



Boots and Backpacks: Pride & Prejudice on the Appalachian Trail, Roughly

K.C. Kahler

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William Darcy counts down the last few months to his 30th birthday with dread. Orphaned as a child, his parents' will includes a bizarre clause: Darcy must get married by his 30th birthday in order to inherit the family fortune. To make matters worse, the press knows about this deadline, as do the hordes of women chasing him in the hopes of becoming Mrs. Darcy. His family legacy hangs in the balance, but Darcy has little faith in the fairer sex. Will he find a woman he wants to marry, and quickly?

Elizabeth Bennet is determined to pursue her education and career without letting a man get in the way. When her traveling companion drops out, her planned hike on the Appalachian Trail is jeopardized. She meets the spoiled, snobby William Darcy just when he is desperate to escape the spotlight. No one will suspect that the Prince of Manhattan has gone backpacking! Darcy and Elizabeth form a tenuous partnership and begin a 300-mile journey that will transform them both.

In classic romantic comedy tradition, *Boots & Backpacks* follows our reluctant partners as they build trust, friendship, and even more. Six weeks together on America's most famous hiking trail may turn out to be just what these two need!

Boots and Backpacks: Pride & Prejudice on the Appalachian Trail, Roughly Details

Date : Published November 1st 2014 by Meryton Press (first published January 1st 2014)

ISBN : 9781936009374

Author : K.C. Kahler

Format : Paperback 426 pages

Genre : Romance



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From Reader Review Boots and Backpacks: Pride & Prejudice on the Appalachian Trail, Roughly for online ebook

Georgiana 1792 says

Versione di Orgoglio e pregiudizio in salsa moderna con Darcy ed Elizabeth che percorrono parte del Sentiero degli Appalachi.

Lui è un giovane scapolo appetibilissimo, che tuttavia non riuscirà a ereditare i dieci milioni di dollari che i genitori (morti in un incidente aereo quando aveva tredici anni) gli hanno lasciato se non si sposerà entro il giorno in cui compirà trent'anni. Naturalmente la socia del padre, Cathe de Bourgh ha fatto di tutto perché la prescelta fosse Anne, con cui William ha un rapporto fraterno. William è inseguito da una serie di giornalisti e paparazzi, prima fra tutti Gwen Younge, una giornalista e blogger che lo stalkera fino all'inverosimile, arrivando a pagare le varie amanti occasionali di Darcy perché gli rivelino dettagli delle loro notti insieme. Insomma, per sfuggire a Gwen in prossimità del matrimonio, Darcy si ritrova in New Jersey. In teoria lui vorrebbe andare dagli Hurst, ma Louisa è incinta ed è in ospedale per dei controlli, così si ritrova per caso a casa di Elizabeth Bennet, che non gli sta particolarmente simpatica, ma che lui ha subito etichettato Miss Nice Ass (e questo mi ha dato molto fastidio, fino a quando i loro rapporti si sono fatti più seri e lui non ha cominciato a pensare a lei come a Elizabeth, quindi non proprio subito).

Elizabeth sta per partire per tre settimane nella sua annuale escursione sul Sentiero degli Appalachi e, dato che George Wickham, il suo ultimo boyfriend, le ha dato buca, decide di portare con sé William Darcy, che così potrà sparire per un po' dalla circolazione e dalla giostra dei media (lo fa per tranquillizzare Jane che non vuole che parta da sola).

La storia è anche bella complessa, con diversi colpi di scena, e se non fosse stato per qualche dettaglio (tipo Miss Nice Ass), mi sarebbe piaciuto anche di più.

E lo so che la scena è copiata da *How Did I Met Your Mother* - che però non ho mai visto - ma questo libro mi ha fatto scoprire 500 miles . [E dire che sono una figlia degli anni '80!]

Nicole Barton Sasser says

4.5 Stars

Sara says

I LOVED this story. I was drawn in from the beginning. I don't think the characters of D and E are exactly like cannon but that is part of what I enjoyed. It was refreshing and kept me on pins and needles the entire time.

Essentially, Darcy is a filthy rich orphan playboy who uses lots (and i mean like ridiculous amounts) of sex to avoid his life. Charles Bingley is his rich Wingman. The Hursts decided to move to NJ due to their growing family and meet Jane Bennett who is a realtor. Then, Darcy meets Lizzy. They do not get along from the get go but he is attracted to her (though he is pretty much attracted to everything). Darcy is under the gun to get married by age 30 or lose hundreds of millions of dollars. He is hounded by press and paparazzi and is essentially avoiding getting married and doing whatever he wants for as long as he can. He wants to escape before he meets his fated life on his 30th birthday, but Charles won't go with him to this

swanky singles resort. Somehow he ends up at Jane's apartment and next thing you know Darcy is Lizzy's hiking buddy for the AT.

The bulk of the story is their interactions on the AT. I loved their banter, the way they pushed and prodded each other. The slow revealing of themselves to each other and enlightening of their own flawed selves was beautiful. I truly was so engrossed in their world.

There is language and mature content in this book but i thought it was well done and not distracting. It fit the story perfectly. I don't usually read modern renditions but I am so glad i read this one. It was highly recommended as a fellow GR readers favorite JAFF book. Now that i have read it, i completely understand. I highly recommend it to those that want to escape into a new world with a slightly different D and E who work hard to find themselves and each other.

My only minor complaint is I would have liked a bit more in the Epilogue about their future.

Ella says

I can't believe I liked this! But I did! It was easy flow reading and I really liked what she did with the characters. So often in fanfiction, at least the bit that I have read, I feel like the author doesn't stay true to the essence of the original characters. Don't get me wrong, these are not the Darcy and Lizzy of the regent time period. However, it does feel like if those characters were in modern day and thrust into the situations the book provides that they would indeed act this way. With regards to the narrator, at first I kept waiting for the focus to shift to Elizabeth, but then I just enjoyed seeing things through Darcy' eyes. Pride and Prejudice is very much Lizzie's book, but this is very much Darcy's and I found that refreshing. I also loved the scenery. I enjoy day hiking, and wish I did it more often and this book made that desire stronger, even to the point of trying backpacking at some point. This book was a throughly enjoyable read.

Meredith (Austenesque Reviews) says

Imagine a world where William Darcy is a rebellious and promiscuous paparazzi-magnet, and is required to marry by his thirtieth birthday in order to inherit the sizable Darcy family fortune.

Imagine an Elizabeth Bennet, fiercely independent and resolutely dedicated to her personal and professional goals, and only interested in holding men and relationships at arm's length.

Darcy needs to escape Manhattan, he is being followed and harassed constantly since his thirtieth birthday is less than two months away. While searching for a place to hideout for a couple of weeks, Darcy runs into "Miss Nice Ass" Elizabeth Bennet, who not only offers him a place to hide for the day, but also an opportunity to spend six weeks evading the press and paparazzi. She is looking for a partner to help her trek 300+ miles of the Appalachian Trail, since her traveling companion/"boyfriend" just bailed. While Darcy wants to get out of town, he isn't so sure about going somewhere without electricity, hot water, and modern luxuries...Will they be able make through the arduous and challenging journey with the trail ahead as rough as their relationship???

Wow! What a consuming and exhilarating read! This adaptation combines so many elements I love – Darcy

and Elizabeth trapped in close quarters, an inventive and unexplored setting, high passions, and an emotionally turbulent journey! Yes, it has it all! I loved observing these two characters and their hang-ups about relationships and emotional scars challenge each other, learn from each other, and grow. It may surprise some readers to see a Darcy that has a proclivity for one-night stands and is not shy about his sexual urges and prowess. But I understood and felt sympathy for this less-than-gentlemanly and rebellious Darcy. He is not happy with his life, his parents' tragic death, the unusual clause in their will, and the press's intense focus on his life; and this is his way of coping with that unhappiness.

And then we have Lizzy, who is afraid of unhappy relationships and men wanting her to change her goals or priorities. She refuses to lose control and protects her heart by only having casual “friends-with-benefits” types of relationships, but she soon discovers that does not always work out so well. I admired how strong and determined Lizzy is in this story, she truly is a “fearsome thing to behold.” But sometimes she came across a little hard and cold (especially in the beginning), but this might be because the readers aren't inside her head. I loved that the story was from Darcy's point-of-view, but I think I would have understood and empathized with Lizzy a little more if we saw what she was thinking sometimes.

The setting and premise of this story are brilliant! I've never done any type of overnight hiking and backpacking (don't know if I have the mettle for that kind of thing!), but I loved reading about it! I enjoyed learning more about the sites along the Appalachian Trail, the challenges of backpacking, and various survival methods practiced while hiking. Another aspect I loved in this story was the inclusion of various Jane Austen characters from other novels. The relationship between Marianne Dashwood and Elizabeth is perfectly portrayed, loved it!

Boots and Backpacks is a poignant and powerful tale about two individuals who overcome their obstacles, accomplish their goals, and forge a path together for the future. A deeply satisfying journey full of trials, hardships, and big rewards! Fans of sexy modern-day *Pride and Prejudice* adaptations, like *Lucky 13: Matchmakings and Misunderstandings* and *Fitzwilliam Darcy, Rock Star*, will adore this passionate and riveting debut novel by K. C. Kahler!

Warning: Recommended for Mature Audiences Only due to the intimate scenes and dialogue and the use of strong language.

Abigail Bok says

In *Boots and Backpacks*, Elizabeth Bennet is an independent-minded young woman on track to pursue an advanced forestry degree; Darcy is a spoiled über-rich boy who self-destructively pursues empty sexual encounters. As you would expect, the story travels the rocky path from misunderstanding to romance. A number of the key characters from *Pride and Prejudice* are missing, and some are present but largely offstage. K. C. Kahler has felt free to introduce characters who will work better for the story she has to tell, and to ditch characters who won't—fair enough, I have no problem with that. I was less happy about her tendency to *change* the personalities of some characters—especially members of the Bennet family—to suit her needs. It was nice to see the Bennets as a (more or less) happy family, though.

Most of this story worked very well for me; the author especially has a great gift for natural-sounding dialogue, of which I am envious. I was eager to follow along Elizabeth and Darcy's trail (so to speak), wondering what would happen next. (With these stories, of course, the outcome is not so much in question as how the characters will get there.) The arc of their relationship is very different from the original, helped

along by the fact that you see things more from both points of view—for better or worse, Darcy is not the great blank slate that he is in the original. They develop a mutual respect and liking a lot earlier, and even (**spoiler! spoiler!**) get together before the final understanding is achieved. This made sense in a modern context, though personally, I could have done with more disputing about ideas and less sweaty attraction. I was left a little bit wondering what they would have in common (aside from trust, and that's certainly important) after the lust wears off. Such personal preferences aside, the story was very well structured and told.

One thing I especially liked was Darcy silently counting memories of their experiences together on Elizabeth's fingers—totally romantic and beautifully written!

I must say that I did not feel the character of Gwen Younge was believable, and her confession at a climactic moment was too convenient. In general, the whole hounded-by-paparazzi element seemed a bit excessive (and I say this as someone who grew up in Beverly Hills and saw a lot of paparazzi in action). It was hard for me to believe, Kardashians notwithstanding, that they would take such a prolonged and relentless interest in Darcy. The social media element of it, however, was original and well done. Another quibble is that I found the gay innkeeper whose sole mission in life is to facilitate hetero romance to be a bit of a stereotype (kinda reminds me of when black people's stories are told through the eyes of a white person).

Kahler is a vivid writer, and I could see all the scenes clearly in my mind. The story bucketed along, and it held my interest consistently throughout a very long plane flight. This is a very good modern-day retelling!

Warmisunqu Austen says

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3.5 Austen

Una adaptación moderna de Orgullo y prejuicio, más al estilo de El diario de Bridget Jones, por el género, una comedia romántica que toma los nombres de los personajes principales y sus caracteres. Más que una adaptación lo veo como una inspiración. La trama es muy divertida e ingeniosa, nos permite disfrutar de este clásico en una historia moderna, contemporánea por esos toques de mucha chispa y ebullición de sensaciones.

Una relación entre Elizabeth y William que empezó mal pero con una fuerte atracción física y con unas circunstancias que los obligó a compartir su tiempo juntos, a conocerse más fuera de la máscara que ambos se habían construido a lo largo de sus vidas por hechos que tuvieron que enfrentar en su niñez-adolescencia. Fue bastante divertido ver dos personas tan enfrentadas, con un fuerte magnetismo entre ambos.

William, un mujeriego con gran descaro, perseguido por la prensa rosa y por las mujeres interesadas en su suculenta herencia, al cumplir los 30 años tiene que estar casado si quiere heredar varios millones de dólares. Perdió a sus padres cuando tenía 9 años quedándose al cuidado de la señora Reynolds, mientras que su herencia la custodiaba Catherine de Bourgh. William creció con mucha presión y con una ruta muy marcada: ser abogado, gestionar la fundación Darcy y seguir con la dirección del bufete de abogados 'Darcy and De Bourgh asociados', todo ello lo llevó a una vida de caos y cinismo.

Elizabeth era una chica muy trabajadora, estudiosa, independiente, profesional y con muchos planes en su vida, pero el abandono de su padre a los 10 años la marcó, la hizo sumamente desconfiada de los hombres, lo que le hizo pensar en los hombres solo como 'amigos con beneficios'. Este personaje fue el que más me cautivó, con su espíritu libre, sensato, impulsivo, autosuficiente, leal, mordaz, marcando en todo momento su espacio.

Dos personajes bastante cautivadores que iniciaron un viaje como mochileros por el sendero de los Apalaches. Fue toda una aventura. Disfruté mucho de sus diferentes momentos juntos, sobre todo me he reído mucho con sus luchas, advierto, hay descripciones eróticas y de sexo explícito, bastante bien descritos pero con uno o dos, hubiera sido suficiente.

Al ser una adaptación, aunque para mí es más una inspiración, no faltaron personajes como Catherine de Bourgh, Anne, Jane, Charles Bingley, Caroline, Wickham, Richard Fitzwilliam, los Gardiners... en lugar de Charlotte Lucas está Marianne Dashwood, sí, la de Sentido y sensibilidad con su señor Brandon, aunque parezca un batido de ambos clásicos de Jane Austen, no lo es, y se disfruta mucho de las interacciones entre Elizabeth y Marianne, son personajes muy diferentes pero la autora supo encajar sus personalidades tan opuestas.

Lo mejor de la historia es la ruta de senderismo por los Apalaches que mezcla nombres de la historia original (como Hunsford, Kent, Rosing Park...) con lugares reales del sitio donde se desarrolla esta comedia romántica, Pensilvania. Aquí podéis ver el mapa donde la autora remarca los diferentes puntos que recorre la pareja por el sendero de los Apalaches. Lo que más disfruté de este recorrido fue toda la preparación necesaria para iniciar este tipo de actividad, no solo a nivel físico y técnico, sino también psicológico. La historia nos logra contagiar el disfrute por realizar esta actividad.

En conclusión, un historia que lo tiene todo para disfrutar de ella y pasar un tiempo divertido con romance, humor, erotismo, aventura, naturaleza y un nuevo escenario en el que nuestra pareja favorita de Orgullo y prejuicio enfrentan sus defectos y refuerzan sus cualidades.

Sheila Majczan says

I did not like this Darcy or this Elizabeth up to about 80% of this book. They are both very wounded and/or flawed characters and in a way that did not sit well with me. Yes, Darcy has pressures put on him by his parents' will and then by Cat/Cathy DeBourgh but he goes way off the deep end to show his rebellion when the details of that will are leaked to a gossip columnist. "Man-whore" is the word used in this story. Hooking up with one floozy after another (and luckily he does check for STDs regularly) made for a real turn-off for me. He is followed by the news media and by a horde of floozies as the same gossip columnist even resorts to monetary rewards when she needs a "sighting".

Elizabeth's morals are somewhat better but only because she has a few rules which allow her to "hook-up" without any fear of attachments. Her hook-ups are limited almost exclusively to "friends with benefits" and she ends any of those relationships when that man seems to be getting serious. This book does explore, eventually, why each character acts as they do and by the end we see both changing and redeeming themselves in our eyes as well as in the eyes of their world, media included.

Others have mentioned that there are characters from several of Jane Austen's books in this story. They have their own story line to add to our interest. I read this book one afternoon and the next morning. I had not wanted to particularly buy it but it got several good mentions on more than one blog so I decided to take the plunge. But be warned, there are sex scenes. And there are a few choice words thrown around. It is a long book but well developed. The climax is not rushed.

Darcy's decision concerning his father's will was predictable due to the knowledge we all have of P&P and these characters. We knew we would get our HEA. Elizabeth doesn't come to terms with her situation as readily as Darcy and then she is very set in her plans for her professional future. Darcy's future...well, I can't give his choices or his decisions away. There is a lot going on in this story and, obviously, with characters from other books, more than one story line to follow.

I live in Pennsylvania so many of the towns and sites visited during their hike along the AT are familiar to me. The descriptions of the scenery added to the story. And everything from blisters to black bears encountered made for some realism about what can be met with in such a trek.

I would urge those looking for a very interesting modern adaptation to read this but keep in mind, this is a modern story not Regency.

Katrin says

This modern version on Pride and Prejudice, sprinkled with other JA-character appearances, is an absolute must-read for everyone liking a good modernization of austenesque. I couldn't stop reading! Romantic, funny, sarcastic, fairy-tale, realistic - wonderful read!

One of my fave austenesque modern reads so far!

Christina says

Stayed up into the wee hours, two nights in a row to finish this sexy, smart modern retelling of a Jane Austen classic. I admit I was skeptical at first about a backpacking "Pride & Prejudice" but almost from the beginning, the characters and story captured my attention -- and a clever twist and believable dialog held it! Author KC Kahler builds sweet tension between our protagonists-- and though we fully expect Will Darcy & Elizabeth Bennett to eventually overcome their prejudices of one another, and find a happily ever after, it's that anticipation that drives the story. Austen original characters from "Pride & Prejudice" as well as "Sense & Sensibility" fill side stories and though some of the canon characters take only non-canonical story lines -- the focus is always Darcy & Lizzy. The last few chapters read more like an Epilogue -- because at that point, I longed to just reach the happily ever after... But the happy resolution was well worth the journey. And late nights reading. "Boots & Backpacks" was a delicious, even heart in your throat re-imagining, that any romantic would love.

Sophia says

Escaping the pressure and hounding of the paparazzi just before the odd terms of his parents will force him to marry by his thirtieth birthday to keep his legacy sends playboy and womanizer, William Darcy, onto an

incredible journey backpacking down the Appalachian Trail with a hostile female partner and the result is life changing. Whooboy! This one was on rolling boil before the story even opened and it just got more volatile from there in this enemies to lovers plot.

William Darcy is the fourth generation son of a prestigious NYC family and the only Darcy left after his parents are killed in a car crash. He is an orphan, but his parents thought ahead so he had his nanny, Mrs. Reynolds and his dad's law partner, Cat DeBourgh, as co-guardians with them splitting responsibility for him. Mrs. R was his daily caregiver and the domineering Cat took care of his education and other needs pushing him into law and pushing him toward her daughter. Will got a bit of attention as the pitiful orphan rich child, but it wasn't until his early twenties when an inside source at the law office leaked the exact contents of his parent's odd will that he became an overnight celebrity. The will stipulated that he must marry by thirty and maintain certain things in the marriage or he'll lose the Darcy fortune. In retaliation, Will turns into a proliferate playboy and keeps the gossip and entertainment newshounds busy with fodder. One in particular has made him her particular target and turned his life into a frenzy.

Just a few months before the dreaded thirtieth birthday when the hounding and pressure increase, he is jolted out of his shallow, meaningless life when he encounters the feisty, assertive sister of his best friend's girlfriend. Lizzy Bennett challenges him as nobody has before starting with a strong set down when he propositions her for a hook-up. Not only did she say no in the most emphatic way, but she challenges to really see what he has become in the process. Through a series of circumstances, he ends up on Lizzy's doorstep needing her help to hide from the paparazzi even if its just for a little while. Lo and behold, his arrival is fortuitous for Lizzy too because her backpacking partner has backed out on her. She hatches the scheme of him replacing the partner because who would look for a NYC playboy roughing it on the Appalachian Trail.

Though they are partners in this, things start out hostile at best. But the journey through the back country and their adventure together forces them to know each other in ways no one else ever has. Lizzy's man hatred and Will's shallowness don't come from very different reasons they discover. They bicker, tease, and talk their way into a true friendship where the truth forces them to really look at their lives. Misunderstandings, misplaced jealousy and defensive anger do its best to shake things up and does deliver the final blow to any possibilities as the deadline for the will approaches. Will thought he had an alternative to settling for Anne deBourgh, but that dream is in ashes now so he returns to NYC to face his fate.

Alrighty, I read this one on my e-reader without actual page numbers, but the last location logged at a hefty 8945 so it was a boomer in more ways than one. Fortunately, length was not a detractor as I was totally into the story from the moment I learned about Will Darcy's situation and his less appealing personality up against the antagonistic female who was his match. Shake hands and come out fighting. Ding, ding!

The story gives a strong nod toward Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice*, *Sense & Sensibility* and to a lesser extent *Northanger Abbey*, but it is truly its own story in many ways. The arrogant, bitter, lonely, rich man and the equally arrogant, disillusioned, driven working class woman go head to head and its a battle of wills almost the whole way through though the outward antagonism waned toward the end. It's more than a romance, but also a long journey of two people being remade into something more. Will is the narrator for the whole story which was an interesting choice, but it worked.

The oddity of the will as the device that acted as the causal agent was really out there for me. I struggled to figure out how two loving, sensible parents would do that to their child. But I ended up just going with it since it gave an excuse for Will's anger, his desperation, and his reason to be pushed toward Elizabeth.

At first, it seems that its Will Darcy that has to do a lot of changing, but then through more subtler storytelling Elizabeth turns out to be possibly more broken than Will. I confess that I really didn't care for either of them in the beginning particularly the abrasive Elizabeth. Part of it is because I have a real aversion toward snarking and sniping when it is done to deflect or cover up what the real problem is.

For instance, Elizabeth really rubs Will's promiscuous lifestyle in his face every chance she gets in the beginning and later when she wants to really hurt him. Does she have her facts wrong? No, he did behave that way, but the problem is her motives. Their first meeting, I get it, he was a class A jerk and deserved everything she threw at him, but after that, no. I found it pretty obvious that she is attracted to him and she's sniping at him out of jealousy. She, herself is known to family and friends, as the girl who is a man-hater, never does relationships and only does friends with benefits, ending the friendship as soon as the guy gets serious. She hasn't lived her life in front of cameras and gossip newswriters which is the only reason she isn't as famous for her behavior as Will.

But once the story progressed, they grew on me. Oh, they still snarled, but it changed to arguing made out of caring. Will challenges Elizabeth and she challenges him. They were also fun too together and their are lighter moments to blend with the willful stuff. I laughed so much reading the part when Lizzy gets drunk and feeds the jukebox so that it repeatedly plays these songs that really irritate the rest of the bar inhabitants and Will has to throw her over his shoulder- with her cackling away about what she did- and get out of there before they beat him up because he's the guy. Their passion built so by the time they did something with it the tension was strung tightly. The first time was euphoric and meant to be coming before what it did. I loved how the author plotted that part of the romance out so it wasn't just a throwaway during a less meaningful time. Eventually, it comes down to a willingness to change, to really know what's the most important thing, and courage to go for their happiness. They were a truly exhausting couple a lot of times, but in the end, I was happy to have gone along on their story.

I found it absolutely fascinating when they were equipping and actually out on the trails backpacking and camping. I've always loved to camp, but I've never done a distance hike so seeing what it was like through the story just captivated me. This backdrop was so colorful, authentic and written so deftly that it was like it was another main character of the story. I felt I was there enjoying the experiences and the views with them.

Speaking of characters, aside from Will and Elizabeth, there was a large cast of minor characters that had lots of scene time. They weren't just background for Will and Elizabeth, but had their own developed characters and stories in their own right. I really loved pursuing these side stories too though after Caroline's stunt I would have loved for an actual on-scene bit of pay back.

So all in all, the characters grew on me so that I learned to like them as much as the story as a whole. It's unique backdrop and its scope that allowed it to develop well was very attractive. Seeing the Jane Austen tales mashed together was an added pleasure and very creative. But most of all, watching two lonely broken people find love and happiness was the big pay off. I would recommend this toward Contemporary Romance fans who enjoy long developing stories and some sass and heat to their romance.

My thanks to Meryton Press for providing this book in exchange for my honest review.

Ahnya says

Thrown together by circumstance, Darcy and Elizabeth become partners to hike along the Appalachian Trail from New Jersey to Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. Darcy, a NY upper cruster and notorious playboy, is

trying to escape the press and pressure of his upcoming 30th birthday, and the condition in his parents will that he be married by that time to inherit their fortune. Elizabeth is forestry major, and has planned a huge backpacking trip before she goes to grad school. When her original partner backs out, and she can find no one else with 6 weeks of free time, she talks Darcy into going with her.

All in all a delightful read. There were a couple of things I didn't like. One, Lizzy's estranged relationship with her father. Two, the character of Rich Fitzwilliam. Col. Fitz is my favorite character in P&P, so when he gets messed with I get a little irked. Now that I am thinking about it, Mary Bennett not being in the book was kinda weird. I did like that characters from Austen's other novels popped up. I found it interesting, and a nice change that the story was told from Darcy's perspective. The relationship between Darcy and Lizzy was amusing, which is good, because most of the book is just the two of them. I loved the setting. I am fortunate that I have been to and hiked around many of the places mentioned.

A refreshing, and picturesque modern retelling of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice.

Mary says

I must admit that I loved this modern tale of Darcy and Elizabeth.

Darcy is a far cry from Austen's creation in many respects, as his main ambition seems to be to live up to his playboy image that he has carefully honed over the past eight years..... and boy do we see a spoiled, rich, haughty, young man who believes that all women are there at his disposal all, that is until he encounters the only woman who has ever refused him..... and said lady is none other than Elizabeth Bennet!!!!

Let the games commence!!!!

There was something about the style of writing that just drew me in to this story. I loved the way that Lizzy barely tolerated Darcy at the beginning..... how their mutual regard and respect for each other grew and how he became less the Neanderthal and more like the human, guy next door that actually deserved to be in a serious adult relationship with the fiercely independent and direct Lizzy.

They grew to love each other and were a team.... Partners not only on their hiking expeditions but in life.....

I recommend this book to all lovers of Austen who prefer a very modern story which encompasses many facets of the realities of living in today's world..... An updated version, yes, but nevertheless, a romantic tale of the quintessential boy meets girl!

Rose Fairbanks says

This book has bewitched me. I can put it no other way. I read it a month ago and knew right away I had to do a review but got caught up with things. Still, in the few quiet moments of life I had I would daydream of scenes that were effortlessly etched in my memory. It's not necessarily the sort of thing I would usually like but, this book has bewitched me. I hadn't thought I would read it but read an excerpt on a blog and had to know what happened next. It pulled me in immediately with the opening scene and never let me go, I read it

in one day.

I will start with what would be my usual turn off. I am really picky on the modern stories I read. I read the original characters and the conflict a certain way and find it doesn't usually translate well to a modern story and mostly because of sex. Sex is a huuuuge part of this book and yet it absolutely totally works as a modern reinterpretation. I won't share Darcy's big number (really, really big) as I think every reader should experience the horror and disgust of that on their own, but it really should have turned me off. Yet, Ms. Kahler makes it work through the circumstances of his rearing which put him on that path and also later when he is with Elizabeth he really has an epiphany about it. Anyway, I found it very believable and somehow this repulsive bit mixed with what you later learn of the man. And that's what love is isn't it? You love an imperfect being and you accept their faults.

My next big turn off with moderns and sex is that dear Lord the sex complicates things. I've enjoyed quite a few but darn if there's not usually a situation where Elizabeth freaks over something and winds up pregnant but unable or unwilling to inform Darcy. Or she just has fears of being used etc. And Darcy is, even in a modern world where women have sex without marriage all the time, by far and away the superior in experience. Elizabeth doesn't come close to Darcy's number here but Kahler presents it in such a strong way. She is not shameless, she does turn him down for a plain hook up. She has to at least like the guy and trust him and she has several rules. But she prefers no strings attached. She doesn't do relationships...actually that's a big deal in her non-sexual relationships too. And I think that's actually really equal to Darcy's experience. I find all kinds of parallels with them in Canon, so I love seeing that time and again in this book. But the sex they share is enlightening, powerful and beautiful. It gives them an anchor in their relationship- even when it seems hopeless. Kahler turned something that seems smutty on the surface- Darcy's previous use of women is truly atrocious- and made it lovely and layered in emotion.

What I absolutely adored the most is that in all other ways this is exactly how I understand the original Darcy and the way he comes to understand his feelings for Elizabeth. Kahler really translates certain sentiments to a modern setting very well. He was trained to have a certain image, to think he needed to maintain a legacy, to do what he must to inherit his fortune etc. and he is so angry with the restrictions this has placed on him- and from a very young age. In the end he realizes his parents would have wanted him to be happy and to have freedom of choices in his life. He also realizes he did have a choice and had spent too long acting a part. At one point he begins to describe himself as a horrible person, but modifies it to having lived a horrible life. I see Canon Darcy as a bit less arrogant than most, but at the end of it all, whether he just hates Hertfordshire society because they're not rich enough or he hates the Bennets because they behave so horribly, he has been judgmental and made himself superior. He has treated people badly and that is a horrible way to live.

I'm less certain about Elizabeth. I did like her a lot. She was way more obvious in her dislike than Canon Elizabeth was but the social rules are so different now. We do not get her point of view of things in this book, but I'm left to wonder if some of what I have disliked about other moderns is that they do make Elizabeth too wilting for a modern world. This Elizabeth is strong at each turn. Even when she finally cracks and is crying it is STRONG of her to allow someone else in her life. Darcy has to EARN his place. That is a Lizzy I can like and respect.

I love plots that put Darcy and Elizabeth on a path where they must rely on each other and in the process come to learn about each other. Whether it's kidnapped by highwaymen, a secret marriage aboard a ship, pirates attacking a ship or, now, hiking the Appalachian Trail. Some of this is clearly just personal taste but I also think it's a good shift from Canon. Darcy and Elizabeth both trust each other with secrets which would be very harmful to their way of life if revealed to others, or at least more difficult. Out on the AT they were forced to be there for each other.

There are some excellent minor characters. The characters of Isabella and John Thorpe just fit in perfectly from their Northanger Abbey selves. Marianne Dashwood and Christopher Brandon are an excellent translation as well. I have always said that I was Marianne as a teenager and grew up to be an Elizabeth so I really like that they were best friends here. They bicker but have their similarities. Extra points go to the brilliant use of contemporary references from the use of Twitter to other plugs like Futurama.

There is a surprising twist that I truly did not see coming but I think it makes perfect sense and I do not think it came from nowhere. This book is longer than most you'll see but it didn't feel too long. Each time it seemed like it might be on the verge of just being a very long epilogue it wrapped itself around to a main plot point. Truly, I only have one minor complaint and that is on the final timeline/scene point I think it could have been made to be more about Elizabeth's professional life and choices as I think most of her concerns had been vanquished long ago. And I believe in a few more reads I will probably find this the best ending after all, just as has been the case with my other favorite. Favorite? Yes, favorite. This is hands down my favorite modern and probably my top 5 favorite JAFF entirely.

Bravo, Ms. Kahler. I hope you give us another one soon, but not too soon as I can tell the time you put into this one really paid off.

Julie says

While I enjoy a good fan-fiction of Pride & Prejudice, I can only give this 3 stars. It was a very loose, modern portrayal of the famed storyline. Darcy a womanizer? Lizzy a man hating cynic regarding love? Darcy an only child? Wickham a complete stranger to Darcy? At least Charles and Jane stayed true to character. As for the hiking, the author played it fast and loose. While she may read some about the Appalachian Trail, she got quite a bit wrong. The glaring issues distracted from the story. No one does a LASH with three pairs of shoes in their backpacks. Let alone swim trunks, bikinis, multiple changes of clothes, heavy binoculars and other such weighty items. She also relied on some cliches about gear and shoes, which were off. For Elizabeth to be such an authority on all activities outdoors, more research should have done on the actual subject matter. Perhaps actually talking to AT thru- and section-hikers.
