



## Folly and Forgiveness: A Pride and Prejudice Variation

*Lizzy Brandon*

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*Loss. Lies. Lessons. . . Love?*

Elizabeth Bennet's insistence on marrying for love has unintended consequences when she defies her mother and refuses Mr. Collins. With Longbourn left in mourning, Elizabeth must work through her guilt and grief, only to discover how little she has understood anyone around her. As others prepare for weddings, Elizabeth is left to wonder how she will find love when her judgment is so abominable. Though she tries, can she really change?

Fitzwilliam Darcy knows the Master of Pemberley has a duty to find a suitable bride. As tempted as he is by Elizabeth, she is far from suitable. When Mr. Bingley refuses to leave Hertfordshire, Darcy finds himself staying as well to protect his friend, then staying to protect Elizabeth from Mr. Wickham's increasing attentions. Darcy struggles to balance claims of his heart against claims of duty, only to learn he faces another obstacle. The more he speaks with Elizabeth, the more he fears that making an offer may not be sufficient to make her his wife.

If you are a fan of Jane Austen adaptations, vagaries, fan fiction, and sequels, then open a sample of *Folly and Forgiveness* now.

New through Kindle Unlimited, *Folly and Forgiveness: A Pride and Prejudice Variation* is a full-length novel of over 100,000 words.

## Folly and Forgiveness: A Pride and Prejudice Variation Details

Date : Published October 1st 2017 by Lizzy Brandon

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Author : Lizzy Brandon

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## **From Reader Review Folly and Forgiveness: A Pride and Prejudice Variation for online ebook**

### **Barb says**

I really liked this variation. Both Darcy and Elizabeth are very introspective as they find each other. The conversations with the two of them where they talk about each other in the third person are a little stretched, but otherwise, I like how they resolve their differences and I am happier for Lydia.

The only problem - what was the sex of Charlotte's baby? I expected to know from the epilogue.

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### **EM Clark says**

#### **A really great first endeavor!!**

This is such an enthralling and different variation of my favorite book that I am absolutely floored to see it is the author's first publication! A main character dies suddenly in the beginning and it changes everything and everyone in very realistic and fascinating ways. Few canon events still occur, but so many meaningful epiphanies and experiences take their place that nothing is ever lacking or exactly the same.

I love a story you can really sink your teeth into and chew and taste like a new entree. This was so thoroughly written and the details blend so beautifully. The result is truly satisfying! I applaud the obvious hard work and planning that went into this story and look forward to reading Ms Brandon's next release when it comes!

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### **Jenny says**

This is a really good book... it starts with Mr Collins proposal and after refusing him and arguing with her mother, tragedy strikes as Mrs Bennet falls down the stairs and dies. Mr Bennet decides he needs an heir so the story changes direction as a consequence.

There are so many things I enjoyed about this story. The way Darcy and Elizabeth come to know each other is really sweet. The proposal at Rosings, though different, is really heartbreakingly. There is some great humour, particularly when others make observations to Darcy about his behaviour that he doesn't agree with. It's funny to see his reaction when he comes to understand how others see him. I really enjoyed where Darcy reveals his past with Wickham in a fairytale format. Could be one of my most favourite book moments!

There are also some darker moments, times of introspection and difficult realisations associated with this. Despite this, it all feels quite safe and I always felt confident of a happy after after for everyone concerned!

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### **Meredith (Austenesque Reviews) says**

## **What If Mrs. Bennet Did Indeed Never Speak to Elizabeth Again?**

**Rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars**

TYPE OF AUSTENESQUE NOVEL: Pride and Prejudice Variation

TIME FRAME: Begins the day after the Netherfield Ball

WHY I WANTED TO READ THIS:

- Lizzy Brandon is a new author for me, and I'm always game to try new authors!
- The excerpt I read on Amazon stopped at such a surprising cliffhanger and showed that this story was taking a new direction, I was curious to read more.
- To be honest, I love the lyricalness of alliterative titles! ?

WHAT I LOVED:

- Unique Premise: In this story something terrible unexpectedly happens just after the Netherfield Ball and it sends our characters on a whole new course. It was interesting to see how this change affects not just our central characters, but the lives of many secondary characters as well. One of the first changes it produces is that Darcy and Bingley do not immediately leave for London and instead remain in Meryton.
- Some New Developments: With a premise that instigates a lot of change, there were some surprising new developments in the lives of Charlotte Lucas, Mary Bennet, and Lydia Bennet. I really enjoyed these new alterations and paths. Some I did see coming, but that didn't take away from my enjoyment – I instead enjoyed the novelty of these changes and how skillfully and plausibly the author executed them.
- Mr. Darcy: A protective Darcy who rescues Elizabeth?!? Be still my heart! But Darcy's heroic actions are not the only thing to love about him in this tale... And I can't decide which I loved most – Darcy's inner thoughts filled with admiration and yearning for Elizabeth, his playful and revealing conversations with Elizabeth where he refers to himself as 'the villain' and tells about a magic rock, or his adorable awkwardness as he attempts to scowl less and become a more sociable man. I loved him for all the reasons above!
- Reflection and Comprehension: I enjoyed how this variation focused on how people often make mistaken judgments about each other. Lizzy is the most guilty of doing this, and I liked seeing her eyes open about the different people in her lives. She isn't just wrong about Mr. Darcy and Mr. Wickham. I admire how she learns to look at people with "new filters" and realizes that she shouldn't judge people based on their actions because she doesn't always understand or know the emotions and thoughts that underlie those actions. I enjoyed seeing Lizzy do a lot of soul-searching and admired her ability to acknowledge her own failings.
- Titular Themes: I loved how the author subtly and seamlessly alludes to the words in the title. She does it frequently throughout the book, and it never feels forced or too blunt. My greatest compliment to the author is that her clever and apt use of title and theme is very much in the style of Jane Austen.

WHAT I WASN'T TOO FOND OF:

- Some Tiny Quibbles: I enjoyed a lot about this story, but just a few aspects that prevented me from giving it 5 stars such as Lizzy doubting/misinterpreting Darcy's thoughts/feelings one too many times and the

inclusion of some conversations from Jane Austen's original text that didn't completely feel like belong (i.e. Lizzy teasing Darcy about the Meryton Assembly after he already apologized and explained his actions).

#### CONCLUSION:

What a terrific debut release for Lizzy Brandon! With an original premise, some surprising twists, strong thematic motifs, and admirable character development this is a Pride and Prejudice variation I think many readers will enjoy! I am all anticipation to see what Ms. Brandon will write next!

Austenesque Reviews

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#### Kim says

I really liked this book. Nice variation with the characters behaving true to canon.

Very few typos which is really nice to see. This a new author I will look forward to reading in the future.

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#### Elizabeth Hossenlopp says

Definitely a book where reflection occurs quite a bit. The usually strong Elizabeth Bennet had much to ponder as she blames herself for her mother's death , Mr. Darcy, and her confidence. The odd twist of Mr. Benmet remarrying made for a different plot twist, though slightly awkward. For your best friend to marry your dad would make anyone contemplate life in general. An overall great book.

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#### Vaarin says

3,5\*

Well written with a good plot that follows the timeline of canon but with twists, albeit not the most romantic story I have read.

No major faults but a bit reflection-heavy, a tad predictable and lacked that certain *je ne sais quoi* that will grip your attention in an iron fist from start to finish. All in all an enjoyable read.

Entering after Mr Collins proposal the morning after the Netherfield ball. Elizabeth has a terrible quarrel with her mother and Mrs Bennet storms off, trips and falls down the stairs...

The Netherfield party is apprised of the incident and comes to offer their support. Mrs Bennet died after a few days but being in company with the Bennet's causes Darcy to discover something in Jane that will lead to a faster understanding between Jane and Bingley.

Mr Wickham is all too ready to comfort the greif struck and guilt ridden Elizabeth and Mr Darcy's warnings falls on deaf ears.

Amongst the sorrow, Mary finds her true love and Mr Bennet engage in the future security of his daughters by remarrying to try for the all important son. In the meantime, Wickham shows his true colours, luckily there is a knight in shining armour to rescue Elizabeth.

Visiting Mary in Kent, Darcy's feelings are revealed but it's really lady Catherine that make Elizabeth flee back to Hertfordshire or a bit of both I suppose...

Both Jane and Elizabeth are on the journey north with the Gardiner's and a visit to Pemberley is planned as Jane's fiance is in residence. The letter from the new Mrs Bennet, cuts their visit short and the Lydia/Wickham debacle has a new twist.

Their way to an understanding felt lacking in romance to me but there will be an HEA and a short epilogue afterwards.

An enjoyable read.

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### **Leslie says**

I have a new author to add to my Favorite Authors List and that is Lizzy Brandon. This book, her first book too, is just wonderful! She finds a new wrinkle to add to the P&P what if universe and masterfully weaves a tale that almost makes you wonder why JA didn't think of it.

This is a book about loss, grief, mourning, recovery, rebirth and forgiveness.

Her Wickham is the most evil, vile, creature without going over the top as some authors are apt to do. His dialogue is scathingly brilliant while being mostly polite. He is a manipulator par excellence and the language will make your flesh crawl.

This book has a lot of introspection, self evaluation and soul searching done inside the characters heads. But it works in a way others fail.

This is a book I didn't want to end, there is a brief epilogue that really didn't wrap up anywhere near enough for me. But that is the secret of a good book leave the reader wanting more.

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### **wosedwew says**

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For me, one of the best things about this book

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### **Tamra says**

A lovely, well written P & P variation. It was refreshing not to have to deal with the spelling and grammatical errors so common in today's Ebooks. This could have been five stars if not for the looooong, drawn out self reflection on Lizzie and Darcy's part. I found myself thinking yeah, yeah we already know all this... I ended up skimming those parts. At one point I wondered if I may have read one too many P & P variations therefore, no longer enjoying them but nope. I still love P & P variations, those self reflections were just too long! Definitely worth a read, just skim over those parts.

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## **Iris McNeer says**

### **Wonderful Book!**

I loved this book! I was lucky enough to have a whole day free so I hardly had to put it down. This is a real page turner. I will be looking forward to more from this talented author.

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## **Debbie Brown says**

I really enjoyed this variation. Elizabeth gets put through the wringer in this one, and it's less because of yearning after Mr. Darcy (it takes her a LONG time to get to that place!) and much more because she is dealing with inner demons.

Immediately after Elizabeth's contentious confrontation with her mother over her refusal to marry Mr. Collins, tragedy strikes the Bennet family. It leaves Elizabeth guilt-ridden and starts her on a path of soul searching that goes on throughout the story. Considering how much she always prided herself on her ability to judge others, Elizabeth is rocked by the realization that she has made some very grave errors. This starts with the way she's always viewed her parents, but it continues as Mr. Collins and Mary actually make a love match, which Elizabeth at first finds incomprehensible. Mr. Wickham also shows his true colors earlier, adding yet another to her list of miscalculations.

By the time she goes to visit Mr. and Mrs. Collins in Kent and encounters Mr. Darcy there, Elizabeth is well aware that Mr. Darcy never wronged Mr. Wickham. She still dislikes him because of his obvious disdain for most of her family and his haughty treatment of anyone not of his social sphere.

It's a very different approach, and I found it interesting to see Elizabeth back on her heels as much as Mr. Darcy. She's dealing with guilt, questioning her judgement, and then examining whether or not she believes she's worthy of being loved.

Gotta love Mrs. Gardiner who, as always, shows her wisdom guiding her troubled niece. Even though Anne de Bourgh doesn't get a lot of time in the book, she's given more personality than usual. I really enjoyed the resolution of the Lydia-and-Wickham storyline, which is a solution I've only seen a few times and always appreciate. Darcy is an absolute hero throughout and proves to be insightful about Elizabeth, though he has trouble recognizing his own problem of scowling when he thinks he's looking pleasant!

The story is well written. I am happy to report I caught no significant grammar or spelling gaffes. My only criticism is that some of the introspection is overdone and occasionally repetitive. Much of it is necessary with this particular storyline, but there are times when it goes too long describing Elizabeth's thoughts.

Aside from that, I think it's a wonderful story.

(By the way, there's no sexual content.)

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### **Sheila Majczan says**

In this variation, Elizabeth puts herself through the wringer after an angry exchange with her mother, who is insisting she must marry Mr. Collins following his proposal at Longbourn. Her mother then falls and later dies as a result of her injuries. Elizabeth finds herself questioning her relationship with and understanding of her mother as neighbors, relatives and even her father relate the good memories they have of Mrs. Bennet plus how she had changed over the years. Elizabeth spends many moments looking inward and drawing from how she judged her own mother opines on how she is not as intelligent as she thought. She judges to quick judgments and does not allow that there is more than one way to look at a person's character or even that there may be reasons for behaviors of which she has no knowledge.

We have two marriages early in this story for Mr. Collins, Charlotte, Mr. Bennet and Mary Bennet. As Elizabeth has her own opinions about those relationships we read of her changing her mind when she hears both women reflect on either why they will marry or tell of how happy that marriage has made them. Again E. has self reproach at her perception. Wickham's behaviors bring the most harsh blow to Elizabeth's psyche.

Darcy's thoughts are not far from canon: he admires the lady but she will not do...her family, her connections prevent him from realizing love in marriage early in our tale. Sadly, when he realizes his errors he can't seem to put into action or words a way to have Elizabeth not only see his admiration but also to know that his change in behaviors and in his relationship all are due to her and her words to him.

This story does have a different resolution for Lydia (which has been written before). I am always happy to have W. not receiving a reward for his debauchery. Anne de Bourgh actually has some words to say. The colonel is present and adds his reflections to the situation. A pleasant story, all in all. This is a sweet tale for a general audience.

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### **Talia says**

Elizabeth was too judgemental for me in this book. I just couldn't get into it. I liked the Wickham scene though so I think I will bump it up to 4 stars. I found the book a bit boring.

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### **Gail Frisby says**

#### **Good**

Loved it glad no Lydia and Wickham marriage. Like it when he gets his just rewards. This book will be read again by me.

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