



# **Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship: The Secrets of Seduction from Jane Austen's Most Eligible Bachelor**

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## Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship: The Secrets of Seduction from Jane Austen's Most Eligible Bachelor Emily Brand

Inspired by the works of Jane Austen, the amusingly tongue-in-cheek *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* is written from the perspective of *Pride and Prejudice*'s Mr. Darcy and closely based on real Regency advice manuals. It is a hilarious and irreverent picture of the social mores of the period and of how men thought about women – and sheds amusing light on men of the modern age, too! Readers can dip into different sections for Darcy's views on a myriad of issues, including "What Females Want", "The Deceptions of Beautiful Women" and "Winning Their Affections, Flattery, Making Conversation, and Flirting!" Also included are sections written by *Pride and Prejudice*'s Miss Caroline Bingley and Mr Darcy's correspondence with famous Regency figures including the Duke of Wellington.

## Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship: The Secrets of Seduction from Jane Austen's Most Eligible Bachelor Details

Date : Published July 23rd 2013 by Old House Books (first published January 1st 2013)

ISBN : 9781908402592

Author : Emily Brand

Format : Paperback 192 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Historical, Humor, Romance

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# From Reader Review Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship: The Secrets of Seduction from Jane Austen's Most Eligible Bachelor for online ebook

Isa Lavinia says

**3.5 stars rounded up to 4**

Scandalous! And extremely amusing. It almost makes me wish Austen had delved more into Darcy's personality and that he'd been more like this.

Make no mistake, he's an appalling individual, as Caroline Bingley would have said, "Sir, you are shocking!" And indeed, Mr Darcy makes no effort to hide his disdain for his inferiors (basically everyone who is not his sister), and all his ideas as to how to deal with the fairer sex (and his opinions on the fairer sex) are as deplorable as they are funny.

Not to say that some of the advice isn't sound...

*"As the early season of courtship is crucial in determining the potential success of a match, time should not be wasted in sighing, fainting away, refusing food or breaking into song."*

*"Though [love] manifests itself in heavy sighs and the composition of nauseating poetry rather than putrid boils and sweating fevers, I daresay the effect is no less offensive for observers."*

Mr Darcy's opinions on the female gender even arouse the anger of one Miss Emma Woodhouse, who writes to him (and whose letter is included).

And one can see how his earlier courtship of Elizabeth was doomed to fail:

*"While giving gifts ensures success with a particular type of female – just as a dog will favour any man who gives it treats (...)"*

*Entirely Appropriate Presents:*

- *Hints towards improving herself*
- *Time in your presence"*

On the whole it was incredibly entertaining - and historically accurate, apart from some of Mr Darcy's more scandalous subjects (obviously inappropriate for fine society). And in the vast universe of Austen tie-ins and published fanfiction this was a decidedly excellent addition.

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## Kellie Horrocks says

A thoroughly entertaining read. Mr. Darcy (pre-Elizabeth Bennett) has some passionate views on courtship, which he has magnanimously agreed to share with others. How *genteel*. The book may shed a light on his actions at the beginning of his own courtship (and the prejudices he had). There are also many mentions of other Austen characters (Miss Woodhouse, Heathcliff, etc) with their own courtship issues. Other fun additions are words of advice from Mr. Collins and Mr. Wickham, which should definitely **not** be heeded. The epilogue includes a question-and-answer section that really emphasizes Mr. Darcy's contempt for those who he deems less fortunate than him (ie: everyone). His attitude throughout the book can be summed up by the description on the back cover:

*"For two hundred years, the mere mention of Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy has caused hearts to flutter and bosoms to heave. The feeling has not been reciprocal."*

In all, the book was well-done, with obvious research into courting practice of the day, as well as Austen's entire works. Mr. Darcy's arrogance is a bit grating at times, and his low opinion of women might have been a bit over-emphasized.

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## Angie says

If I could give this zero stars I would. I had to force myself to finish it.

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## Melinda says

Very snarky. Set in the time period in the middle of *Pride and Prejudice*, before he is discovered to be anything other than insufferable. Some very funny, some just odd.

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## Kim says

In the modern era, more than 200 years since Jane Austen's time, there is still a strong and robust following and appreciation of her works. Most notably, there is a nod to her forward-thinking views about women and how they should behave and act, which were at odds with the conventional wisdom of the time. What if we stood this entire paradigm on its head and acted as though these conventions were true? What would men of this era have to say about women, and more importantly how would they rationalize these opinions? We must look no further than Mr. Darcy's *Guide to Courtship* by Emily Brand, which offers up a very tongue-in-cheek view on this very subject.

Written from the point of view of Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy himself, Mr. Darcy's *Guide to Courtship* is a work loosely based on Regency-era advice publications, which instructed readers on how to behave and the socially acceptable guidelines to which men and women should adhere. Of course, it speaks volumes on how men perceived women in that time period, and it still remains relevant today as we see the implications of these points of view on how men act in present day. Additionally, the reader is treated to sections written by other characters, such as Mr. Collins and Wickham, as well as Darcy's own personal correspondence with

other characters.

First off, this book is downright hysterical. Of course, I kind of saw this coming, as the back cover of the book states, "For two hundred years, the mere mention of Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy has caused hearts to flutter and bosoms to heave. The feeling has not been reciprocal." I was already laughing at that, and thus knew I was in for a fun time. I especially enjoyed a piece in the work entitled "Complementing With Delicacy, W. Collins" which, according to Darcy, is a list of "ludicrous examples" of complements put forth by Mr. Collins. The one that really got me was "Your noble forehead is like a rock of alabaster." Swoon! Unfortunately Collins ended up crossing that one out, but he leaves in many other excellent examples of how to give the most hysterical compliments ever. I also enjoyed Darcy's "Dear Abby" type section, where other literary characters wrote to him for advice. The things that Darcy would come up with are both exactly what I imagine he would say; just as condescending as ever. Emily Brand does a wonderful job in taking the spirit of Darcy's character and infusing it into her own pen, as her words seem to flow effortlessly out of his consciousness. This is definitely a fun and quick read that will keep you laughing for a while. I heartily recommend it.

Kimberly (Reflections of a Book Addict)

Originally Posted: <http://austenprose.com/2013/08/10/mr-...>

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### **Christy Wilhelmi says**

A fun farce of a read, even though it reflects the sad state of women's rights and status of the day. We all hope for the post-Elizabeth Darcy rather than the one presented here. Still, it's filled with delightfully nerdy references to other Austen novels for all Jane-ites out there.

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### **Clara says**

Mira, yo leí Darcy en la portada y tuve que comprarlo, don't judge me. No sé muy bien qué cosas buenas podría destacar de este libro pero tampoco me ha disgustado (dentro de lo que cabe) así que...

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### **Vânia Nunes says**

Think of your favorite Mr. Darcy actor (though I love Colin Firth, I do not see him as my Mr. Darcy). Independent actor you chose, knowing the character, you know how proud he is. Well, in this book written by him and dictated to Emily Brand, he distills all his venom on the achievement and appropriate behavior of women of his time.

Do you have any doubt that he can be that pompous arrogant before meeting - and falling in love - with Liz Bennet? Well, just read this excerpt:

"I am not at all solicitous to know whether the reader likes it or not; I am quite confident that it will commend itself to men and women of understanding, and therefore whosoever dislikes it deserves no claim to that title. I certainly have no reason to make apologies for the imbecility of you, reader"

But not satisfied to be as straightforward as the reader's opinion - after all, he knew he had an audience of higher intelligence - he says a new "pearl" through the publisher:

"Editor's note: there are some errata in this book, but the Author says he is too busy and important to give you a note of them."

OMG!!! It's soooooo Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy!!! LOL

But now seriously, the author, Emily Brand, managed to capture all pride of this character who is the most famous among the heroes of the Regency Era and today stands as preferred hero of 9 out of 10 women. It is interesting to see how it would be a manual of manners dictated by him. And for better or worse, spend much information as were the costumes in a time when women had no rights, only duties.

An interesting read for those passionate about Jane Austen and her famous characters.

**4,5 STARS.**

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### **QNPoohBear says**

This book is part advice manual, part social history and part reimagining of Jane Austen's beloved characters. In this second edition of *Mr. Darcy's Guide to Courtship* published in 1812, Fitzwilliam Darcy has not yet fallen in love with Miss Elizabeth Bennet. He doesn't intend to ever fall in love and he's not too keen on the idea of marriage either. He lays out some rules for successful courtship (and unsuccessful). The book is broken down into sections: I. Romance in the Regency Era, II. Making Oneself Agreeable, III. Selecting a Wife, IV. Winning Her Affections, V. The Proposal, VI. Ask Darcy. There are also beauty tips from Miss Caroline Bingley, a letter on the reflections of spinsterhood by Miss Emma Woodhouse, improper courtship techniques from Mr. Collins and Mr. Wickham and Darcy's letters of advice to notable figures such as Isabella Thorpe, Willoughby, the Duke of Wellington, and Caroline Lamb. Other Austen characters are mentioned too, as well as Heathcliff from *Wuthering Heights*. There are a couple of winks to those familiar with the screen versions of *Pride and Prejudice* too. All this makes the book really cute and very funny at times. Mr. Collins, Lydia Bennet, Charlotte Lucas and Marianne Dashwood could have used this book before they made fateful mistakes. However, the book is aimed at gentlemen and some of the things Darcy mentions are not polite for young ladies to know about. (Unless she's already married or related to Caroline Lamb). Darcy himself should take some of his own advice.

If you want to know what Darcy was thinking during his failed courtship of Elizabeth, this book sheds some light on his behavior. However, I knocked off a star because I think Darcy comes across as too snobby. I don't see him referring to the working class as "peasants." He has an income of 10,000 a year so I'm guessing his farms are all in good working order. We know he treats his servants well. I can see him saying some of these things in private, like at his club with his friends, but not writing them down in public. He also comes across as a misogynist, but we know he's very kind to his little sister so he knows not all women are mercenary. Darcy seems to have taken some advice from older advice books from his day and earlier and that advice has influenced his behavior.

I enjoyed the book a lot other than Darcy's haughtiness. The line drawings and illustrations are from Ackerman's repository, period cartoons and other sources add to the period feel of the book. I love the

letterpress font and some of the pages look like they've been waterstained and have inkblots to make it look like it has survived for 200 years. The one thing to take away from this book is the one universal truth that makes Jane Austen so appealing even today: though society may change, human nature remains the same.

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### **Karen says**

Mildly funny, I suppose, but not nearly witty enough to tempt me. One cannot imagine the impeccable Mr. Darcy thinking some of the things in this book, much less writing them. Mr. Darcy does not "seduce". He leaves that to the rakes of this world (and knows there are many).

A well researched and stylish book, but not true to Austen's Mr. Darcy and therefore, inexcusable.

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### **Laura says**

This really was funny! It's a 19th century guide on how to court a lady, with some advice for the ladies as well. It is written by the Pride and Prejudice character Darcy and it really is like Darcy is writing.

You can tell right from the dedication of the book that it is Darcy and it made me laugh:

"Dedicated to Mr Charles Bingley. May this cure once and for all your utterly disastrous taste in females."

The book is full of lines like this, with Darcy taking on that superiority that he seems to think he has, especially when he says "I have long suspected that something in my countenance is irresistibly pleasing to the fairer sex." We can definitely see why Lizzy Bennet was so adverse to him!

He talks about courting a woman as if the man is training a dog and he really does reference this in the book! And one chapter is titled- 'Is she qualified to be your wife?'. Haha! God so glad all this class and stuffiness is not like this now!

So obviously the advice he offers would not at all be helpful for today's dating world! But even though the things he says are actually ridiculous! He was not at all far off for the 19th century.

What was quite funny was a modern reference to Jay-Z's 99 problems: "I am beset by nigh on one hundred grievances, a vexatious female need not be counted among them".

The way he talks about females would be shocking today- he makes it clear many times that women are the inferior sex and that they should make sure they know that men are their betters! I'm so glad this would not pass lightly today lol.

Overall it was a funny read, with some what would be hilarious advice today. To all Pride and Prejudice fans this is a definite read.

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## Cindy says

An utter disappointment based on a complete misunderstanding of Mr. Darcy's character. Jane Austen's Mr. Darcy had plenty of faults, but he was always a good man and a gentleman. Emily Brand's Mr. Darcy is a misanthropic cad who gleefully expresses opinions that the real Darcy would never have admitted to, even if he felt them. Austen's Darcy was a private, reserved man who keeps his own counsel; Brand's Darcy freely bandies about the names and stories of kith and kin in a widely published book. Austen's Darcy uses only the most vague terms to describe Mr. Wickham's licentious behavior to Elizabeth Bennett, staying within propriety's bounds even when trying to warn the woman he loves away from a womanizer; Brand's Darcy freely discusses adultery and mistresses in a book supposedly geared toward young ladies. Austen's Darcy stands aloof because he is an introvert who feels uncomfortable talking with strangers and will not go to the effort of doing so if he isn't personally interested in his company; Brand's Darcy stands aloof because he is trying to make a romantic impression on silly girls. Elizabeth Bennett felt great remorse when she realized how much she had misjudged Mr. Darcy, but she did not misjudge him anywhere nearly as badly as Emily Brand remorselessly does here. To be humorous, a parody should have a ring of truth to it. This portrayal of Mr. Darcy is so far from the real Darcy that it is simply a literary slander, not a humorous parody at all.

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## Tahera says

In 1812 Mr Fitzwilliam Darcy decided to compose a guide on the rules of successful (and unsuccessful) courtship leading to a person's successful marital prospects. These counsels were originally composed for his dear friend Mr. Charles Bingley so that after reading them, he would *once and for all be cured of his disastrous taste in females*. It is really a fun and witty read which also includes:

- 1) Beauty tips from Miss Caroline Bingley (she insisted on making a small contribution to the work),
- 2) Reflections on spinsterhood by Miss Emma Woodhouse,
- 3) The improper courtship techniques of Messrs Wickham and Collins amongst other remarkable insights afforded by Mr. Darcy.

N.B: Some female species may find the somewhat sarcastic, cynical, condescending note of the author towards ladies quite vexing to their nerves but really you can't blame a man, who finds his daily repose disturbed by a constant stream of 'swooning' and 'sighing' by every female imaginable (single and married, young and old alike), for being irked by this nonsensical behaviour.

Also, it is to be noted that Mr. Darcy, at the time of writing this guide, was not yet bewitched by the 'eyes' of a certain Miss Elizabeth Bennet.

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## Shannon says

Satirical genius!

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## Margaret Fisk says

Originally published on Tales to Tide You Over

I picked up this book for tidbits on the Regency courtship scene. Would that all research would be so enjoyable. I found the text delightful, though it made me long for Mr. Darcy's downfall as much as I do every time I reread *Pride and Prejudice*.

Miss Emily Brand did an excellent job in capturing the voice and nature of Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy before his education at the hands of Elizabeth Bennet while the glimpses into the period and events surrounding them proved most entertaining. I do question the voracity of some of the gossip, but then they may have been reinterpreted for Mr. Darcy's purpose. The use of quotes from material close to the period also serves to educate in the manner of a historical resource but they are couched in the attitudes of Mr. Darcy such that they never drag or bore. This work brings to life the peculiarities of the late 1700s through early 1800s with a focus on the rules and expectations of society.

If you have an interest in Jane Austen or the Regency period, along with its prejudices and attitudes, this is an entertaining, educational read.

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