



Darcy's Ultimatum

Jennifer Joy

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The first in a sweet romance series inspired by Jane Austen's Pride & Prejudice.

When Fitzwilliam Darcy's arranged life falls to pieces, his father, Mr. George Darcy, gives him an ultimatum: Marry by the end of the London Season or risk disinheritance. Can Darcy cast aside society's frigid attitude toward marriage and find true love? Or will his desire to honor his deceased mother's memory hold him back?

Elizabeth Bennet faces the greatest challenge of her life: Find a husband by the end of the London Season or be forced to marry the heir apparent of her family home, Mr. Collins. A romantic at heart, will Elizabeth find a gentleman to meet her high expectations?

After a disastrous meeting, Darcy and Elizabeth determine not to like each other.

But, the London Season has only begun...

Darcy's Ultimatum Details

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From Reader Review Darcy's Ultimatum for online ebook

N.N. Light says

This is a fun alternate to Austen's P&P. While Joy writes similarly to Austen, I did find her a touch long-winded. I did enjoy Darcy and Elizabeth immensely and familiar circumstances made it a joy to read. If you're a big P&P fan, you've got to read this book and the whole series.

My Rating: 4 stars

Brittany says

This was a very cute version of P&P. Elizabeth's mother will force her to marry Collins if she does not find anyone else to marry in her first season in London. In this version George Darcy is still alive, and is pretty obsessed with having grandchildren. Darcy is able to put off marriage, because he believes he will marry Anne. But guess what! Anne says no! (Not really a spoiler as it happens on the first page).

So Darcy's father threatens to disinherit him if he does not find a bride this season! Elizabeth and Darcy had already met each other, and although there was an attraction, on both sides, they didn't really like each other.

What I liked: This book was well written. It felt light hearted, even though some serious stuff was going on. Miss Bingley was as annoying as ever, with some really good barbs, and Mr. Wickham was appropriately evil. Collins was obnoxious and Fitzwilliams was a romantic! I think it was interesting to see how Darcy reacted to Anne's rejection. He had to actually go to balls and parties and meet people! Oh no! lol. I thought how he met Elizabeth in Hertfordshire was cute. Their undeniable attraction was also cute. Then there's a seen at the end where I could not put the book down! Woo! So exciting!

What I wasn't fond of: Although there was an undeniable attraction between our protagonists...there was also some passion missing. I have been reading a lot of mature-audience only novels lately, so maybe it's just such a huge contrast to those - but really they don't even kiss. :-/ But that's a very small complaint. I will read this again!

Katherine says

3.5 stars - in this version Darcy's father is still alive and wants to live to see grandchildren so he gives William Darcy an ultimatum - find a wife this season in London or be disinherited! Mr Collins is determined to marry Elizabeth so Mrs Bennet gives her an ultimatum - find a husband in London this season or return to Longbourn to wed Collins. Both of our beloved characters need saving but don't realize it's the other they really can love. Darcy's father doesn't seem to care who he marries but William wants to honor his mother who was from the first circles. William doesn't have the full weight of Pemberley on his shoulders as his father is still alive so he is less stern in this version although still comes across quite proud. Elizabeth quickly gets over her prejudice to Darcy when her ultimatum is Collins but she is afraid he won't want to marry her within the season. Wickham still wants to stir trouble and Georgians is a naive young girl with her head filled with fanciful notions of romance. Bingley is still Bingley and Jane still Jane. All ends happily for

senior Darcy's perspective.

Tedi says

My thought after finishing Darcy's Ultimatum: That was fun!

I'm not quite sure how I feel about it. I felt it wasn't very true to the characters. Georgianna was supposed to be shy to the point of being mistaken for being haughty. Elizabeth confessed herself not to be a great reader but in this there was quite a bit about her being one. There were other things that kind of bothered me aside from the characters, but it is not my custom to dwell on such subjects that cause me irritation; therefore I shall change topics.

Some things I enjoyed were Mr. Darcy's rejection right at the beginning with Miss de Bourgh- that was great ("How could she possibly not want me?" Now that was in character!); Mr. Wickham taking a beating; a Darcy Hug; those 'references' to the P&P (I'm not sure they can be called references in this case but I don't know what else to call them). Another thing was that it got quite exciting towards the end.

It's not the worst P&P spinoff ever, I'm sure, but neither is it the best. However, I don't know this for a fact since this is the only one I've ever read. And it was fun to see my favorite characters, however altered they might be, in a different setting, but I think this also would have made a good story in its own right with a whole different cast of characters. So, yeah, I'm still not sure how I feel about it except that it was amusing and I am going to finish the series because I'm curious to know what's in Miss de Bourgh's letter. My only advice: Don't go into it expecting it to be exactly like P&P because it's not and I do applaud the author on creating a diverting story. It could have been a dream that Lizzy had in the original.

Lisa Montgomery says

Generally, I liked the story and twist offered in this variation of Pride and Prejudice. Ms. Joy has found a nice balance between narration and dialogue and action scenes, which is something not all writers of Austen fan fiction have mastered.

There were some usage errors:

split infinitives: "to finally meet," "to not exist," (used twice) "to finally meet"

"strait to business" should be "straight"

"let Jane and I go to" should be "me"

There were some questions dealing with the time period:

It was impossible to sign over an inheritance. Personal property (furniture, crystal, jewelry, even money, etc.) could be willed to another, but land inheritance was set by laws of primogeniture.

What kind of "military recruitment office"?

A Bible written in Latin would be used in the Catholic church. The Church of England used the King James version of the Bible.

Talia says

I had some good laughs with this book. Light and fun to read. Recommended.

Leslie says

This is a very different P&P variation. In this version Mr. Darcy (sr.) is still alive, he tells Fitzwilliam that he must marry. As that Fitzwilliam has been putting off his father by citing his mother's promise for him to wed Anne deBourgh. So when Anne rejects his proposal his world is shaken. Anne has learned a secret that will rock Rosings.

His return to Pemberley makes it worse when his father sets an ultimatum either marry by the end of the season or be disinherited in favor of Richard. Now it is not the purpose of this review to discuss 18th century inheritance laws; and I suspect it would be very difficult to disinherit an only son who had no physical or mental disabilities; so let us just call this a plot device. We also learn that the senior Darcy isn't quite as charmed by Wickham as he was in death.

Meanwhile at Longbourn Elizabeth Bennet is under a similar threat. Should she fail to find a husband while in London with the Gardiners she will be forced to marry Mr. Collins. Lizzy & Jane had already met Mr. Darcy & Mr. Bingley following a splashing of Lizzy by their carriage. The author works very hard to make Lizzy have a bad impression of Darcy but truly who would be comfortable having drenched a young lady and then forced to take tea with her family.

In London Jane and Bingley quickly find one another and begin courting while Lizzy encounters Wickham and Col. Fitzwilliam. Eventually she meets up with Darcy but she is slightly rude to him.

The story progresses, the author shoehorns in various P&P elements, Caroline is cruel, Darcy mistakenly believes Lizzy is engaged to Collins, Georgiana is lured by Wickham, there is an absurd bit of drama at the end involving Georgiana, Lizzy & Wickham.

One of my complaints is that in the beginning there is a rather long dialog between Darcy & Col. Fitzwilliam about Anne wishing to go to London and having no where to do. Now I am aware that there is second book in this series that covers Anne but why couldn't she stay at Darcy's London home with Georgiana or with the Earl & Countess of Matlock? Why wouldn't that be their automatic thought? Then despite Anne being in London she is never mentioned until the very end when Darcy muses that he hadn't seen Anne despite being in London for 2 months.

Maria says

I love reading a P&P retelling, I'm slowly reading as many as I can but this was truly an enjoyable retelling. The author put her own spin on a set of what if's to create this and it worked handsomely within the Austen character traits.

She has managed to keep key elements from the original and added her own spin to fit the story that she has created within her what if of Mr. Darcy being alive? What if Elizabeth and William met differently? Dialogue is also well done, keeping it true to fashion of that era. All of the characters are portrayed as I

remember, again, with an added spin thanks to the what if scenario and I still dislike Miss. Bingley. Greatly.

Agnieszka says

I liked the characters and the changes to the original P&P story quite a lot - especially the humor and the higher pace than the original.

The only issue was the language - there were some sentences I had to re-read several times to understand them. Most of those I had the impression could use some additional editing to smooth the flow other's I wasn't really sure if they were correct. On the other hand I was able to learn some new words I never read before - so all in all I really enjoyed the book and now I'm looking forward to the next one in series.

Katie says

Rather more like fan fiction than any serious retelling. It's a totally different story line; if the author had changed the characters' names, it would be just another Regency-era romance.

I'm really not sure how to rate this. The plot was pretty weak and unrealistic, but it had some genuinely funny moments. Unfortunately, it also badly needed editing—misspellings, lack of punctuation, characters' names being spelled two different ways, and more really detracted from my enjoyment of the story.

This is the first in what I think is a trilogy. I'm not sure I'm interested enough to read more.

Laura says

Well, I suppose you could say it's a Pride and Prejudice variation in that there is a character named "Fitzwilliam Darcy" and a character named "Elizabeth Bennet" in it, but that's really where the similarities between the two books end. This had a fine plot, but by using the characters from P&P, the author had no need to develop characters and could rely on name recognition to do her work for her. A little more character development and this would have been a fine novel in its own right, but trying to play on P&P was ultimately to this book's detriment.

Lynda Case says

Interesting premise

I enjoyed this book. I read it in one sitting. I like the Mr. Darcy is alive and has a wicked sense of humor. I can't wait to see what the author writes in her next novel.

Sheila Majczan says

4.5 stars

I found this book to be well written. It flowed and kept my attention. The characters were true to canon. It is difficult when one reads so many JAFF books to find stories that are not predictable. After all it is a given that we will have our HEA. Although I did read one very recently that did not give me that.

So, as the book description tells us, both Elizabeth and Darcy have to deal with ultimatums from one parent or the other. And, get this, Elizabeth is going to stay in London with her Aunt and Uncle Gardiner to participate in "the Season". With the lack of a significant dowry is this effort doomed? Additionally, Darcy has until the end of the season to also find a bride. But is he going to just sort through all the young ladies of his acquaintance or is he going to participate in another season to pull a name out of the hat...or will he finally propose to his cousin, Anne? He can have any woman he wants, we think.

And with Elizabeth in London along with Jane, we must know, surely you know, that the invitations they receive through their relatives' connections and acquaintances are not going to be on the same level as Fitzwilliam Darcy. So will they even meet? Once? Twice? Will Darcy repeat his faux pas of refusing to dance and finding Elizabeth not tempting enough, if they do meet?

Having Mr. Darcy, Sr. in the picture was an added diversion in this story. His role was significant. Many of the familiar actors are in residence: Colonel Richard Fitzwilliam, Lady Catherine, Charles and Caroline Bingley, Georgiana, (with her own residence in London), Wickham, the tribe of Bennet sisters, Mr. and Mrs. Bennet and, lucky us...or should I say, Lucky Elizabeth, Mr. Collins in all his sweaty glory.

After setting the scenarios in Rosings and in Longbourn most of the story evolves in London. The climax added excitement of a new variety. Really: are shots fired? I did wish for a little more sexual chemistry described in certain meetings. I do like a stolen kiss, a lingering grasp, an accidental bump. But this was a sweet tale and I do look forward to the next in this series. I find myself wondering which cousin is next? I read this in one day and recommend it to readers of this genre.

Maria Thomas says

I enjoy a good P&P variation and this one had a good "what if". What if Mr. Darcy still lived and threatened to disown Darcy if he doesn't marry and start producing grandchildren. And what if Jane and Elizabeth were given one season in London but if they come back without an engagement... then Collins.... Ewww. Terrible ultimatum.

I wasn't always sure that characters would react the way they were written but in some cases I was happy to see the changes. Jane gets a backbone and actually feels negative when the situation merits it. Anne de Bourgh refuses a proposal and stands up to her mother!

It was also interesting to see into characters that don't get much in the real P&P. Mr. Darcy was way more outgoing and boisterous than I would have thought and the description of Mrs. Darcy is a lot more haughty than I tend to think of her. Perhaps the author's ideas are more accurate. It doesn't really matter though. I can accept this view for this book.

There is a bit of violence in the end cuz, well, Wickham. But it really isn't the main part of the story. The story is light, fun and interesting. And clean.

Treece says

Rating: 4 1/2 stars

If you enjoy alternative twists of classics, you will love this variation on P&P. In this version, Darcy and Elizabeth are smarter, her foolish sisters are more likable, and everyone brings zest to the plot, including would-be OW, Caroline Bingley. Giving Anne de Bourgh a backbone sets everything in motion and what happens next is fun, sweet and historical romance at its finest.

Jennifer Joy is a new author for me and I plan to keep reading this delightful series which offers a creative fresh spin on one of my favorite books.
