



Darcy's Voyage

Kara Louise

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A Tale of Uncharted Love on the Open Seas

In this enchanting and highly original retelling of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Elizabeth Bennet sets out for the new world aboard the grand ship *Pemberley's Promise*. She's prepared for an uneventful voyage until a chance encounter with the handsome, taciturn Mr. Darcy turns her world upside down.

When Elizabeth falls ill, Darcy throws convention overboard in a plan that will bind them to each other more deeply than he ever could have imagined. But the perils of their ocean voyage pale in comparison to the harsh reality of society's rules that threaten their chance at happiness. When they return to the lavish halls of England, will their love survive?

Darcy's Voyage Details

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From Reader Review Darcy's Voyage for online ebook

Stephanie says

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that I cannot get enough of Elizabeth and Darcy. (Sorry, couldn't resist.) Lucky for me, there are a plethora of books inspired by *Pride and Prejudice*. Of course, none of them can hold a candle to the original, but this one does better than most. I quite enjoyed it.

Darcy's Voyage is *Pride and Prejudice* in an alternate universe, where Elizabeth and Darcy meet and fall in love while on a ship to the Americas. The result: less pride and less prejudice (but more kissing). Overall, it's a very satisfying read if you're in the mood for a light romance between characters you already know and love.

A few last notes:

1. This book is very "clean," not my usual trashy romance fare.
2. I got this ebook free from Barnes and Noble.
3. I'd really like to give this 3.5 stars, but I rounded up because it was free. Yes, I can be bought.

Ruth Hinds says

In the beginning, when they're on the ship, I wasn't sure what I thought about the book. I wished the author had just made up her own characters rather than using Darcy and Elizabeth. However, as the story unfolded, and wove in and around the original book's events, I really enjoyed it! I think it was cleverly done.

Sheila Majczan says

I bought this in paperback as "Pemberley's Promise".

I looked this author up on Amazon many years ago at the recommendation of another very popular JAFF author. When I was reading this book's plot, my first thought was that this story was going to be "too far out in left field", too much of a deviation from the original P&P story. BUT I found it to be a page turner, despite the stretch. I won't go over the story line as other reviewers have covered such. Scenes which stay in my imagination: the scene at Pemberley during which Elizabeth discovers her needlework on Darcy's mantel piece, the scene where she first visits Netherfield not knowing Darcy is there, the first morning walk to which he so cleverly invites her and Jane going on-and-on about how Elizabeth met Mr. Wright/Right during a coach ride years before, not realizing Darcy is the gentleman. When having read so many other JAFF books scenes stay in my mind and I have to go back and re-read the whole book or at least from that scene on...you know the author has done something very rewarding for a lover of JAFF. Since this is basically the same book as Pemberley's Promise I posted my review on both sites.

I own 6 of Kara Louise's books. I am just now posting a review as up until I retired, I did not find the time. I have a project to re-read and post reviews even if they are very late in coming.

K. says

Oy. This book was decidedly no bueno. Alterna-P&P books are kind of my guilty pleasure, and this was was a) cheap on Amazon and b) had reasonable reviews, so I figure where's the harm? EVERYWHERE. That's where the harm was. EV. ERY. WHERE. The problems started for me by page 18, where Totally-Not-Meant-To-Know-He's-Darcy-Yet says "I see the carriage from my country home is already here." Um. No gentleman would ever refer to his wealth in such a public way, especially to a woman whose name he doesn't even know. "I see my carriage is here" would be more than sufficient.

While the idea of having Lizzy and Darcy formally meet on a ship bound for America was certainly a new one, that's primarily because in the Regency era, people would NEVER have made such an enormous trip for a couple of months. It was cost prohibitive and hugely dangerous. If, as the story would have us believe, Mr Gardiner had to go to America for business reasons for six months, there's no way he would have uprooted his entire family to go with him. And, if they were staying for that length of time, there's no way they would have stayed in a boarding house. Likewise, Darcy would never have stayed with the family of Georgiana's companion.

Around 35% of the book takes place on the journey from London to New York - again, historically in accurate. The ship would have sailed from Liverpool or at least put into an Irish port for supplies and passengers - and is therefore effectively the same events repeated over and over again. The term "aloft" is misused throughout to mean "to go up on deck", which meant that every time the word was used, I had a mental image of Lizzy standing in the topsail rigging in her half boots and Empire-waisted dress. Even the American history is inaccurate - P&P was published in 1813 but most agree that it's set a couple of years earlier. And yet we have people on board the ship who are going to settle in the Dakotas. Which didn't see permanent European settlement until 1817, and even that was a fur trading post - hardly the place you'd take your wife and two daughters to live.

The basic gist of the story is that Lizzy and Darcy get into a sham marriage on the ship so that she can have a comfortable bed, and they plan on getting an annulment later. Except that they never actually exchange address information, so how is he supposed to let her know that he's actually gone through with the annulment? Furthermore, large parts of the plot from that point on revolve around their marriage certificate. Except that marriage certificates weren't issued in the UK until July 1837 when the Registry Office was introduced to track all births, deaths, and marriages. So the fact that they wouldn't have had a marriage certificate negates at least half the plot.

Plot aside, the writing is clunky, constantly using five words when one will do or bizarrely constructed, with sentences like "He tried to grasp the words he just heard, determining if he could have somehow misunderstood the words." or "You must engage her to talk" common throughout. The dialogue is frequently far too modern, including phrases like "she pretty much decided" and "I would love to see you". Many of the supporting female characters have names that probably never graced a Regency ballroom, including Jenna, Amanda, Lauren, Lenore and Madlyn. (MADLYN?? REALLY???)

As if all of that wasn't sufficient enough to put you off reading this, we add in the servants. All the relationships between servants and masters are far too informal - I seriously doubt that Darcy's valet, on finding out that his master has been robbed of several pieces of diamond jewellery would *apologise for the inconvenience* - with the vast majority of servants referring to Mr Darcy by name, rather than as "sir". This even applies to the servants of friends - the Gardiners' maid greets him with something along the lines of "Mr Darcy! It's good to see you back", which would never have taken place if she'd been even vaguely interested

in keeping her job.

In summary, do not read this tripe. It's one giant historical inaccuracy from start to finish, packed with clumsy writing, poorly thought out concepts, and is desperately in need of a decent editor. Add in the fact that apparently Shakespeare has chapters, and I can happily tell you that if I had a physical copy of this book, I would be stabbing it repeatedly with a basilisk fang, because it deserves nothing less.

Anna says

Darcy's Voyage proved to me that I'm still not growing weary of the numerous sequels and re-tellings of Jane Austen's novels. In this re-imagined Pride and Prejudice, Kara Louise takes readers on a completely different journey while staying true to Austen's beloved characters and arriving at the same conclusion.

Elizabeth Bennett and Fitzwilliam Darcy meet in a carriage, and after enjoying a lively discussion, they part ways. Two years later, Elizabeth convinces her father to let her travel alone to America to visit her Uncle and Aunt Gardiner. After boarding Pemberley's Promise, she runs into Mr. Darcy, and they strike up a friendship, not realizing he is the man from the carriage and the owner of the ship. Elizabeth is booked in steerage, and she willingly gives up her bed to a pregnant woman whose daughter falls ill. And when Elizabeth also becomes sick and injures her ankle, Mr. Darcy devises a plan that will allow her to sleep in the extra bed in his cabin — and joins the two of them together permanently.

Of course, misunderstandings separate them once they reach New York, but after returning to England, they are reunited at Netherfield, and readers are reunited with the rest of the cast of Pride and Prejudice. In addition to the complicated situation carrying over from the voyage, Darcy and Elizabeth still must deal with George Wickham's evil ways, Caroline Bingley's arrogance, and Lady Catherine's rage. Louise handles these things (and more) much differently than Austen, breathing fresh air into a story I know inside and out.

Although I found it hard to believe that Mr. Bennet, being a gentleman, would allow Elizabeth to travel solo and that Elizabeth and Darcy didn't recognize one another on the ship after being so smitten for months after the carriage ride two years prior, I really enjoyed Darcy's Voyage. Because they meet in a far different manner, there isn't the prejudice that Austen created, though pride is glimpsed here and there. Darcy's Voyage is more about keeping love intact at all costs than about overcoming pride and prejudice. Louise puts a unique spin on events, with enough tension to carry the story until the end, where some things play out differently than in Austen's novel. Darcy's Voyage is among the most creative Austen re-tellings I've read in awhile.

Review posted on Diary of an Eccentric

I received a free copy of this book for review.

Nicole D. says

Elizabeth and Darcy have a chance meeting 2 years before they meet again sailing on Darcy's ship Pemberley's Promise. Elizabeth is on her way to visit her aunt and uncle and Darcy to retrieve his sister. Darcy and Elizabeth's Voyage to love is just as delightful in this book as the original. Original lines and

scenes are re-imagined in unique and realistically original ways. You can easily see these conversations taking place. New problems and old plaque are couple on there way to happiness. I was very happy to see both Darcy and Elizabeth's feelings within a scene and it is not just being told from one of there PoVs. All the characters are true to the ones in the original novel right down to the wicked Wickham and snobbish fake Miss Bingley. This book may be 500 pages but I found it going by very fast and couldn't believe it seemed so short. I recommend this book to all fans of Pride and Prejudice.

Content Rating:PG(sensual kisses and embraces)

Keeper: YES

this review can also be found on my blog theradingrebel.wordpress.com

Chahrazad says

Well Well... I can't believe how quickly I finished this one despite the length, but then it's all Austen's charm.

I approached this one with suspicion since I don't think anyone can compete with Jane Austen or appropriate her characters. and you know what? I was RIGHT!

I struggled at the beginning with comparisons; I couldn't get the original "Pride and Prejudice" out of my head.

The story brought different aspects of the heroes' personalities: Darcy wasn't portrayed as being arrogant but rather shy, and Elizabeth Bennet didn't have those prejudices, and I think mainly because they met in different circumstances, without the intervention of the Bennet family.

I felt that the writer should have opted for the third person limited for her narration rather than the omniscient, since it most of the time killed the sense of mystery. Darcy in this novel isn't the same mysterious and enigmatic person as in the original Pride and Prejudice, and having constant access to his thoughts wasn't a welcome feeling and sometimes got boring.

I don't know what to think of the whole voyage to America... I felt at a certain point that all the writer wanted to do was to throw the couple in constant company of each other and that's why she chose a ship, since the whole part of them being in America was of no consequence!

The last part about Lydia and Mrs.Bennet was hilarious and so witty, it was a welcome surprise!

I succeeded in enjoying the book only when I started to look at the characters as being not the ones in Austen's novel. I couldn't stop seeing Colin Firth in my head though!

Eliza Baum says

This was a fun story. I think it was too long, and there were whole swaths in the middle that I ended up skimming, but overall I really enjoyed it. The first part of the story, on the ship, was definitely the better part for me. Once the story started to slip into the "normal" plot, it became less interesting. I wish there could have been a bit more variation once Bingley and Darcy came to Hertfordshire, since the tale as a whole started so differently. It was disappointing that it relied largely on the same old plot changes.

Despite those complaints, I did really enjoy the story. The secrecy, the wondering, the furtive walks at Netherfield...very nice.

Sophie says

Update: Having just re-read this wonderful story I had forgotten how much I loved it and it was even better than I remembered! I highly recommend this story!

What a delightful story! I absolutely loved it! I was wondering how realistic it would feel with Darcy and Lizzy making their way across to America on a ship... but it surprised me how it really did seem feasible. I was also worried about the length, it being quite a long story compared to the other variations I had read, but I didn't need to worry as the story flowed so well and I didn't want it to end! I think the story didn't seem to drag at all because of the amount of 'screen time' Lizzy and Darcy had. There were not many scenes or large periods of time where Lizzy and Darcy were not together, which is good as the best scenes are always when they are together!

I loved the prologue; Darcy and Lizzy meet in a carriage 2 years prior to the meeting on the ship and they get off to a good start and have an interesting conversation. However, neither finds out who the other is, so when they meet 2 years later, they both have that feeling of having met before but it takes a while for them to properly put two and two together. I really liked this running theme through the story and the question of when the other was going to realise they had already met!

The first half of the book was wonderful. All the scenes on the ship were full of detail and the relationship between Darcy and Lizzy and how it developed was fun to read. Darcy was the perfect gentleman and he was so considerate to Lizzy; what he did for her was an act of the utmost chivalry. We see their relationship flourish through morning walks up on deck and many incidents aboard the ship, Pemberley's Promise. Darcy and Lizzy are both portrayed very well and she captures the essences of their original characters really well.

I thought it was very clever and interesting seeing how a prior meeting between our heroine and hero would affect the events which we see happen in the original; the meeting at Netherfield, the Netherfield Ball, the visit to Pemberley, Lady Catherine's 'visit' to Lizzy, Lydia's elopement. I found it a lot of fun to see how some of the iconic conversations which take place in the original are affected because of this prior relationship as well, and seeing Caroline Bingley's rising suspicions about the two of them!

Georgiana was a fun character. Her relationship with her brother was very sweet and I really enjoyed seeing her caring side towards her brother and also her detective nature coming out when trying to work out the reasons behind Darcy's low spirits and who this mysterious Elizabeth from Longbourn is.

The romance in this story was wonderful. Whilst being completely clean, it was still highly romantic; secret meetings and stolen kisses. I was very pleased with how the question of when the couple's mutual love would be realised wasn't drawn out for too long and (without giving too much away) that once it was

realised, it was never doubted; it annoys me when a heroine keeps thinking 'he loves me', 'he doesn't love me', 'no wait he does!' the entire story, or vice versa! The ending was wonderful; it links in very cleverly to the beginning of the story which takes place on the ship and it is a very satisfying and pleasing end! There is also an epilogue showing what happens to each of the characters in the story, which I like to have at the end of a story.

So, I shall bring my thoughts about this wonderful book to a close. If you can't get enough of Darcy and Lizzy and want to read a story where they are thrown into completely different circumstances then this is for you. The trip to America is a very different approach to the story and it is accomplished extremely well. It was a highly enjoyable, witty, romantic and interesting story to read; I highly recommend it and I look forward to her other work!

Alyssa says

I loved it, I loved it, I loved it!

I loved that Kara Louise chose to respect the Regency relationship norms between men and women, and remained true to the society expectations of Austen's day.

Her story was compelling and she didn't need raunchy sex to draw her readers in.

Thank you to Kat for recommending this story. Darcy's Voyage pulled me out of my reading slump and now I need to find another P&P story to read.

Meredith (Austenesque Reviews) says

Darcy's Voyage, originally published as Pemberley's Promise in 2007, is a phenomenal Pride and Prejudice variation in which Mr. Darcy's and Elizabeth Bennet's first meeting is altered. Instead of meeting in the Meryton Assembly room, Darcy becomes acquainted with Elizabeth on a ship bound for America. Elizabeth is traveling to America to visit her Aunt and Uncle Gardiner who are in New York on business. Darcy's sole purpose for journeying to America is to accompany his sister Georgiana home from her visit with Mrs. Annesley's family. On a boat full of strangers Darcy is even more reserved and aloof than his natural wont. In addition, he criticizes his fellow female passengers as looking "meagerly tolerable" and deems them not "handsome enough to tempt" him. Elizabeth, on the other hand, while sleeping in the stifling and overcrowded steerage, enjoys befriending her fellow passengers and charitably spends her time tending to those who are unwell.

To continue reading, go to: <http://janeaustenreviews.blogspot.com...>

J. W. Garrett says

Darcy and Elizabeth sail into their HEA [happy-ever-after] on Pemberley's Promise

Source: library-ebook: Note, this was previously published as Pemberley's Promise.

I read this years ago when I first started reading JAFF [Jane Austen Fan Fiction] and loved it. I decided to read it again so I could write a review of this delightful book.

We open with a prologue where a young girl of about eight and ten years is traveling coach from London to her home. Also traveling coach is a well-dressed gentleman who is not accustomed to traveling in such a manner and is terribly uncomfortable and ill at ease. His regular conveyance was in need of repair thus forcing him to use public transportation. As they journey, he begins to notice her and evaluates her from her curls down to her sprained ankle. He notices her style of clothing and determines that she is gentry or at least a gentleman's daughter, her eyes are intelligent and he likes the book she's reading. Intrigued they eventually strike up a conversation on books, poetry, and such. Both are impressed at the intelligence of the other and soon forget that they are miles apart in their social circles. At the next stop for horses, the gentleman leaves as another of his carriages has arrived to meet him for the last leg of his trip. The young lady watches as he is driven away. Each regrets not getting the name of the other.

Our story opens two years later with Elizabeth making plans to journey to America to stay with her Aunt and Uncle Gardiner where they are conducting business. Mr. Bennet accompanies Elizabeth to London and the shipyards and places her into the capable hands of Captain Wendell. Elizabeth waves a tearful goodbye to her father and the Pemberley's Promise sails from the harbor. Elizabeth soon relaxes and tries to enjoy the month long journey.

This is a delightful, charming, and exciting book. There is adventure, intrigue and angst as we watch another passenger try to enjoy his month long journey while avoiding social situations that drive him crazy. From the first day, every matchmaking parent, every single woman aboard ship has evaluated the handsome stranger from his demeanor and the cut of his well-made clothing and determined him to be a wealthy man in need of a wife. Mr. Darcy has determined his month long journey will not be so enjoyable.

Illness, storms, and long days make for an interesting journey for ODC [our dear couple]. There are swoon worthy scenes through their trip. Misunderstandings and longings move the drama as ODC separates when they reach America.

They do not see each other again until Elizabeth returns home and finds that Jane is sick at Netherfield. She then walks the three miles and suddenly finds herself face-to-face with Mr. Darcy. This is a cannot put it down journey for ODC. I was up until 2:00 a.m. trying to reach the HEA. What a trip, what a journey, I loved, LOVED it. It is so exciting, so steamy, so I can't get enough of them.

Our antagonists are aplenty. Let's see, we have Caroline [deliciously conniving], Wickham [slinking snake in the grass, pain in the...], Lady Catherine [oh so vocal and devious and just plain mean], and Mr. Collins, just cause.

We have all our wonderful characters, Colonel Fitzwilliam, Jane and Bingley. This was so much fun. It is a clean story with a feel good ending and our dear couple trying so hard to make everything right for their happy life. The end and epilogue is so cute and delightful. I simply loved it.

Christine says

This book was a 'delightful diversion' from a heavier, more intense book I am reading. I enjoyed the premise of Elizabeth and Darcy meeting long before his arrival in Hertfordshire and the author intertwined actual P&P events nicely throughout the story.

An easy, enjoyable read that I would recommend for anyone interested in P&P what if's. The characters and dialogue were true to the original.

Nicole says

I gave Darcy's Voyage only three stars because I cannot help but compare it with all the other P&P inspired novels I have read. BUT, I did enjoy it enough to read it in one sitting! I would recommend Darcy's Voyage to anyone who loves this literary couple as I do.

Chris, the Dalek King says

Interesting when they are on the ship, the rest of it gets so incredibly drawn out that it becomes tedious. To be honest by the 70% mark I was pretty sure a lot of the story was there simply to make the book long, instead of the book being long because there was a lot of story to tell.

The author's tendency to try and revert the plot back to the one found in the original book also made Darcy and Elizabeth act wildly out of character in some situations. And any time she worked in a direct quote from the original story was painfully obvious. Had she not been so set on cramming her plot into the plot of Pride and Prejudice, I think it would have worked a lot better. As is, it is clearly a poor imitation.

DNF @70%
