



## 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.

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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, unstoppably 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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### **Mr Bennet's Dutiful Daughter: ~ A Pride and Prejudice Variation ~ By Joana Starnes Bibliography**

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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 Agosto-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:**

**Florence Croy:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Mr Bennet's Dutiful Daughter: ~ A Pride and Prejudice Variation ~. Try to stumble through book Mr Bennet's Dutiful Daughter: ~ A Pride and Prejudice Variation ~ as your good friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you truly feel alone and beside those of course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you personally. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , let us make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

**Leonard Palmer:**

The book Mr Bennet's Dutiful Daughter: ~ A Pride and Prejudice Variation ~ can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave the great thing like a book Mr Bennet's Dutiful Daughter: ~ A Pride and Prejudice Variation ~? Wide variety you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim which book can give many information for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, it is possible to give for each other; you are able to share all of these. Book Mr Bennet's Dutiful Daughter: ~ A Pride and Prejudice Variation ~ has simple shape but you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can search the enormous world by available and read a e-book. So it is very wonderful.

**Lawrence Wilson:**

What do you regarding book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question mainly because just their can do that will. It said that about publication. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on pre-school until university need this Mr Bennet's Dutiful Daughter: ~ A Pride and Prejudice Variation ~ to read.

**Ryan Harrison:**

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