



## Loving Mr. Darcy: Journeys Beyond Pemberley

*Sharon Lathan*

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*"Highly entertaining... I felt fully immersed in the time period, thanks to the author's attention to detail. It is a real credit to Ms. Lathan that her storytelling style is in keeping with the author of the work that inspired this novel. Well done!"*

### Romance Reader at Heart

*Beyond Pride and Prejudice...Beyond 'I Do'...*

Darcy and Lizzy venture away from Pemberley to journey through England, finding friends, relatives, fun, love, and an even deeper and more sacred bond along the way.

Having embarked on the greatest adventure of all, marriage and the start of a new life together, now the Darcys take the reader on a journey through a time of prosperity, enjoyment, and security. They experience all the adventures of travel, with friends and relatives providing both companionship and complications, and with fun as their focus.

The sights and sounds, tastes and flavors of Regency England come alive. Through it all, Darcy and Lizzy continue to build a marriage filled with romance, sensuality, and the beauty of a deep, abiding love.

## Loving Mr. Darcy: Journeys Beyond Pemberley Details

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Author : Sharon Lathan

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## From Reader Review Loving Mr. Darcy: Journeys Beyond Pemberley for online ebook

### Andrea says

Pride and Prejudice is one of my all-time favorite books and while there are sequels that mostly work and are enjoyable, this one was not even close! I imagine a wonderful marriage between Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy: witty, strong, romantic, and well--passionate. All wit and restraint goes out the window in this one and all you're left with is sickeningly sweet (which the "real" Fitzwilliam and Lizzy would never approve of) and WAY too much that should be left behind the bedchamber door. Seriously. I only made it about half-way and all I kept thinking was how sissified (no spell check problem on that? Apparently it's a real word!) Mr. Darcy was behaving. Pride and Prejudice is written so well that you feel the passion, tension, and strength without spelling out every single detail for the reader--and I feel that Mr. Darcy and Miss Elizabeth appreciate Miss Austen for it.

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### Janis says

Aaaack! I love a good romance, but the syrupy language in this book is overwhelming! I decided to finish it because the storyline is interesting, but it's not the focus of these books. Their intimate relationship is, so beware if you don't want to know all the intimate details of their lovemaking.

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### Debbie says

I don't want to turn off people from this book when I say I did not finish it. It just was not my cup of tea. Pride and Prejudice is my all time favorite book and while I have enjoyed several "sequels" to it this just was not one of them. The writing was not bad but after getting 200+ pages in I did not feel there was much of a real story going on. It mostly seemed to be a lot of Darcy fondling Lizzie or the two of them gazing or thinking of each other and wanting to have sex. I also felt like instead of being her usual strong self, Lizzie came across as somewhat weak and totally dependent on Darcy for her happiness. Granted some of this later in the story can be attributed to her pregnancy and hormones but really in my mind despite her love of Darcy I can't imagine her pining away if separated from him for just days or hours. I wanted to keep reading but I felt after 200+ pages I could not take one more page of their raging hormones and wanting to rip the clothes off of one another. I think that is just me and probably because it did not fit my mind set of who Darcy and Lizzie were. I will say this book definitely had it's racy moments and I think that would appeal to some readers.

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### Minna says

Honestly, I am impressed I could make it through this book without throwing up a little in my mouth. I SO MUCH wanted to like it, it had such good reviews, and I love a Pride and Prejudice theme (in theory). But. BUT. Several hundred pages of pure syrup (Oh, Elizabeth, my dearest love, my lover, my treasure, how much I love you, GAG) and an unbroken pattern of sex every other page - at least - just does not float my boat. Gushy love sentiments once in a while, okay, but in every conversation, I highly doubt. Hot monkey

sex every single freaking time the two protagonists come into contact? After 8 months of marriage? uh huh. Basically this book read (to me) like a fanfiction of the author's idea of pride-and-prejudice themed utopia: she has limitless money, an awesome sex life, is absolutely fawned over and worshipped by everyone (except a few jealous b\*tches!, but even they come around when they realize it's LOVE, TWOOOOH LOVE) but most especially her super-hunky husband, can do no wrong, is smart, clever, and funny, and is practically perfect in every way. Oh, not to mention the psychic dreams about her future baby. (!) Hello, Mary Sue, nice to meet you.

I read in another comment that the commenter thought Mr. Darcy (poor Mr. Darcy) had been changed into a sissified version of his former self, and I agree 100%. The first book in this series was okay, and the gushy stuff was more believable because they were in that "honeymoon stage". Not anymore. Plus after all those hundreds of pages of goo, she STILL (sorry, spoiler) DID NOT HAVE THAT BABY. I kind of just a little bit want to read about the baby but I don't think I can stomach any more of this, sorry... I will be getting rid of my books by Ms. Lathan and going back to my standards, Ms. Aidan (for P&P realism) and Ms. Berdoll (for doofy P&P humor!).

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## Shy says

I read all five novels of the Darcy Saga in pretty much one go over the space of a week and as a result I find it easier to critique as a whole set rather than individually so this review covers all the five novels although I will assign a rating to each book:

1. Mr. & Mrs. Fitzwilliam Darcy
2. Loving Mr. Darcy
3. My Dearest Mr. Darcy
4. In the Arms of Mr. Darcy
5. The Trouble with Mr. Darcy

First of all, this book is for the hopeless romantics who want nothing more than to revel in detail in Lizzy's and Darcy's relationship post engagement. The forward to the first book unapologetically states that the author's introduction to Pride & Prejudice occurred with the 2005 movie and while she has since then read the original piece she has chosen to utilize the movie adaptation as her starting point so some details referred to are not from the novel but the changes are cosmetic.

I do not have issues with the author's level of writing skill so much. There's a fine line for me between where I fall into the story easily enough and where I find the poor writing to constantly intrude on my consciousness as I imagine myself through the story and these novels crossed the threshold fairly easily. That said, I never want to hear the word "stupendous" in my life ever again. Yes, adjectives abound as others have commented, but for some reason stupendousness rose above everything and by the third book it was like itching a mosquito bite; every time I encountered it I was irritated.

I am of two minds about the enormous proportion of love-making in the novels. I imagine 70% of the 5 novels put together is composed of nothing but their passionate and undying declarations of love for each other and amorous love-making. That said, there was no scene that felt distasteful or simply pornographic and gratuitous. It was very much newlywed bliss. However, two years on and having sex morning, noon and night in every room, every sheltered field, nearly every day through two pregnancies actually becomes mind-numbing toward the end. It is quite romantic but the extended sustained pace eventually starts to beggar belief. I would not recommend these books to single people who are bitter about their status as no actual living, breathing human being will ever live up to the expectations or a relationship this book will set for you!

It is true that there is very little plot but again the author is not really apologetic as she has set out to chronicle the marriage, which does not always have a plot like every good novel should, but she has tried to inject a sense of drama into each book. The results are a bit uneven. Whatever parts of the novel are not occupied by love-making are primarily relationship driven. The marriage is chronicled in GREAT detail, with Lizzy getting pregnant in the first novel and not delivering her child until the third! The first two books are quite similar - floating along evenly until the very end when some sort of crisis is reached requiring Darcy to rescue Lizzy. In fact, while I love the level of detail of the locations demonstrating the research, the third quarter of book 2 describing the daily journeying of their holiday nearly bored me until it was time for the 11th hour crisis.

The third book probably meandered most of all, with no particular focus of event other than the birth of their first child. It is probably saved by the developing characters involved in their life - the rounding out of Col. Fitzwilliam, Georgianna, the other Bennet sisters (Mary and Kitty) and the exploration of Darcy's uncle, George. This continues into the fourth book, where Kitty particularly begins to bloom into a three dimensional character. It is only the fifth book, however, that actually manages to introduce and to keep tension steady throughout, with classic foreshadowing and plot driven storytelling. The fifth was probably my favourite for this reason.

My biggest disappointment, however, is the author's abandonment of Jane Bingley (nee Bennet). While she certainly features as Lizzy's sister, carries on dialogue and even has some intimate conversations with Lizzy, we are never taken into her confidence in the same manner as we are with every other character. Even if only briefly, we become privy to the inner thoughts of Mary at the point of her courtship, and are given a startling insight into Kitty's maturation. We glimpse the evolution of Caroline Bingley. Col. Fitzwilliam's private turmoil is revealed in the 4th book. Even Wickham's own inner twisted logic is shown to us. However, the author never lets us see Jane other than through the eyes of another person and by the time I finished the 5th novel I was left with the feeling that Jane was left as a complete stranger to me. I am frankly shocked at this omission.

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## **Sandy M says**

This second book in Ms. Lathan's series takes us through the second half of Darcy and Lizzy's honeymoon, and it's a joy reading how in love they are, how romantic Darcy is, and their carnality for one another is only strengthening with every whisper, touch, and kiss. It's actually quite nice to read this type of romance, hero and heroine together, having fun, taking care of hearth and home and anything else required of them - together. Yes, there's little tiffs but they last no longer than a page or two at the most, then love prevails once again. There's also humor and a frightening, scary moment or two, but, overall, this series is a man and a woman who live, work, and love together.

The ante is upped a few chips in this part of the story when Elizabeth realizes she's pregnant and Darcy, of course, is beside himself with happiness at the prospect. And Darcy, being the unusually unusual English gentleman he is, determines to be involved as much as possible in his child's life, even while in the womb. He even goes so far as to plan to be in the room with Lizzy when the time comes. First he sleeps every night with his wife, kisses her and holds her hand in public, makes love to his pregnant wife often, and now he wants to be in the delivery room, so to speak? Unheard of! No well-bred Englishman would do such things! That's what makes reading Darcy so much fun.

Some of my favorite scenes are when he's talking to their child, sometimes to the point of such emotion he can't hold the tears back. You get to see those moments from both his and Lizzy's points of view, which make them all the sweeter. I also love watching Darcy, just as Lizzy does, going from the ecstatic boy no one

but Elizabeth knows to the upright, controlled Master of Pemberley, brooking no argument when he issues orders or demands or is protecting his wife and child when called for.

Darcy is the one who has changed the most in this series, starting out as a man reticent to socialize, letting only those close to him see inside, known for never joking and smiling, let alone laughing, to a man his friends and family knew he could be all along, if only he'd try. It takes the love of his life for him to expend the effort to now love, smile, and laugh wholeheartedly, which, he finds, is really no effort at all. It's wonderful seeing the change happen page by page.

Elizabeth is his rock. As young as she is, she's the one who keeps him grounded, who calls him back when his control slips, who arouses him to the point of no return (though he does that for her also). Lizzy has come into her own in this book. She has to face several challenges when Darcy isn't around to throw the Master of Pemberley persona at whoever deigns to confront his wife, and she handles everything beautifully, just as the Mistress of the house should. She's always been an elegant young woman who knows her own mind, but she takes that a step further as she grows into Mrs. Fitzwilliam Darcy when dealing with family, servants, and society alike.

A lot of this book is spent with Darcy and Lizzy taking care of family and duty in London, constantly surrounded by people and problems, but when they return home they take a slow, leisurely journey through Derbyshire where Darcy shows Elizabeth the rich history of his home, their love of bygone times and people bringing them closer together. Ms. Lathan does a very nice job of getting their mutual interest across while not bogging down the storyline nor boring the reader with historical facts. This part of the book is as lush as the English countryside the traipse through.

Secondary characters are still aplenty, all interesting and full of depth. I enjoyed the blooming romance between Mary, Lizzy's sister, and a local barrister, all the while thinking it would be even more interesting if Georgiana, Darcy's sister, is enmeshed in romance later in the series; his reactions alone would be filled with emotion across and off the charts, giving readers a devil of a fun time.

This is a wonderful continuation of the Darcys' story, and I am eagerly awaiting the next installment in January, The Darcys at Year's End.

See my complete review at <http://www.goodbadandunread.com>

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### **Bridgette says**

A real disappointment. This is one of the few books in my life that I haven't finished. 90% is coversation between Elizabeth and Mr Darcy on how much they love one another or discription of bedroom activity. I made it through almost half, but should have put it down earlier. Becomes reepative, as there really is only so many ways to actually say I love you. I felt like I was reading same conversations and scenes over and over. Very little description of other characters and society. Overall boring. The book is extremely long, and I flipped to the end, and it only covers about 4 months of their life.

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### **Charlene says**

This was the 2nd book in Sharon Lathan's seris of books. It picks up 6mos into their marrage and end before there year anniversary. I like her books alot, but I do get tired of the sexual scenes and the perfectness of

Darcy and Lizzy. Having said that, of course Darcy is perfect but I just don't want to read about there perfect bed scenes. I love the introduction of the new characters it give the story line some meat. In this story there is only one hardship (if you can call it that) that Darcy and Lizzy overcome. The story ends right after the hardship and of course a sex scene. Now onto the 3rd book.

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### **Su says**

This has to be one of the most appalling books I've ever read. Since when did Jane Austen's characters 'look out the window', or 'figure' something out, or go on 'vacation'? The mixture of an attempt at early 19th century English and modern American English was, to say the least, confused. Repton was described as an 'independent school' - no such term existed in Austen's time - and describing a shop as a 'shoppe' left me dumbfounded. The sex between the two protagonists was exceedingly repetitive and rather boring. There were some interesting ideas in the book which, with a little imagination, could have developed into an imaginative storyline but these were sadly swallowed by Mr Darcy's husky voice and fondling hands.

It's a brave person indeed who takes it upon themselves to finish what a truly great author started and Austen fans' desire for the story to continue beyond Pride and Prejudice is more than understandable. But this book proves beyond doubt that no one but Austen can write Austen. Her razor-sharp wit and observation and the things left unsaid continue to delight readers the world over. This is a clumsy book and should be consigned to the Mills and Boon shelf.

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### **Lyndi says**

I really liked this book, minus all the sex. I do find it a little hard to believe that couples have sex 3xs a day forever, yes, in the honeymoon stage I understood, but not 9 months after the wedding! No wonder she ended up pregnant a few months into their marriage! And their "loving" took up over 100 pages! So if you took even 50% of that out, I would have given it a better rating. But overall I really liked it. The author mixed in some action (besides sex!) into what could have been a boring book. I just love these characters, probably like many others, hence the reason people are still making movies and writing about them so many years later. And I am probably going to read others, as Lathans 2 books are the only ones I have ventured into so far.

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### **Tina says**

I was waiting for a story to actually unfold, but rather, all that occurred was the physical intimacies of Darcy and Elizabeth. I skipped over the constant physical expressions of their love to see if any narrative would occur, but it was scarce and never fully developed. I wouldn't recommend this book to anyone and feel embarrassed that I made it to the end of the book.

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### **Regency says**

2.5 stars.

Honestly? I really didn't care for this book. I tried very hard to enjoy it, but reading it became an absolute chore. I came so close to abandoning it on many occasions, however, I had a meager hope that it would improve. The continual, redundant sex scenes that were not only underwhelming, but they were absolutely ridiculous at times. I found myself rolling my eyes very frequently when encountering the all too frequent love making - rather than stirring my emotions, the cheesy writing actually turned me off. The book itself had very little actual "story" to it - it was simply filled with page after page of the Darcy's celebrating their union, in over-flowery, syrup-y sweet (to the point of cavities) ways. As others have mentioned, this book could have been written in about a 1/3 of the size once you abandon the sex. I simply couldn't stomach it, and found myself skipping scenes/pages whenever Darcy would have his wandering hands and flowery romantic sentiments.

Other things that annoyed me included the mixture of modern day American English with what should have been period appropriate wording. Things that the characters said or did would made me laugh and/or wince depending on the situation, simply because it was either highly improbable, or not period appropriate.

As far as the story went, I think there was some potential in some parts, but the total execution of the book left me feeling simply drained, and bored. Both Darcy and Lizzy seemed to deviate from their characters too abruptly at times, and annoyed me.

Things got quite exciting right at the very end, but abruptly ended, and I ended up feeling nonplussed.

I suppose I'm just disappointed with what could have been a better storyline and a let down after enjoying the first book reasonably well. I was quite lenient with the first book, (which suffered from the same problems with the redundant sex scenes, etc) but at least I felt there were some things happening to keep me interested. Sadly, Loving Mr. Darcy was lacking.

All that being said, I have already purchased the rest of the books in the Darcy saga, (wrongly assuming that I would love the series) and at some point, I will endeavour to continue with the next book. Part of me is still holding out hope that the next book will be an improvement. However, in the meantime, I will be taking a much needed break from this series.

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## **Eline says**

I have to admit something. Every single time I pass by something related to Jane Austen, even in the smallest way, I have to go back, hug it a little and eventually buy it. Sometimes though this "love at first sight" turns out to be a little disappointing. That was the case with this book. I didn't dislike it, but I didn't like it too. Maybe it was the fact that there didn't happen a thing in this book that made me feel this way. I love to read love stories, but there has to happen something in them. This book just went on and on about the ever lasting love between Elizabeth and Darcy. Only a few chapters away from the end there happens something with these characters. For the rest of the time they say "I love you" a thousand times, buy a lot of things and think about all the things they still have to do. Tiresome!

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## **Tamara says**

“ but regret? I could sooner regret breathing than to regret having you as my wife” –S.Lathan

Seriously did Darcy just say that! Swoon!

Lathan's saga continues in the second instalment of Journeys Beyond Pemberley, we follow the Darcy's to town for the season, stopping in Hertfordshire on route to stay with the Bingleys. As is typical of Lathan nothing is rushed and every detail is imparted. Mr Darcy partakes in a billiards tournament whilst in Meryton and it is these details that allow the reader to really get a sense of their world. We witness Mr Darcy's protectiveness over his dear pregnant wife. Oh my! Charlotte is expecting also, I will say no more on that point!

Lathan continues to give us insights into little exchanges and scenes that are not in the book or the movie. Each is reminisced on by either Darcy or Elizabeth; revealing what they were thinking at those times. I dearly love these little added extras as they do leave you smiling, especially the insight into Elizabeth's stay at Netherfield while Jane was ill.

You get to experience Darcy house like never before and see Elizabeth handle a less than welcoming housekeeper, well they can't all be like Mrs Reynolds. Oh and we meet Caroline again since the marriage.

"She had seen Mr. Darcy as the perfect catch, and not only because of the size of his pocketbook. Darcy would be flabbergasted, but the fact is that his cool, aloof demeanor as a result of his shyness and disdain for the foolishness and falseness of society had translated to Caroline as superiority of character. Caroline looked down her nose at everyone, was cruel and snide, haughty and arrogant in the extreme. Lizzy was not the first to interpret Mr. Darcy's past behavior in this light. So, Caroline figured they were two of a similar kind." –S.Lathan

Lathan continues to jump between the past and present, keeping you on your toes and the story fresh. Darcy's birthday for instance, while Elizabeth and he were betrothed.

We also meet Darcy's Uncle, who is a spiting of him and gradually he is entwined into the story, eventually playing a bigger part in the series. We see how the reconciliation with Lady Catherine transpires and is there yet hope for Anne?

Surprisingly although Lathan takes her time with details I would have liked to have seen a bit more of Elizabeth's transition and eventual acceptance within the ton! (sorry but I love to see the Caroline Bingleys of the world brought down a peg or two)

Elizabeth and Darcy's experience their first separation since being married and while Mary and Kitty stay with them in London one of them catches the eye of a prospective suitor!

Mid July sees the Darcys return to Pemberley with the Bingley's following later in search of a property. Elizabeth reinstates the traditional summer festival put on for the tenants and as Mistress of Pemberley she does ever so well.

Embarking on a tour of Derby was a history lesson in its self, I very much enjoyed it especially since I have been there and could relate but if you have not, you will feel like you have. Derby brings a little drama but it is Mr Darcy shopping for baby stuff that had me moved to tears.

With an unexpected end I enjoyed this second instalment of the Darcys.

Now I too will jump back to the past and talk of the chapter surrounding Elizabeth's birthday. The reason Darcy does not exist in real life is because of chapters like these! I am sorry I cannot divulge anything as I do not want to spoil it, but I will leave you with a snippet of a speech that although may not seem overly romantic, when the rest of the speech is read (sorry you'll have buy the saga, which I am sure Lathan will not mind) it is for me, the best speech I have heard from Darcy thus far in the world of JAFF!

"Listen to me, Elizabeth Darcy. I do not ever want to hear you utter the belief that you do not deserve anything I chose to give you or that it is my 'goodness' which compels me. First of all, you are worthy of all this and far more for reasons which would take me hours to numerate, yet that is merely one point. I am your

husband. I am responsible for your happiness, security, health, wants and needs, pleasures, future, and all else. I take my job very seriously and will exhaust myself physically and financially if need be to ensure this. Do you understand?" - S. Lathan

Originally posted on My Kids led Me Back to Pride & Prejudice

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### **Claudine DiMuzio / Just Jane 1813 says**

I am always sad when I finish a Lathan book because I know the series is coming closer to an end for me. I just smile and enjoy spending all my time with the Darcys at Pemberley... Oh, is there anywhere more drama than Pemberley??? I love the relationship Lathan creates here as well as the supporting cast... I just have a permanent smile on my face when I read her books!!

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