nor actions. I did not feel like I was visiting with old friends; rather it felt like I should call the police because somebody was guilty of identity theft.

Sorry, but I cannot recommend this novel.

Mary Lou says

Very disjointed story, hard to follow the connections. Felt the author probably had more in her head that should have been written because I was "missing" something. Also ended very abruptly. I was reading along think Darcy and Elizabeth were starting to fix their issues and BAM! the end nothing more. SO many things seem unfinished to me and yet it was over. Have read other things by this author that I enjoyed but can't suggest this one.

Candice says

These characters were not true to the same Jane Austen characters. In no way was this true to P&P I had a very hard time finishing this.

Dianna Anderson says

I usually love P.O. Dixon variations, but this one went too quickly. Not that I read it too quickly but the plot flew by so quickly I found each chapter and subchapter wanting. At a few points I was actually laughing because the events of the book were so shallow of substance.

Vaarin says

A marriage of convenience follows after Darcy saves Elizabeth from a debacle with Mr Wickham. Although romance blossoms rather quickly, their mutual trust does not...

Loved the way their relationship developed over time, making Elizabeth aware of Darcy's character and Darcy appreciate Elizabeth.

Watching their love grow was a joy to read.

As Darcy has not had the humbling experience from Hunsford, he tries to change Elizabeth into a lady of the ton, not to mention he wants her separated from her family...

Darcy has some intriguing relatives of his own in the form of Lady Alexandra who is his father long lost sister. She has a deep dark secret though...

There are little angst but a lot of tension and suspense that make this book a page turner.

Heartily recommend this book!

I absolutely loved it!

Charlene says

Love P O Dixon's books. This P&P alternative gives Darcy a "suspect" long lost relative and it creates some good and bad problems. Loved the story line and the new characters. Our beloved characters are still what you would expect and Wickham does not disappoint as our villain. Well done and I heartily recommend this novel!!

Talia says

I listened to this on audiobook and liked it. E and D were really more like placating E and Lady C as D but it kept my mind busy while I worked.

Shannon says

3.5 Stars - I enjoyed the theme of family in this variation. I thought Darcy and Elizabeth were true to the original and I liked the new character Lady Alexander. The book did feel little too short and I was hoping for a little more in the end. Despite that I liked it and recommend the book to other JAFF lovers.

Leslie says

This is a Alternate P&P variation that requires you to be familiar with the original.

The story for ODC begins at the Netherfield ball and almost immediately Darcy & Lizzy are engaged, due to misbehavior by Wickham [Does anyone else read Wickham like Newman from Seinfeld?]

Before that we have a mysterious stranger arriving in England and Darcy & Col. Fitzwilliam discussing Darcy's father's deathbed confession that 'Wickham is your....(dun,dun,dun).

This Darcy is a real tool, he is imperious yet endless thwarted by everyone in his family. He speaks in decrees and demands total allegiance. His claims that "I am doing what is best for you" generally falls on deaf ears.

If I were Lizzy I would have packed up Georgiana and gone back to London.

The plot involving the mystery woman, Darcy's paternal aunt, is rather unsatisfying and the outcome with Wickham really makes little to no sense.

Note I purchased and read this book in February 2013. But when I saw it in another list I had no recollection.

Carol Perrin says

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Another great story by Pam Dixon starting from the day the Bennets walked into Meryton and met Mr. Wickham. At the Netherfield Ball, Wickham does not show up and when she has her dance with Darcy, their argument about Wickham causes Elizabeth to walk out on the terrace for some air. Wickham was hiding behind the bushes and confronts her about Darcy. Darcy arrived and Wickham scurried away. Elizabeth is angry with Darcy and defends Wickham. When Darcy leaves Elizabeth on the terrace, Wickham returns, proposes to Elizabeth, and when she rejects him, he begins to manhandle her and grabs and rips her dress. She manages to get away and falls into Darcy's arms. Her shock, mortification, and tears tell Darcy all he needs to know about what's happened. He puts his coat on her and when they hear Mrs. Bennet calling for her, he moves her away but Mrs. Bennet finds them. She begins to berate Elizabeth for hiding from Mr.

Collins, her intended. Finally she realizes Elizabeth is in Darcy's arms, wearing his jacket, has a disheveled look, and tears running down her face. Darcy tells her they are to be married. He travels to London to purchase a special license and pick up his mother's ring. Darcy gets an express from Pemberley that he is needed at home so he and Elizabeth quickly marry because they want to be together. When they arrive home, his aunt, Lady Alexandra, his father's sister has returned to Pemberley, her childhood home and literally takes over. When Darcy returns, she snubs Elizabeth and says she is Pemberley's mistress, turns Georgiana's head to things a young lady should not do or hear, and finally Darcy explodes. After weeks of her abuse Darcy has the Dowager's house cleaned for his aunt. He tells her she may have meals at the Manor house, but she cannot live there. Fast forward to Kent. Standoff between Lady Catherine and Lady Alexandra is a battle of who's most aggravating. While Darcy heads to Matlock for a day, his staff reports that a man has been spotted in the Dowager's house and that same man spotted coming to the manor house. Lady Alexandra invites Elizabeth to tea, and she finds Wickham. At this point, we find out why Lady Alexandra's father and brother sent her away never to return to Pemberley: Wickham is her bastard son. He expects to be given a living from the estate, but Darcy refuses him. Lady Alexandra begins to see her son's real behavior and personality appear. She is afraid of him, and her friend, Sir Thorpe, helps Darcy to get rid of him. Sir Thorpe plants the Darcy jewelry the Dowager's house to prove to Lady Alexandra just what her son is. He sells the jewelry in town and Darcy has all the slips that shows he stole them and sold them. He is banned from Pemberley. Telling Darcy he will get even, he comes and convinces Georgiana to bring Elizabeth to him in town. He demands that Elizabeth help him to convince Darcy to let him come back to Pemberley and give him the living he's due. She refuses and he grabs her arms in anger. Not to cause a big commotion, he releases her. On the way back Elizabeth is mad at Georgiana for doing this for Wickham. When Georgiana tells her Wickham is not bad, Elizabeth shows her the bruises on her arms. When Darcy takes her to her room because she fell asleep and removes her robe, he sees the bruises along her arms. Days later Elizabeth gets a letter demanding that she bring the Darcy jewels or he will let the fact that he's ruined Lydia known to all so the Bennets are no longer welcomed in polite society and they can forget about Jane marrying Bingley. For threatening his wife Darcy had Wickham thrown into jail. When Darcy finally comes he gives him a choice - stay a rot or marry Lydia. Wickham realizes he has burnt his last bridge, so off to Newcastle with his wife he goes. And his mother, Lady Alexandra, and her admirer, Sir Thorpe, marry at Pemberley. Good story.
