



First (Wrong) Impressions

K. Ball

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Lizzy Bennet's fundraising mission is to keep her homeless centre's clients well-fed through a cold prairie winter. She meets the snobby and pompous William Darcy of Fitz & William Enterprises. While she'd never dare ask him for help, she can't stop bumping into him -- sometimes, quite literally.

But when Lizzy's campaign is cut short by the disappearance of her sixteen year old sister, William and his younger sister step in to help the woman they want to make part of their family.

Inspired by Jane Austen's classic, *Pride and Prejudice*, *First (Wrong) Impressions* is Lizzy's quest for happiness, security, and love in the 21st century.

First (Wrong) Impressions Details

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From Reader Review First (Wrong) Impressions for online ebook

M.L.D. says

A modern take on Pride & Prejudice!

Set primarily in Edmonton, Alberta, with some scenes in Calgary, AB & Vancouver, BC, Lizzy Bennet is now a program director at a homeless shelter. Her bff is no longer Charlotte Lucas, but Lukas (Luke) Charlotte, a gay man. Other modern updates: Lydia is an aspiring actress; Georgiana is G'Anna, a (very young) retired pop star; Darcy is a billionaire businessman, buying out companies left and right.

Keeping with the modern sensibilities, Lizzy & Jane do not live at home, everybody swears, and Jane & Bingley have sex. But in spite of this, First (Wrong) Impressions hasn't changed the heart of the original Austen book. The sisters have warm relationships, and clearly care for each other, and the various romantic plots are satisfying (with the possible exception of Luke & Reverend Liam Collins...but Collins was never a favorite of mine--although, Luke is with Liam because he wants to, not because he has to).

HOWEVER, the Darcy/Lizzy romance is wonderful!! It stays true to the original story (including the infamous letter), while also keeping true to the modern updates of the characters and setting.

I've never been a fan of Lydia, but in this book her behavior comes across more as thoughtless & self-centered--in other words, a typical teen, and I found myself not despising her as much. As for Wickham, he continues to be a creep--and that's all I'll say about that, because, since this is a modern setting, Wickham is treated a bit differently.

I liked that Lizzy has an actual job that she's passionate about and is good at. Her job features heavily in the story--a good thing! I don't want to say that she's now more developed as a character, because that's not true, but she's more relatable to a modern audience, having to worry about rent & credit cards & bank accounts.

The only downside to this is that Lizzy's father is barely in the book, and the relationship between the two was one of my favorite parts of the original P&P. But...with certain threads not completely resolved, and some supporting characters from other Austen books, the possibility of a sequel, or at least another book set in this world, tantalizes.

Natalie says

In this modernization of Pride and Prejudice, Elizabeth Bennet works for a charity running a homeless refuge, Jane is missing a leg after a car accident, Lydia is a wannabe actress, and Charlotte Lucas has been transformed into Lukas Charlotte, Lizzy's best friend and male co-worker. By the time I finished the first two chapters, I knew I was going to enjoy Ms. Ball's twists on my favorite characters. Lizzy is more outspoken than ever and Darcy's arrogant awkwardness and sly sense of humor is marvelous. I really liked how very human they are. They both do clumsy, stupid, normal things that make me laugh or commiserate, depending on the circumstances.

This book is well-written, with a perfect quantity of humor and romance. The author gave it a wonderfully modern feel; I particularly enjoyed the Twitter conversations. It isn't all fun, though. Much of the story is set

on or revolves around Lizzy's refuge. Her whole life revolves around helping drug addicts, prostitutes and criminals. Sometimes she can really help them, but other times it's not enough.

Lizzy is a boiling mess of frustration during most of the book, leading to many rants. Which leads me to my one complaint about the book. There is so much ranting that after a while it starts, in my opinion, to feel preachy. Lizzy is a passionate liberal and is unafraid to voice her opinions. Good for her. At first, her impassioned speeches were a good way of getting to know her character better. However, after the umpteenth rant against organized religion, conservatives, pro-lifers, etc., it began to detract from my enjoyment of the novel. Overall, I really liked the story and the characters, but by the end I was wondering if the book was just a vehicle for the many, many rants.

I would recommend this book to those who enjoy getting into political arguments with fictional characters, as well as to those who like to see Jane Austen's characters turned on their heads in a variety of interesting and mostly entertaining ways.

I reviewed this book for the Indie Jane blog.

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

First and most importantly: if you don't like to read books that have casual sex and are sprinkled with F-bombs, or if it will distress you to read a version of *Pride and Prejudice* where some of your favorite characters are gay or bisexual, this is *not* the book for you. Ignore the pretty cover: this is not a sweet, clean romance.

Second, if you aren't bothered by or even enjoy the type of book I've described above, this is still not a particularly worthwhile book. It's just P&P very literally transferred to modern times, with not a lot of additional insight. The only thing I found that was new and interesting was the inside description of an inner-city charitable organization and its fund-raising issues and concerns.

If this still sounds good to you, enjoy. It was definitely not for me.

Jamie says

I'm a huge *Pride and Prejudice* fan, and I've devoured most of the reduxes that have been done. But this version I have to say is my favorite from all of them. Lizzy, Darcy and the whole crew are there, but not always in the way that you'd expect. It's set in Canada, which was a brilliant move. And the story doesn't shy away from difficult topics. But from the first page you know you're in the hands of a master, and the skill in which these difficult topics are handled is fantastic. Instead of being distracting, they pull you into the story in a way even the original never did. I feel like I truly got to know these characters and fall in love with them. I laughed and cried and absolutely loved this book. I'm going back to reread it right away!

Bea Charmed says

Quote:

Lizzy whispered to Darcy, "Did you think I spoke well?"

"I was moved to tears," he said, again with a flat tone but with the same sparkle in his eyes.

"I didn't know machines could cry," she shot back.

"I had the tear ducts installed just for this event." He took a sip of his coffee, then turned away to listen to the next person.

Lizzy couldn't quite decide if she should slap him or laugh.

My Thoughts:

So, here is where I confess I have never read "Pride and Prejudice". I've never read anything by Jane Austen. How I made it through high school and college without reading something by her, I don't know. After reading this, I want to read the original. Part of the fun for me while reading was trying to figure what was taken from or inspired by "Pride and Prejudice" and what was all Ball. The humor was definitely her; of that I have no doubt.

I can't compare the book to its inspiration. For that info, see this review on goodreads. Does it work as a romance? as a social commentary? Yep and yep. It is NOT love at first sight; in fact, Lizzy hates Darcy and is convinced that he hates her. Lizzy is funny, snarky, judgmental, proud, loyal, passionate, and has a temper. Darcy is shy, proud, loyal, compassionate, and an excellent businessman. Their paths keep crossing as do the paths of Lizzy's sister Jane and Darcy's friend Charles. A side note here re Charles. I read a lot of urban fantasy and one of my favorite authors is Patricia Briggs. She has a character, Charles, who has certain similarities to Ball's (Austen's?) Charles and I kept picturing Briggs' Charles as I read. Both are Native American, tall, handsome, and rich. The similarities end there but it was enough to mess with my mind. :D

We follow Darcy and Lizzy's relationship and many misunderstandings along with Charles and Jane's romance and to a lesser extent the romance of Luke, Lizzy's friend, and Pastor Liam. Occasionally I wanted to smack Lizzy for being so obnoxious. As Darcy and Lizzy spend more time together, Lizzy begins to see Darcy in a new light and realizes that she may have unfairly judged him. I loved that she became aware of her tendency to judge others harshly and that she made herself reevaluate her opinion of him. The relationship between Lizzy and her sisters was delightful; real, loving, but not saccharine sweet. Lizzy is intensely loyal to her family as Darcy is to his and that loyalty and their respective families help move their relationship along.

In updating the book, Ball has made it very modern with topics such as the treatment of Native Americans, homelessness and access to food, and the presence and influence of Twitter in people's lives. In fact, I loved how Ball incorporated Twitter and used it to help move the story along at times. "First (Wrong) Impressions" is funny, intelligent, thoughtful, and a pleasure to read. You can enjoy it just as a romance, as a treatise on current social issues in Canada, as an update on "Pride and Prejudice" or some combination of the three.

I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Robert Babiak says

Krista has written a great novel based on Pride and Prejudice adapted to life in the inner city of Edmonton

Alberta and I read it until my eyes were blurry late into the night.

I kept seeing Krista, the person not the author, peeking out between the words, relating her own experiences within the framework of the story. It lent a feel of realism to the story that no author can dream up without having lived through those the joys, frustration, and tragedies.

You will laugh, cry, and think about things you probably have never considered before, by the end you will be sad to see the last page turned.

If you are a fan of Jane Austen you will love this adaptation, especially if you live in western Canada.

Rebecca says

It's been years since I read any Austen, but running off memory, I am pretty impressed by the adaptation. It has feel of characters but adjusted to modern mores. 4 star i think

Judy Bullard says

This book was offensive with the language. Didn't even get past the first page. It could have been a good read, but the author felt it was necessary to use too many 4-letter words. I requested a refund from Amazon.com because of 'offensive content' - they are great for refunding e-books if you do it within a couple of days of purchase. Don't bother with this read!!

Heidi Rothert says

The first remade Pride and Prejudice that could have been good but the language, along with a few other issues... disappointed me. I literally would scan pages and skip paragraphs because of the language. :/ Sad that it wasn't better.

Jan says

This book was so much more than just a cute little love story. There were many real life issues woven throughout the course of the book. Homelessness, hunger, date rape and homophobia were all addressed in the story and the author inserted them so seamlessly that she never appeared to be on a soap box. It was a wonderful way to spend a cold Sunday afternoon. It was nice to read a book set in Canada.

If I had to pick out one thing the story was missing, it would be a twitter speak to English dictionary. There were things I missed because I don't tweet.

I received this book for free in exchange for this honest review.

Jannie says

Could not finish this. I only made it through five chapters. I couldn't take anymore. Jane Austen, a devout preacher's daughter, must be rolling over in her grave. This Elizabeth Bennett is foul mouthed and spouts a bunch of liberal philosophy, especially when it comes to downplaying religion. Her best friend is no longer Charlotte Lucas but a gay man named Lucas Charlotte. I have read other modern retellings of P&P and enjoyed them thoroughly because they stayed true to Austen's values and the spirit of the original. I am so glad this was a freebie on Kindle. I would hate to think I wasted money on this.

L.H.Smith says

1.5 stars

The only reason why this book isn't 1 star is that I did actually enjoy Darcy. Yes, he was snide in the beginning and arrogant, but he didn't stray far from the original which I appreciated. But Lizzy, OMG, there wasn't much redeemable about her. If she hadn't worked with the homeless, I would have given this a 1 for sure. She's so mean-spirited, cruel, and just foul that I could barely stomach her. I'm no prude, I love adaptations, I don't care if there are gay and lesbian couples inside the book, I've read them done in other adaptations, but Lizzy was so awful it ruined just about the entire experience for me. There were so many points I wanted to put this book down, but I hung on hoping that she'd eventually become kinder. Which I guess in fairness to the author she did, right at the tail end, because of course the requisite HEA had to start taking place. But for anyone to say this was a true representation of Lizzy, get real. Lizzy was a fiery and spunky character and could stand on her own two feet, but even when she was prideful, I still loved her because I could see how someone in her position would feel that way. This Lizzy refused to give anyone a chance, she was mean-spirited to just about everyone and while there were parts of her that were in line with Austen's Lizzy, I can't say I really liked this Lizzy at all. She was a ball buster, and always had Darcy apologizing for everything. Ugh... so clearly I'm in the minority here and that's fine. But I can honestly say that this has easily been one of my least favorite adaptations, and not because of how the author choose to represent any of the characters who are all pretty radically changed, but because Lizzy was awful. If she'd been tempered even a little, I might have liked this more.

So I'd say read it if you like, but if you're a purist, I might just pass on this one. You're likely to hate it as much as I do. And by the way, I loved Clueless the movie, for anyone not in the know it's a modern retelling of Emma and I thought it was done very very well. Because while Emma's character was silly and 'clueless' you could see deep down she was sweet. That's what I was hoping for when I got this book. But I didn't see any softness from Lizzy until the end at which point I hated her so much I didn't care and hoped Darcy ran away with Caroline just to get as far and fast away from that ugly piece of work as possible.

Would I recommend this to anyone else? Absolutely Not.

You want to read good adaptations, check out Abigail Reynolds, also Anna Elliot. And if you want some with heat Linda Wells is very good too.

Raquel says

I loved this adaptation of Pride and Prejudice. The modernization of Elizabeth as staff at a non-profit serving the homeless and Darcy a wealthy potential donor is a really brilliant way to explore the class and economic distinctions and animosities that exist in a different form now than in Austen's day.

Besides being a well executed Pride and Prejudice adaptation, it's a very good book on its own. The characters and their lives are well developed and explored. I loved that this book went into the difficult positions non-profits and their staff often experience in their mission and talked so much about the specific challenges of the homeless and marginalized. It's a topic most readers don't encounter in their day to day lives and this book explores the injustices and frustrations in a beautifully raw way while the familiarity of the P&P storyline gives these topics a context that I think might be more approachable for some. 'Cause let's be real, a lot of people are weirded out about issues of extreme poverty and would rather not think about it.

I enjoyed the way that the author developed the relationships between characters. It all felt very genuine. This book made for an excellent read in every way.

Mary Hartshorn says

This story was interesting in the sense that it gave you a lot of information and insight into some non-profit organisations that provide a safe place and help to those individuals in society who have been denied help because they refuse to change their actions for the better. I was seriously surprised to find out about places like this and the help that they provide, along with how strong and dedicated one must be in this type of job.

The romance was ok at best. I admit that there were a lot of sections that I just skipped. So give it a try, maybe you will like it more than I did.

Emily says

I love the genre of books that are continuations of Jane Austen and/or modern versions of her works. This is a wonderful modern version of Pride and Prejudice set in Canada.

Lizzy works for a non-profit that feeds the homeless. In addition to being a wonderful update of P&P, the issues of non-profits and the homeless are very thought provoking.

Definitely worth a read.
