



Mr Bennet's Dutiful Daughter: ~ A Pride and Prejudice Variation ~

By Joana Starnes

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**** New cover - content unchanged ****

When Colonel Fitzwilliam's disclosures are interrupted by the bearer of distressing news from Longbourn, Miss Elizabeth Bennet is compelled to accept an offer she would have otherwise dismissed out of hand. An offer of marriage from the all-too-proud Mr Darcy.

Yet how is she to live with a husband she hardly knows and does not love? Will she continue to feel trapped in a marriage of convenience while events conspire to divide them? Or would love grow as, day by day and hour after hour, she learns to understand the man she married, before she loses his trust and his heart?

Given the 'early marriage' premise, the issue of growing affection and intimacy is central to the story. The relevant scenes are not graphic, but the novel does address mature themes.

Excerpt from 'Mr Bennet's Dutiful Daughter' - a journey from **duty** into **love**.

His hand came up to cup her cheek, his fingertips stroked her hair and he smiled again. A heartbreakingly warm smile.

"There is so much I do not know of you. What joy it will be to discover."

"And I of you. It was quite a surprise to hear you were contemplating kissing me as far back as November."

"I should have. What a foolish waste of five months of happiness."

"I am very glad I make you happy," she said quietly, and found with some surprise that she was in earnest.

"You know you do. More than I ever thought possible," Mr Darcy whispered hoarsely and reached to lift her off the sofa and bring her close, ensconced in a tight embrace. Elizabeth wrapped her arms around his neck, abandoning herself to his kisses, only to find guilt welling afresh when his lips left her skin just for

long enough to whisper, "My love, you are everything."

'Do not say it, oh, do not say it!' she felt the strongest urge to caution him. 'Do not give me so much power over you.'

How unspeakably odd it felt to hear him openly avow it, after his reserve of full six months' standing. It was as if everything he had held in check was now offered without hesitation, unstopably coming out in one rush after another, now that all reason for concealment was removed. It was overwhelming to discover that all this wealth of feeling had been there for so long, and she had noticed nothing.

Her heart twisted in sudden compassion – the last sentiment she had imagined Mr Darcy would inspire in her, and for the least expected reason. Did he not see it was dreadfully unwise to reveal quite so much of himself to her? That it would make him vulnerable in the extreme and put him in the greatest danger, were she so heartless as to use it against him? Surely he did not think her equally in love, to trust her so implicitly with every formerly hidden feeling! What blow must it be to him, were the truth of her deep-held reservations ever to come to light. What burden of responsibility on her, to carefully conceal it from so astute a man.

Unspeakably odd too that she should fret so much over sparing Mr Darcy's feelings, after spending months with the firm conviction he had none. Not for her, nor for the world in general. How aptly he had put it, all that time ago, when he had remarked that her greatest fault was her propensity to wilfully misunderstand...

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Editorial Review

Review

"...the rug was ripped out from beneath me, the complex emotions depicted in both characters were eminently sublime, and I completely adored the small but powerful parts she gave to various secondary characters. Mr. Bennet's Dutiful Daughter is a most magnificent and praiseworthy work and I entreat you to read it immediately if you haven't done so already!" (*Meredith Esparza - Austenesque Reviews*)

"I will never forget the smile that gradually came across my face as I finished the final words of this story, sitting on my couch, as I allowed the surge of powerful emotions that this book evoked within me enter my chest. "She did it again," I told myself, as I savored the feelings whirling around inside of me." (*Claudine Pepe - Just Jane 1813*)

"Gah! Get your tissues out and be prepared to chew a few finger nails because a lot of tears will be shed by Elizabeth and you, dear reader, before the last pages. Three nights in a row did I stay up until 3 a.m. reading Joana Starnes' latest. The evil genius that she is had me sobbing--I haven't been so emotionally distraught for pages, nay CHAPTERS, since C.P. Odom's "*Consequences*." This book is going to follow me for days as it did something to my soul. Felt every emotion possible. This very well may be her best yet." (*Christina Boyd - Freelance Editor, The Quill Ink*)

"Joana Starnes has proven herself, time & again, to be a master of capturing human emotions. Even with all of that, she somehow manages to outdo herself yet again. [...] This isn't a softly lit, sweetly romantic story but one that gets under your skin and stays there." (*Beth Auron, Author, Winner of Silver IPPY Award 2017*)

"It wouldn't be a Joana Starnes book if there was no major plot twist when you thought everything was alright. [...] I thought her 'cruelty' regarding torturing her characters reached its highest in *The Unthinkable Triangle* or *Miss Darcy's Companion*, but I was mistaken. I have to say, it's well done! My favourite book of hers! Probably until the next one where she will take torturing poor characters to the next level." (*Mira Magdo - Obsessed with Mr Darcy*)

"Starnes has a knack for putting Elizabeth and Darcy in impossible situations, delving deep into their souls, and keeping readers on the edge of their seats as they wonder how a happily ever after will be achieved. I loved the pacing of the novel, and Starnes does a wonderful job evolving their relationship through many ups and downs as they navigate the challenges posed by their families and themselves." (*Anna Horner - Diary of an Eccentric*)

"Mr. Bennet's Dutiful Daughter by Joana Starnes is a roller coaster ride of emotion..." (*Serena Augusto-Cox - Savvy Verse & Wit*)

"Throughout the book you feel the author's love for the characters and her deep understanding of their choices. They seem real and alive - just an arm-stretch away." (*Elizabeth BD - Administrator of 'Elizabeth Bennet Darcy of Pemberley' FB Page*)

"With this newest work, Joana has reached unprecedented heights in her storytelling. *MR. BENNET'S DUTIFUL DAUGHTER* is, in my opinion, her most complete novel yet. [...] I think the tears I shed during the major crisis in their marriage have been equaled only by the first time I read *THE UNTHINKABLE TRIANGLE*. It is heart-rending to the extreme. I can only say that the way Joana bridged the chasm was not only gratifying but also entirely in keeping with her masterful characterization of the two protagonists." (*Age of Irony*)

"...the author gives us a reaction I have never read of in any other story." (*S. L. Majczan*)

"*'I feel incompetent to perform duties... which have been so unexpectedly thrown upon me.'* Andrew Johnson. I have just finished Joana Starnes' latest book and I am an emotional wreck. I absolutely loved

it." (*J. W. Garrett*)

"As always, Ms. Starnes has written a story that's sure to touch your heart." (*Debbie Brown*)

From the Inside Flap

By the same author:

From This Day Forward ~ The Darcys of Pemberley ~ A Pride & Prejudice Sequel

The Subsequent Proposal ~ A Tale of Pride, Prejudice & Persuasion

The Second Chance ~ A 'Pride & Prejudice' ~ 'Sense & Sensibility' Variation

The Falmouth Connection ~ A 'Pride & Prejudice' Variation

The Unthinkable Triangle ~ A 'Pride & Prejudice' Variation

Miss Darcy's Companion ~ A 'Pride & Prejudice' Variation

About the Author

Joana Starnes lives in the south of England with her family. A medical graduate, over the years she has swapped several hats -- physician, lecturer, clinical data analyst -- but feels most comfortable in a bonnet. She has developed an unrelated but enduring fascination with Georgian Britain in general and the works of Jane Austen in particular, as well as with the remarkable and flamboyant set of people who have given the Regency Period its charm and sparkle. She has been living in Georgian England for decades in her imagination, and plans to continue in that vein till she lays hands on a time machine.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Heather Sessoms:

Book is actually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can realize everything you want by a publication. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading ability was fluently. A book Mr Bennet's Dutiful Daughter: ~ A Pride and Prejudice Variation ~ will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about anything. But some of you think that will open or reading a new book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you searching for best book or appropriate book with you?

Julie Bell:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire all their reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the story that share in the books. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write on their book. One of them is this Mr Bennet's Dutiful Daughter: ~ A Pride and Prejudice Variation ~.

Irma Murray:

Many people spending their moment by playing outside together with friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to pay your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, you think reading a book really can hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, bringing everywhere you want in your Mobile phone. Like Mr Bennet's Dutiful Daughter: ~ A Pride and Prejudice Variation ~ which is keeping the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's view.

Aurora Ammon:

On this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple way to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of many books in the top listing in your reading list will be Mr Bennet's Dutiful Daughter: ~ A Pride and Prejudice Variation ~. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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