



The Perfect Match: a Pride and Prejudice sequel

Lory Lilian

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“The Perfect Match” is a sequel to “Pride and Prejudice” that takes place a year after the events of Jane Austen’s novel. Her beloved characters are approaching their first wedding anniversary as the Darcys and Bingleys experience somewhat different marriages.

In addition, Elizabeth Darcy has the burden of organizing her first ball while she encounters the challenges of the high circles of Regency London, not to mention a mysterious “affliction” that has Mr. Darcy in a panic

...

This novella is light and sensual, with several scenes suggested for a mature audience. There is no explicit sexual content.

The Perfect Match: a Pride and Prejudice sequel Details

Date : Published May 23rd 2014

ISBN :

Author : Lory Lilian

Format : Kindle Edition 110 pages

Genre : Romance



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From Reader Review The Perfect Match: a Pride and Prejudice sequel for online ebook

Michelle says

I've either read this before, or something similar. I really like Ms. Lilian's writing. She gives a feel for the time period. This book takes place after the wedding of Darcy and Elizabeth and Charles and Jane.

I don't normally like to read about after the wedding, but I enjoyed this book a lot, because Charles' and Jane's marriage was as I always imagined it would be. They totally love each other, but don't really interact with one another. Contrast that with Darcy and Elizabeth and you can see that their personalities play a big part in their marriages.

Meredith (Austenesque Reviews) says

Even though I adored all of Lory Lilian's splendid Pride and Prejudice variations and am a fan of her romantic portrayals of Darcy and Elizabeth, I must admit, I had some reservations about her newest release, The Perfect Match. Partly because sequels that focus on Darcy and Elizabeth aren't my favorite type of Austenesque novels, (I tend to gravitate more towards variations and minor characters stories) but also I was a little apprehensive about this book because of the title. Like Jane Austen, I'm not too fond of "pictures of perfection," I like me some tension, misunderstandings, and obstacles. However, I'm so very glad I did read this charming sequel novella, it did not make me "sick and wicked" at all, or portray numerous repetitions of idyllic bliss – to be honest, it suited my tastes quite perfectly!

This one hundred and ten page novella was the ideal length for the author's purpose, which was to illustrate Darcy and Elizabeth in the midst of their first year of marriage – how they are getting on with each other, how Elizabeth is adjusting to her new roles, and how relationships are developing between their two families. Through the course of the novella we see Darcy and Elizabeth celebrate their anniversary and the Christmas holidays. In addition, we witness Elizabeth's "proper introduction" into society and the momentous occasion of her hosting her first grand ball. Even with an absence of tension and misunderstandings between our beloved couple, there was plenty to captivate and entertain.

I think one of my favorite aspects of this story was the comparisons made between the two sisters' marriages, Darcy and Elizabeth illustrate the happiness derived from a "marriage of true minds," they are open with each other and enjoy a bond that is powerful and rare. They are very attuned to each other's feelings and share lovely moments together, but it didn't feel too saccharine or unrealistically perfect.

Jane and Bingley, on the other hand, are not living a life of "happily ever after." While their love for each other is strong, they are afraid to be open with each other. They also suffer from a little too much involvement from their relatives. This is a storyline I find very probable and credible. Given what we know about Charles's "easy temper" and Jane's "affectionate heart," it is easy to believe that they would let their families impede their own marital happiness and privacy. I greatly appreciated how Lory Lilian handled this conflict between the Bingleys, and didn't portray them as weak, mindless, or helpless characters. I was so happy to see them prevail through their troubles!

Another aspect of this sequel I greatly enjoyed and appreciated was how Mrs. Bennet was portrayed. After Lizzy becomes Mrs. Darcy, I'd like to think she would stop berating and complaining about her "least-favorite" daughter. It was very touching and gratifying to see a Mrs. Bennet who was so in awe of Darcy and so stunned to be amongst aristocrats that she quite lost her silly and hysterical ways. And it was absolutely lovely to see her sweet moments with Lizzy where she conveyed her concern, support, and best of all, her admiration.

This brief little glimpse into our dear couple's happily-ever-after was like sampling a delectable piece of chocolate after a sumptuous meal. Nothing too filling or complex – just that extra bit of "something sweet" to leave you completely satisfied. Well done, Lory Lilian!

Warning: While nothing too explicit happens on page, there are a couple sensuous and amorous scenes between our newlyweds. ;) Recommended for Mature Audiences.

Claudine DiMuzio / Just Jane 1813 says

Another lovely P&P sequel!!

This book was a sweet, brief read. Nice character development of the Bingleys... Once again, the Darcy relationship is a true delight to witness...

Leslie says

This is a P&P Sequel explaining the complete and total love between Lizzy & Darcy. and oh they are in love. When Darcy must leave her for a few days to travel for business Lizzie can't eat, can't sleep. (WTF) But she is still wonderful, charming and able to involve herself in her sisters' problems.

Poor Jane she isn't happy in her marriage. She didn't get the memo that she can show affection with her hubby and they are living in a cold, formal, dull marriage. She is dreadfully unhappy but has no one she can turn to. And her 'sisters' by marriage have invaded her life and won't leave.

Lizzy is finally taking the ton by storm and there are many events she must undertake, famous persons she must charm and a ball she must give. If only she wasn't so mysteriously weak and tired and lightheaded...

But Lizzy rises at every attempt to intimidate her... Caroline gets her comeuppance ... Jane gets laid and we all live happily ever after.

Sophie says

So cute! Loved it. Review coming

Tamara says

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

This book is what I would call, an understated, little gem!

You need look no further than the last chapter in Austen's Pride and Prejudice to understand Lory's vision for this book and to my sheer delight, her inspiration is the 1995 P&P with Firth and Ehle, squeak!!!.

For me the last chapter in P&P conveyed so much, yet gave so little, I selfishly wanted more and this little darling of a book does precisely that! When I was speaking to Lory about this book she said "Elizabeth and Darcy are meant to be the happiest couple in the world, right?" And I could not agree more!

Therefore if you were expecting Elizabeth and Darcy to be anything other than happy or for the Colonel to get horrifically injured or for some other ghastly mishap to take place, then you will be sorely disappointed. However, if like me, you believed Darcy and Elizabeth would have their happily ever after, then I am certain you will appreciate and enjoy this story, as much as I did.

Following Elizabeth and Darcy for little over a year, their first Christmas is spent at Pemberley along with the Bennets, the Gardiners and the Bingleys (yes including the Bingley sisters). You will be pleased to know that Mrs Gardiner's wish to tour the grounds in a small phaeton, were realised. Between June and August Darcy takes Elizabeth on a tour of England.

Returning to London in November to spend the season, we catch up with the two lovebirds at Darcy house. The Bingleys are to host a joint anniversary dinner and Lady Matlock, displeased that the Darcy's forewent the previous season, is eager for Elizabeth to throw a ball and be properly introduced to society.

"Darcy helped Elizabeth sit near Georgiana then took a place right across from her as he always did. She had asked him some time ago why he did not sit beside her at the table, and he had answered that he preferred to have a full view of her beautiful face and to enjoy her smiles, her fine eyes, and all the small gestures that for such a long time he had admired only from afar. Now, more than ever before, she could feel his eyes caressing her while the servants brought the first course and the others asked Darcy about his journey." -
Lory Lilian

I loved this story for too many reasons to mention, but what I liked most, was that Lory tried to keep the characters as close to Austen's as possible in regards to how they might behave. For instance Mrs Bennet was kept how I like her, a little over the top but sensible enough not to ruin her daughter's marriages and reputations amongst the ton or the Matlocks for that matter! Lets not forget the business of her life, was to see her daughters married and I am sure she would do nothing to jeopardise that.

Lory does a exceptional job in addressing and expanding on the brief glimpse of the future Austen left us. I liked how the gradual change Bingley undertakes is conveyed, as he tries to gain his assertiveness in his new found position as husband and his conflict of interest in light of how his sisters behave. How would it have been? Although Caroline would not have been insensible in preserving her right to visit Pemberley, it does not follow that she would be so altered that her manner would soften towards Jane. As Mr Bennet observed, Bingley and Jane are so easy and generous that It came as no surprise that their marriage would run into a few problems. Darcy and Elizabeth had their fair amount of trials and tribulations in P&P but I felt Bingley and Jane's were on the horizon. After all, Elizabeth gained a sweet and loving sister in Georgiana but the same could not be said for Jane. Elizabeth was not settled too near her family, Yet Jane was just a stones throw from Longbourn!

"Mr. Darcy's "ten thousand a year," his estates, and his wealth meant little to her. His best qualities—those for which she felt herself blessed—were his generous nature, his kindness, his honesty, his fairness, his intelligence and knowledge of the world, his love of books, art and everything beautiful—and his love and passion for her. His dark gaze and small, hidden smiles when he looked at her, his soft, low voice whispering to her, his strong yet tender hands that offered her safety, warmth, caresses, and . . . Her own thoughts made her tremble," - Lory Lilian

The details for me, are what Lory does best, every question I had, she answered. For instance did Mr Bennet tell Mrs Bennet the truth about what Darcy had done for Lydia? It is these little details I appreciate because they are important to me and I think every Janiete can relate to that.

Keeping details realistic adds to the depth of a story, how did the Matlocks take to Elizabeth? How was she received by the ton? How did Darcy handle the fact that Wickham was part of the family? Lory pulled off a wonderful job in all aspects that mattered. Each of her Characters, old and new I adored and I frequently had a satisfied grin on my face.

My favourite scenes were Elizabeth's repartee with the Countess of Jersey, a patroness of Almack's, Jane and Bingley's enlightenment to how they had misunderstood one another, Mrs Bennet's heart to heart with Elizabeth and Darcy's worry and outrage pertaining to Elizabeth's health.

There is something lovely about Darcy's protectiveness over Elizabeth, it is so masculine yet heart-warming because it conveys how much she means to him. They both love each other without question but by closely keeping to the original characters we do not get the overly passionate or unbelievable Darcy. We do not see a Darcy that cannot bare to be apart from Elizabeth for even a moment, he still pursues his manly pursuits like visiting his mens' club, while Elizabeth enjoys spending time with Georgiana, Jane and Mrs Gardiner.

"So she went alone? Twenty servants in this house, and she went alone? Where was everybody? Sarah, Mrs. Benson—and Stevens—I already had a decided discussion with him. Does no one attend to their duties when I am away?" - Lory Lilian

Elizabeth is quite the lady and it was great to witness how she handled herself in her new station in life, in one particular scene, I loved how she pacified Darcy's displeasure with his aunt, while still showing him the respect a husband like Darcy should garner, without belittling him in the presence of company. Another theme that ran throughout was Darcy and Elizabeth's connection, through knowing glances they silently communicated with one another. Remember the 1995 piano scene at Pemberley, when their eyes meet at the piano while she turns the pages for Georgiana, shortly after Caroline's thinly veiled attack, if you do, then you will know what I am talking about. I was unhappy that the story was not longer, I could have read another 100 pages, covering Georgiana's coming out and Elizabeth's presentation to court , but then it would be unfair to criticize a book that at 110 pages is described as a short story, there goes my selfishness again!

Capital! I was pleased with everyone and everything in this book, Mr Bennet's wit, Mrs Bennet's love for her daughters, Mrs Gardiner's wise presence, Caroline's disdain, Lady Matlock's tender concern and family loyalty in promoting the reputation of the Darcy's and lets not forget Colonel Fitzwilliam's jovial manner. Jane and Bingley were too sweet. Elizabeth was kind, loving and considerate. Darcy was a great friend, generous and most importantly a gentleman. It should come as no surprise that both couples were most certainly, a Perfect Match!

James S says

Perfect

Perfect. Eveything a long short story should be. Or was it a short novella? A fine sequel to P&P. I love when Miz Lory includes the Matlocks in a story. ??

Jenny says

This is a relatively short book at 125 pages and it's a light and sweet read. Predominantly the focus is on the Darcy's after their marriage and also features Mr and Mrs Bingley. Whilst Darcy and Elizabeth have a perfect relationship things are not going so well in the Bingley household. Their story was really different but quite convincing.

This is a nice, gentle read - the picture of perfection may be slightly grating if you are not in the mood for it! I felt a bit dissatisfied with the end of this book but I'm not sure why - there was lots of mention of the twelfth night Ball which we don't see and I think probably needed to make the story feel more finished.

All in all I enjoyed this and would recommend it.

Tracey Brown says

5 stars

Another amazing read from this author, this one was a lot shorter than her others but still had everything I expected.

Great characters we love so much and a good story loved it.

Sheila Majczan says

As other reviewers have commented this is a novella, a sequel to Pride & Prejudice. There is little angst in this story as it is more a story of how the ton did or did not accept Elizabeth into their circles and how Elizabeth managed through this process. Decisions are made as to when to return to town and how long to stay in town.

The side story is how Jane and Charles find their marriage lack luster when they observe the interaction of ODC...especially when Jane has a private talk with Lizzy and hears that they (gasp!) sleep in each other's arms nightly. Have no fear, reader: there are no graphic details about bedroom scenes. I was reminded, in reading about the Bingleys, of what Mr. Bennet stated after their engagement (in canon) was announced, "...Your tempers are by no means unlike. You are each of you so complying, that nothing will ever be resolved on; so easy that every servant will cheat you; and so generous, that you will always exceed your income." Jane and Charles do learn to open up and speak out but the process is not without its bumps.

The First Anniversary dinner for both couples and the later private nighttime celebration is heart warming...Darcy does not disappoint! Lovely scene painted for us.

Caroline Bingley and the Hursts maintain their snobbery and this, too, is FINALLY, addressed by the correct party. Their further company in both sisters' houses comes to depend....well, you'll have to read the novella to learn that. I can't give everything away.

Mr. Bennet offers some sound advice as to family alliances while Mrs. Bennet, in being invited to the Darcy's for their ball...let's see if she shocks society in London as she did in Meryton.

This story is much like an epilogue to Pride and Prejudice, even though Jane Austen did give out some details along that line herself. Short and sweet.

Christina says

Austenesque author Lory Lillian follows Jane Austen's lead in the last pages of Pride & Prejudice and offers what might have happened after the last page in this sweet novella. Lillian opens "The Perfect Match" nearly a year before Darcy & Elizabeth's one year wedding anniversary. And as Austen herself deemed it to be, it is a most satisfactory match! Lillian delves a little deeper into their relationship as well as their loved ones and gives us a closer peek. Contrary to the outward appearance of perfection itself, Charles and Jane Bingley have intimacy issues that must be resolved-- and when everyone is reunited in London to celebrate their wedding anniversary as well as introduce the new Mrs. Darcy to the Ton, the two sisters find ways to support each other. Some may complain that this is not as graphically steamy as some of Lillian's previous work-- but I found plenty of heat without blushing to my roots sans throbbing and pulsing members! What happens to the other Bennet sisters, Georgianna Darcy and even Lady Catherine? You'll just have to read. This makes for a delightful afternoon read curled up with a cuppa tea!

Kirk says

3.5

Patricia says

There are some scenes that I thought was out of character with Darcy and Elizabeth.

Love how Georgiana and Jane blossomed in the book

J. W. Garrett says

"The beauty of a woman must be seen from in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart, the place where love resides." Audrey Hepburn

Rating: the book blurb stated: "This novella is light and very sensual, with low angst and several scenes suggested for a mature audience. There is no explicit sexual content."

This was a delightful story. I simply loved it. I loved the characters. Wickham and Lydia were off the page and in the north, were they belonged.

Our couples the Bingleys and the Darcys each had a very different honeymoon period. Darcy wisely took Elizabeth off so they could be together...alone. Bingley, unfortunately stayed at Netherfield with his sisters, Mr. Hurst, and with Mrs. Bennet coming by two or three times a week. Caroline and Mrs. Bennet were both quick to give Jane advice and comments on how things should be at Netherfield. Charles... what is the deal... letting everyone run over you and take advantage of Jane?

When the Bingley and Darcy couples finally get together in London, Elizabeth can see that Jane is unhappy. The Bingley sisters are in rare form as they try to manipulate Eliza...control Charles, and downplay Jane's authority in her own house. Charles tries to walk a fine line between all the elements in his life and is not doing a very good job of it. He can see daily that his wife is not happy.

Well, let's just say the straw that broke the camel's back, came during a dinner party, given by the Bingleys, celebrating their shared anniversary with Elizabeth and Darcy. Yeah, Caroline pulled a good one and Jane finally cracked and left the dining room in tears, with Charles right behind her. This was the beginning of a new relationship between Jane and Bingley. It was really cute, sweet and sensual.

This story showcased Elizabeth coming out in society as the new Mrs. Darcy. A small ball was to be given to select members of the ton with Lady Matlock as the guiding force. This was the most prominent social happening within the ton and Caroline so wanted Elizabeth to fail. Elizabeth's health took a turn and after she fainted in the garden, the doctor was called and Darcy was beside himself over his concern.

There was a scene at the ball when Mrs. Bennet made a speech within the hearing of only Mr. Bennet. I was so moved by it, completely uncharacteristic of her and yet so profound. I loved it and even Mr. Bennet was impressed with it. Wow, such insight from Elizabeth's mother, who for years only saw Elizabeth as her least favorite daughter. This little conversation with Mr. Bennet soothed so much resentment on my part for this woman... that I forgave her for her slight. Now... that is saying something.

There was an epilogue; and I do love a good epilogue. It answered most of my questions; however, I was still left with a few threads unanswered.

Mary says

Dear reader,

Sometimes you find yourself in the mood for a short,sweet,romantic read,centred around a couple that hold a very special place in your heart.

You look for a beautifully crafted story that presents us with a couple that are truly happy to be together,who share their daily lives, and support each other when acquaintances seek to dismiss their opinion,or disparage them in any way.

Look no further then, dear reader, as this tale ticks all these boxes and ensures that you have a permanent smile fixed on your face while reading.

I loved so many facets of this book - the obvious closeness that Darcy and Elizabeth shared, the unifying presence of their extended families, particularly Lady Matlock, and the sheer happiness that they felt, secure in the knowledge that they had married their soulmate, their perfect match.

I must also add that I really thought the inclusion of the 'marital difficulties' the Bingleys' initially endured was well written and, given the characteristics of these two amiable people, very understandable!

So dear reader, I recommend this heartwarming tale to all Austen lovers and trust you will enjoy this snapshot into the lives of the early marriage of Darcy and Elizabeth.

I won this book on Rita's blog
'frompemberleytomilton'.

My sincere thanks to both Lory and Rita for the opportunity to do so!
