



Darcy's Angel: A Pride and Prejudice Variation

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When disease strikes Longbourn, sixteen-year-old Elizabeth Bennet and thirteen-year-old Kitty are sent to London to live with an old friend of their father's. While Kitty relishes in the change, Lizzy feels lost in her new world, constrained by society's expectations, and dreadfully homesick. That changes when she meets Georgiana Darcy, a girl even more in need of a friend than Lizzy herself. As weeks turn to months, however, Elizabeth begins to wonder if she will ever be able to go home—and if she will have to take matters into her own hands to make it happen.

Fitzwilliam Darcy has lost his father and inherited a great deal of responsibility, all thanks to a man he once called his friend. Most challenging of his new duties is caring for his younger sister, Georgiana. When she befriends another young lady, Darcy cannot decide if Elizabeth Bennet is an angel or an imp, but he cannot get her out of his mind. Should he banish her from Georgiana's company before her impulsive ways affect his sister, or make an offer that would keep her in their life for good?

Thrown together in a remarkably different situation than Jane Austen's original, Darcy and Elizabeth face challenges both new and familiar, influenced in part by the difference in their ages. She lacks wisdom; he is less jaded—and both of them are struggling to adapt to a new life. Can they find their way to happily ever after even so?

Darcy's Angel: A Pride and Prejudice Variation Details

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From Reader Review Darcy's Angel: A Pride and Prejudice Variation for online ebook

Melodie says

Wonderful retelling of a classic

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and stayed up way too late to finish it! I loved how Darcy & Elizabeth found each other sooner and yet stayed true to their original characters.

Sharon Noone says

Enjoyable adaptation

I enjoyed this book immensely. I'll admit that it was a little far fetched that Elizabeth and Kittie be sent to London for such a duration but once you get past this it is worth reading. I find Americanism in these adaptations quite irritating and would like authors to be mindful of where the book is set. Would recommend.

Debbie Brown says

Comparatively few *Pride and Prejudice* variations present Elizabeth and Darcy at a younger age than canon, which makes this rather unusual even without the author's imaginative alterations.

The senior Mr. Darcy has just passed, and 23-year-old Fitzwilliam is the new Master of Pemberley, ready or not. As it turns out, that's the easy part; it's finding a way to comfort his grieving 11-year-old sister that has him stumped. He leaves Pemberley in the hands of his very capable steward and brings Georgiana to his Town home, since there are fewer memories of their parents there to distress her.

Elizabeth and Kitty Bennet (16 and 13 years old, respectively) arrive in London at roughly the same time. All of the rest of their family except Mr. Bennet are seriously ill, and he sends his two healthy daughters away to protect them. They are to live with the widowed Lady Litchfield rather than the Gardiners, and Elizabeth doesn't understand why, considering she's never even heard of this woman before now. But Lady L. lives in fashionable Mayfair, and she is able to provide masters for the girls and lessons on proper comportment for high society. Elizabeth attends various social events, since she is out, while Kitty (without Lydia's disruptive influence) gradually becomes more sedate and accomplished at sketching.

The Darcys and the two Bennet sisters become acquainted through Georgiana, who still is unable to control her grief and uncertainty about her future. No matter how often Darcy reassures her, she fears he will send her away to school. While on a walk together in Hyde Park, he becomes distracted by a friend and she drifts off, unable to control her tears and seeking privacy. Elizabeth comes across her and comforts her in a way that Darcy has been unable to, and he is grateful to make the girl's acquaintance for his sister's sake. He thinks of her as an angel because of the soothing effect she has on Georgiana. At first, he thinks of her as little more than a child herself because she's not that much older than Georgiana and she's so petite...and then Elizabeth overhears him at a ball dismissing her as too young for him and not his social equal when a mutual

acquaintance encourages him to dance with her.

Although Elizabeth appreciates the opportunities given to her and her sister by living with Lady Litchfield, she misses Longbourn terribly and is wild to be back home--or at the least, to be allowed to visit the Gardiners. (Mrs. Gardiner is with child, and there's concern that Elizabeth and Kitty may be carriers of the illness, even though they're not sick themselves.) After several weeks, she's frustrated by her father's refusal to allow her and Kitty to come back even for a visit, and her questions about when they can return home make it clear that they will be staying at least a year. In this respect, the impatience of her youth becomes very apparent as she chafes against the gilded cage of Lady L.'s fine home; consequently, she makes some extremely unwise decisions.

Mr. Wickham makes his appearance and, as expected, contacts Darcy regarding the church living he expects to be given. Mrs. Younge becomes Georgiana's companion, and she and Wickham plot a different kind of mischief than in canon. We witness the first meeting between Darcy and Mr. Bingley and then we're treated to a succession of Bingley's "angels" as well as Caroline's immediate attempts to curry Darcy's favor.

The relationship between Elizabeth and Darcy evolves nicely here. Over time, it becomes obvious to the reader that he values her for more than her friendship with Georgiana, although he's busy pursuing a potential wife, Miss St. Clair.

There are several errors sprinkled about that should have been caught in the editing process, but generally the writing is good. The setting remains in London (with one visit to Rosings by the Darcys), but there are plenty of similarities to the original *P&P* and the characterizations seem reasonably consistent with what you'd expect from younger versions of Jane Austen's characters in these changed circumstances. It's an eventful plot that keeps moving. Content is clean.

Jamie Brydone-Jack says

Complex Young Mr. Darcy...with a Silly Elizabeth

This is a very different take on *Pride & Prejudice* fan fiction. It takes place almost entirely in London, five years earlier than in canon. Due to illness at Longbourn, 15-year-old Elizabeth and 13-year-old Kitty are shipped off to an old friend of their father's in London. Darcy and Georgiana have just recently arrived in London, too, unable to face Pemberley after their father's death. The main text takes place over the course of a year and a half. The Bennet girls become friends with Georgiana and so enter Darcy's sphere.

Because the book takes place over such a long period of time, with sometimes months where we don't see what is happening, it sometimes felt like there were dropped threads that took a while to pick up again. For instance, Major Fitzwilliam is planning to meet with Elizabeth to determine if Elizabeth is OK for Darcy and Georgiana to chum around with. At the end of a Darcy scene, it looks like he is just about to do it. Yet, the next scene isn't that; he actually doesn't meet her until much later...and we didn't get to see any intensive interview (which could have been great fun).

Eavesdropping was used too often as an important plot point.

I really liked this younger Darcy. His vulnerability at the passing of his father and his delicate handling of Georgiana were sweet and poignant. He had odd little quirks, like drumming his fingers on anything when

nervous, that made him more endearing. As a reader, I felt like I got under Darcy's skin and could see his world from his perspective. A great characterization of Darcy.

I was not so enamored of Elizabeth. Early on especially, she seemed to have silly moments to rival Lydia's! I have seen other JAFF with a young Elizabeth where she had a wisdom and grace beyond her years. Not so here! I actually found her continuous childishness annoying. I secretly hoped at times that the complex young Mr. Darcy would find someone more worthy of him! She did improve after her Wickham moment, where she became more like the Elizabeth we all know and love. For the last 10% of the book, I found her a sympathetic character...but not really before.

I quite enjoyed the epilogue, which had a couple of interesting surprises.

T says

A very light but cosy read. Unfortunately it has a few Americanisms, but otherwise enjoyable.

wosedwew says

The golden moments in the stream of life rush past us and we see nothing but sand; the angels come to visit us, and we only know them when they are gone. ~ George Elliot

Darcy and Georgiana are not in the midst of golden moments: their Father has died and, unable to escape memories at Pemberley, they have retreated to London.

The Bennets are also not in the midst of golden moments: serious illness has invaded Meryton. All the Bennets are ill except Mr. Bennet, Kitty and Elizabeth. Mr. Bennet sends the two girls to London to reside temporarily with Lady Lichfield.

All God's angels come to us disguised. ~ James Russell Lowell

Georgiana has been shocked by her Father's death and fears her brother will banish her to school. Her grief and fears control her days. During a walk in Hyde Park, she leaves her brother's side and encounters Elizabeth Bennet.

Darcy at last finds his sister, recovered from her tears and sharing her grief with her new friend. Darcy sees the dark-haired girl in yellow and knows she is an angel.

Keep in mind that the story begins in October 1806 – five years before the usual time of the Meryton Assembly. Elizabeth is 16. Darcy is 23. Georgiana is 12. All their actions are consistent with their younger ages – at times Elizabeth will remind you of Lydia. She wants to return to Hertfordshire and is sometimes disobedient and very foolish.

If a man is not rising upwards to be an angel, depend upon it, he is sinking downwards to be a devil. ~ Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Enter George Wickham!

Very few of these stories eliminate Wickham's role and this is not one of them. Our dear scoundrel rears his handsome head.

I enjoyed this story. It is clean, the writing is good and it is proofread. I did find one sentence I questioned: Darcy visits his attorney who employs a female secretary, an unusual career for a woman at that time. Mr. Reid must have been a very progressive man.

I would recommend this to anyone who enjoys JAFF.

I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free. ~ Michelangelo

Carol Perrin says

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The Darcy siblings are both reeling from the death of their father. Georgiana is especially upset, because she fears that Darcy is going to send her away. At about the same time, Elizabeth and Kitty Bennet have arrived in London to become wards of Lady Lichfield, their father's friend, because a sickness has come to Meryton and they are the only two not stricken. The sadness at Pemberley causes Darcy to take them to Darcy House in London. There a tearful Georgiana meets Miss Elizabeth Bennet in Hyde Park when she's run away from her brother after hearing one of her brother's friends, Bainbridge, tease him about marriage. Darcy declares her an angel after seeing Georgiana's change after the brief encounter. Further meetings between the Bennet sisters and Georgiana occur, and Darcy encounters Elizabeth at balls asking her to dance. While there is not the Meryton Assembly insult, a similar remark colors Elizabeth's feelings for Darcy. Unfortunately, there are still the unwanted and unlikable characters throughout this story: Collins, Caroline Bingley, and George Wickham. There is a romantic relationship building involving Darcy, but that evaporates when he overhears her speaking about him and realizes she's a friend of Caroline Bingley. Walks away from that situation quickly. After saving Elizabeth, both Darcy and Elizabeth realize that they love each other, but are afraid to speak. Darcy brings the remaining Bennets to London to reunite Elizabeth with Jane. This reunion introduces Bingley to Jane, and does reestablish the relationship between Mr. Bennet and Lady Lichfield. Happy endings for three deserving couple's, one of which begets a new heir to Longbourn. Both Lady Catherine and Mr. Collins are seriously displeased. Good story.

lori huff says

Love this book

This is a version wherein Darcy and Elizabeth meet at an earlier age than the original P&P. Their road to resolution is longer and involves Georgiana a great deal, since Elizabeth befriends her when she's only twelve years old. The circumstances are completely altered from original, but are completely charming and filled with possibilities. They meet in London, Bingley isn't even known yet, and Elizabeth and Kitty are staying with a wealthy countess friend of Mr. Bennett. Georgiana's complete breakdown after the death of her father sets the stage for Elizabeth to become indispensable to both of the Darcys, as she is able to comfort

and calm the young girl in a way her own brother cannot. A gradual buildup of affection ensues between ODC in a completely satisfying and romantic way. The story doesn't rush anything and allows for many stumbles before finding the correct path to happiness. The usual obstacles of Miss Bingley and Wickham are included in different ways, and Elizabeth and Darcy are both young enough to make some major errors that can be chalked up to their relative youth. Lizzy particularly makes some pretty stupid choices, surprising for someone who is supposed to be quite intelligent. But in good time they grow and learn and find their way.

I almost deducted a star for editing errors, as they are sometimes pretty bad and distracting. Lots of words omitted, misspelled or misused. However, this story is so delightful and fulfilling, I had to give it high marks. Great story, very well written, I highly recommend it.

Sheila Majczan says

4.5 stars rounded up to 5

This story builds slowly but then gains magnetism and I found myself glued to the pages. Although many of the elements and personae are there from canon the tale is twisted into a new storyline.

As stated, Elizabeth and Kitty are sent away from an infected household by their father. They are not familiar with the Lady to whom they are sent but have no time to question their father's choice. Lady Lichfield is in perfect control as she sets out to manage not only helping both teenagers gain more accomplishments but also doing so within proper boundaries. It is Elizabeth rather than Kitty who breaks out of "that cage" and finds herself needing rescuing...twice.

When walks are allowed for Georgiana Darcy, who has been in mourning for her father, she finds herself in need of some help as she wanders off from her brother who has met a friend and stopped to talk. Miss Bennet turns out to be just what is needed for Georgiana who jumps at every new face or circumstance and tends to run to hide in her room. Darcy finds Miss Elizabeth to be "an angel" in her relationship with his sister but Elizabeth's opinion of him is that he only tolerates her as his sister's friend when she overhears, "She is hardly more than a child, and by no means tempting enough to give up my single state."

There are many things about the Darcys of which Elizabeth is unaware: he has met her uncle and invested with him, he blames Wickham for much, including the death of their father, he has a surprise in store for her and has even written to her father. Both realize that their opinions have changed but both are also unwilling to share that with each other, much less friends and relations.

Mr. Bennet has a secret in his past which I found to be so melancholy...but present circumstances give Mr. Bennet a renewed acquaintance with a past "friend" and his own HEA.

When I first began reading this story the assignment of the descriptor "angel" to Elizabeth did not sit well with me. How many stories have we read in which Bingley has "angel" after "angel" in his life? In this story Bingley has not leased Netherfield nor has he met Jane...yet.

As others have pointed out both Elizabeth and Darcy are much younger in this tale. He has just recently become heir upon his father's death and now has the shared guardianship of Georgiana added to his burdens. Her reactions to that death make his priorities shift as he finds little time to do anything other than attempt to find a solution to calming her fears and to helping her move forward. Mrs. Younge figures in here but

George Wickham does not impose upon a 12-year-old Georgiana Darcy.

This was an intriguing variation and I am determined now to read the author's other stories, all of which are available to be borrowed from KU.

Betsy Milan says

Interesting premise

The premise of this fan fiction book is creative, but the development of the characters is weak. The Darcy character is particularly unbelievable. Overall, though, it is a moderately successful novel exploring a different approach to the P&P story.

James S says

Young Lizzy and Darcy

At beginning of the book Lizzy is 16 and Darcy is 23. A serious illness at Longbourn causes Mr. Bennet to send Lizzy and Kitty to London for their safety. Everyone else is sick. But they don't go the Gardiners, but to an unknown character.

With everyone we know being so much younger than normal, lots of growing to do for everyone, especially Lizzy and Darcy.

Mistakes in understanding and uncontrolled emotions make much sense at 16/23 than at 20/28. Now that that I think about it, the normal P&P variation is written like Lizzy and Darcy are 16/23.

The story is MUCH more believable with this change of ages.

The story itself is well plotted, very enjoyable to read, and a delight.

I recommend this book highly and will enjoy rereading it again sometime.

Leslie says

"Maybe I'm just too demanding (Maybe, maybe I'm like my father)
Maybe I'm just like my mother (Maybe I'm just like my mother)
She's never satisfied (She's never, never satisfied) " - Prince

This is a story with an interesting concept that I just couldn't love. My complaints about the book are the errors, the modern language / behaviors and contractions, Regency errors and messing with canon.

The errors seem to be lack of proofreading like "Miss Elizabeth Bennet or Longbourn", and "Or a woman, Elizabeth though dryly, thinking of Caroline Bennet." and "Well, if it isn't Miss Georgette," Modern

language included 'couch' and more contractions than I could ever count.

I will give the author credit for getting mourning right. But I found both Lizzy and Georgiana's behavior completely off for the period. A Regency child would never go storming off like Georgiana does, well not more than once. Her behavior seems like that of a spoiled child and I can't imagine Darcy indulging it. The author moves our time period back to when Lizzy is 16 and Darcy is 23 so Georgiana is 12. A 12 year old would be in the nursery or school room not the drawing room and not a dinners. She carries on like Marianne in S&S when she should have been modeled upon Margaret.

Lizzy is obtusely stubborn and overly emotional. When an illness sweeps through Meryton she and Kitty are sent off to a family friend, but virtual stranger, in London. Lady Lichfield is a widow who lives in Mayfair and is an old friend of Mr. Bennet. Lizzy refuses to appreciate the advantages she has been given and is disinclined to participate in activities designed to improve her accomplishments. She is seemingly always scheming to escape her 'captor'. Her first rebellion is when she decides to walk to the Gardiners' home on Lovat Lane. Now this is about a 4 mile walk which Lizzy undertakes alone because she is Lizzy and refuses to accept that London is not Longbourn. Further in canon the Gardiners live on Gracechurch Street that while not fashionable is certainly not unsafe, while the author presents Lovat Lane like it is 7 Dials. Lovat lane is at the southern end of Gracechurch closer to the docks. This is a plot device for Lizzy to be rescued by Darcy but it is quite unbelievable. Later she will have 'left all her friends ; thrown herself into the power of--of Mr. Wickham. They are gone off together from London.' [this is me stealing from JA not the author]. Now Lady Lichfield isn't an ogre and Lizzy is frustrated with her father. Does she consult with anyone but Wickham? No. She just acts ridiculous.

Since the author has moved us back in time she creates lots of little problems. Bingley is a boy of 18. A person didn't come into their majority until they were 21, so Bingley; as an aspiring gentleman should have been at College not flitting about London. And he is wandering around flirting with 'angels' and searching for a bride. 18 would be very young for a man to marry, especially a man of fashion. And warning if you are a Darcy could only ever consider Lizzy you will be very annoyed at his courting another woman and planning to propose marriage.

At some point I just stopped being interested. There were more problems but I was exhausted by them. It is eventually revealed that Mr. Bennet and Lady Lichfield were childhood sweethearts but they were cruelly separated when her parents died and her uncle put her into service as a governess/companion. They are two years apart in age. (view spoiler)

I couldn't suspend my disbelief

Charlene says

Really enjoyed this alternative. It takes place several yrs earlier and Darcy just lost his father and Lizzy is 16. Sickness is at Longbourn and Lizzy ends up in London with Kitty. Not a lot of angst but lots of wit and long road to understanding.

Well worth reading

Michelle says

Lovely

A rather unusual variation of Jane Austen's classic Pride and Prejudice. Veers widely and has new characters but it's enjoyable.

Madenna U says

In this Pride and Prejudice variation, Elizabeth and Kitty live in London with a friend of their father's due to illness at Longbourn that takes their mother and has all their other sisters ill. Kitty takes to their new situation like a duck to water, but Elizabeth struggles. Her world takes another turn when she meets a young girl in the park who needs her help - Georgiana Darcy. Elizabeth becomes the only person who calms Georgina down after the death of her father. She also seems to have the ability to cheer up Mr. Darcy. They have their usual ups and downs while growing closer and overcoming their misconceptions. There are multiple happy endings in this story :) Enjoy!
