



Disappointed Hopes

Cassandra Grafton

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Inspired by Jane Austen's Pride & Prejudice, A Fair Prospect is a tale of Darcy and Elizabeth.

(Please note: this is one story told across three volumes and there is, therefore, no conclusion to the storylines in the first two volumes. This story is rated PG)

In Volume I: Disappointed Hopes, Fitzwilliam Darcy returns to London following his rejection by Elizabeth Bennet a devastated and humbled man. The lady, meanwhile, is battling the unprecedented feelings stirred by having endured an innocent but intimate encounter with the gentleman in the aftermath of his proposal. Soon on her way to Town herself for an unanticipated stay, she is comforted by the presence of an old family friend, one Nicholas Harington – the son of a wealthy family whose position in society rivals that of the Darcys of Pemberley.

Circumstance soon throws Darcy back into the company of Elizabeth, much to their mutual consternation, and also introduces him to Harington who has emerged as a potential suitor for Elizabeth's hand, a union that is viewed as a fair prospect by all – except, perhaps, Darcy himself.

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Disappointed Hopes Details

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From Reader Review Disappointed Hopes for online ebook

Tandie says

2.5 stars rounded up.

I think this JAFF could use some major paring down. Fun, alternate POV's. Would've worked better without some of the repetition and long winded expression of character thoughts. Darcy was a bit whiny and self loathing.

Melissa says

This is the first book in a three-part Pride & Prejudice retelling. It is quite different from the original story, as it begins at the deviation and continues on from there with all the characters we know and love but put in different circumstances.

I quite enjoyed reading it and found it to be well-written, easy to follow and entertaining.

Debbie Brown says

I never ever saw the cliffhanger at the end coming. I really thought I was able to predict with all the little clues and hints that the author dropped throughout the book, but even though they all pointed in a particular direction, she skillfully misdirected me so that the end was a total shock.

I had been watching for this book after reading Volume 1, which I had also particularly enjoyed, but the end of this has me even MORE ready to jump on the conclusion.

It was a pleasure to read such a thoughtfully well-written and creative book.

Janet says

Volume I of Cassandra Grafton's, A Fair Prospect: Disappointed Hopes begins at Hunsford with Mr. Darcy's ill-worded proposal to Elizabeth Bennet. The setting has changed from the parlor to a picturesque copse of birch trees and amidst a deluge of rain, but the fate of the proposal remains the same. Although shocked, hurt, angry and disappointed, Mr. Darcy still behaves as the true gentleman we know him to be. Instead of leaving Elizabeth alone in the soaking rain, he insists on seeing her safely to the parsonage. Elizabeth's stubbornness creates an unexpected intimate embrace with Mr. Darcy, an encounter neither will soon forget. It stirs feelings in Elizabeth that leave her confused and unsettled. For Mr. Darcy, it is a painful pleasure. Thus, the stage is set---

Ms. Grafton does an amazing job with the characters created by Jane Austen. Not only does she keep them, in behavior and essence, true to the originals, she gives them added depth. When Elizabeth and Darcy misunderstand one another, we gain much discernment into their character by being privy to their innermost

thoughts and feelings. Ms. Grafton delves with finesse and keen insight into the hearts of each and makes the characters come alive on the page. I felt Darcy's agony, hopelessness and despair and Elizabeth's troubled mind and shame of her poor judgment.

The relationship between Darcy and Colonel Fitzwilliam is much explored and is a joy to read. Colonel Fitzwilliam, one of my favorites, is determined to discover what is troubling his cousin. His endeavors are initially met with resistance but eventually bring him the knowledge he seeks. In the meantime, we are treated to the camaraderie and brotherly affection shared by these two gentlemen. I found myself pleasantly diverted.

Georgiana and Darcy communicate an attachment, borne by their circumstances, that is touching and heartwarming. Through a chance meeting in town, Elizabeth gets to witness the close relationship between Mr. Darcy and his sister. The tenderness and caring that he displays shows a new side of him and adds to the good opinion that Elizabeth is beginning to form of the man.

There are some likable new characters in this novel. Mr. Nicholas Harington, son of a wealthy family, is the godson to Mrs. Gardiner and an old family friend to Elizabeth and Jane. He is also considered a good match for Elizabeth, much to Mr. Darcy's dismay. Mrs. Gardiner's half-sister, Serena, is introduced but not met by the reader in Volume I. Her connection to the Harington's is established and her history with the Bennet family is revealed. I liked these new additions and am anxious to learn more about them.

Through witty dialog and beautiful Regency language, this book is in the style of Jane Austen herself. I cannot recommend it highly enough. It ranks among the best of the Austenesque novels that I have read. I look forward, with much anticipation, to the continuation of this story in Volume II, *A Fair Prospect: Darcy's Dilemma*.

PG rating for no explicit sex.

I was given a paperback book by the author for a fair and honest review.
moreagreeablyengaged.blogspot.com

Lynda says

Interestingly, this tale is told from many perspectives. It begins immediately after Elizabeth's rejection of Darcy's proposal. The main focus is on Darcy's agony and Elizabeth's shame and horror after she receives Darcy's letter.

Angie says

Jane Austen? Miss Edith Wharton would like to make your acquaintance.

Cassandra Grafton's novel begins with Darcy's ill-fated proposal to Elizabeth Bennet. Smarting from her rejection, Darcy returns to with his curriicle to save her from the rainstorm. The scene that follows is a smoldering confrontation that changes the perceptions and awakens new feelings.

Much like Wharton, the author plays the inward struggles of the characters with the external constraints of Regency England. Small gestures make for erotic moments. The setting of the story and the interaction of the main players almost become a bigger player than Darcy and Elizabeth. Grafton does a great job of detailing the etiquette and customs of era.

Note: the story is in the first of a series. With little resolution to any of the plot threads, I would recommend having the next book loaded in your Kindle. It felt more to me like finishing a chapter versus finishing a novel. I can't wait to see where Grafton/Wharton/Austen takes the story next!

Tara says

I am almost embarrassed to admit to how much Jane Austen-based fiction I have read over the past decade or longer. Suffice it to say, it has run the gamut from delightful to dreadful. Some stories were forgotten as soon as they were completed, and many others have blurred together for all their similarities. A precious few have a place on my bookshelf. 'A Fair Prospect' by Cassandra Grafton is in a class of its own.

From the first page, Ms. Grafton takes the reader on a wonderful adventure - a new and imaginative retelling of the beloved classic tale. The story is beautifully written, full of romance, humor and yes, angst. But the page-turning tension is realistic for the period and the story - created so skillfully and naturally, and not as a result of some wild contrivances of plot. The characters, most importantly Elizabeth and Darcy, remain true to their original counterparts in all aspects, though the tale is wonderfully fresh. The new characters are a welcome addition and add much to the enjoyment of the story, without detracting from the central plot.

Let's be honest, far too many authors eager to take advantage of the popularity of Austen-based literature have slapped the names 'Elizabeth' and 'Darcy' onto a couple of characters, cranked out 200 pages of nonsense and had the nerve to call it a Pride and Prejudice story. That is most assuredly NOT the case with this lovely novel. Fans of Jane Austen will have no cause to repine with Ms. Grafton's exquisite re-imagining of her beloved work. It is far and away one of the most well-written, beautifully romantic and delightfully humorous adaptations I have ever read and will be a favorite on my bookshelf for many years to come. I cannot wait for the next volumes to be released!

Katherine says

This is a three part series and I love both the writing style and the story line of this novel! Read it in one day because I couldn't put it down and quickly moved onto part 2 & 3 to see how the story would end. In this "what if" pride and prejudice novel Darcy proposes in Hunsford outdoors in the rain and after being refused storms did only to realize he can't leave lizzy soaking in the rain. He insists on accompanying her back in his pantheon and when she refuses his arm to get down, he nearly falls until Darcy catches her. Lizzy remembers his embrace for the next week thinking about the feelings his touch had on her. Darcy still delivers a letter to attempt to his clear the charges laid at his door. However, the next day they are forced to be in each other's company at dinner at Rosings. Lizzy attempts to apologize to Darcy over her behaviour. The feelings their first meeting evoke are beautifully captured in this authors description. Instead of returning to Longbourn Lizzy is off to London to stay with the Gardiners and Jane and also await the Gardiners godson who seems to be a rival for Darcy. Unexpected meetings on London will force Lizzy and Darcy in each other's company as we discover in part 2. A must read for any Pride and Prejudice enthusiast! Read the eBook but will order the

hard copy for many more future readings!

Sheila Majczan says

I am reading this book for the second time in order to now write a review. I also read all the reviews and comments. It seems many people are disappointed that this is one of three volumes and that you pay \$3.99 per book (or at least, I did) so the total is ~\$12. That is high, I agree, for a kindle book that is following another author's brilliant work more or less. The fortunate thing for me is that in purchasing this in December 2013 all volumes were available.

The author here does follow Jane Austen's story line fairly closely, at least in this first volume. She does add several new characters and has a few changes in events as described by many of the previous reviewers. These changes do make this interesting enough for me to want to keep reading. Georgiana is a more developed character in that she is now the one who looks to question why Darcy is changed (depressed) and what she can do to support and encourage him. Fitzwilliam is supportive, as always, even though he is, at first, confused as to just with whom Darcy is enamored. Ms. Grafton does allow us to see this story from both Elizabeth's and Darcy's POV, which makes for interesting although frustrated (with the characters) reading.

The prose is well written and seems to have been well edited. I am always disturbed when I find errata and on my kindle cannot pencil in the correct spelling, tense, etc....or add apostrophes when it is a double possessive, i.e., Darcy's and Elizabeth's! (That error is so common.)

Tess Quinn says

The only criticism I could make - and even that I have to try hard to find - is that this book leaves a reader wanting more. And since it is the first book in a three-volume story arc, it is certainly understandable that there is no resolution of events. But for anyone who must have closure, the good news is that the second volume is already available, and the third will be in May. So don't delay - go out and download/upload/purchase/sign out your copy, or otherwise put it on your "to be read" list!

The "negatives" (if such they are) out of the way -- this book is a total delight for anyone who is a fan of Pride and Prejudice, Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy, Regency romance and... oh, just romance in general. Ms Grafton writes beautifully and has a descriptive style that can make small things into beautiful wonders. She takes a wonderfully simple premise -- the effect that the touch of another person can have on us -- and from that, weaves a moving and evocative story. The characters of Lizzy and Darcy will be instantly recognizable to Jane Austen fans, because she keeps them so well 'in character' from the Austen novel. And you will find yourself wanting to become intimate with her originally drawn characters even as much as to reunite with established ones.

If you love Jane Austen's original characters, and have always wished for more, you will delight in this book that begins at the time of a spurned proposal, and then goes into a whole new, and wholly believable and mesmerizing, direction. This "what if" earned its high praise from me!

Nicole Barton Sasser says

3.5 Stars.

Meredith (Austenesque Reviews) says

What If Darcy Kept Encountering Elizabeth Soon After His Failed Proposal?

TYPE OF AUSTENESQUE NOVEL: Pride and Prejudice Variation in 3 Volumes

TIME FRAME: From the day of Darcy's first proposal (Sunday afternoon) to 4 days later

MAIN CHARACTERS: Elizabeth Bennet. Fitzwilliam Darcy, Jane Bennet, Charles Bingley, Colonel Fitzwilliam, Georgiana Darcy, Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner, Nicholas Harington (new original character)

WHY I WANTED TO READ THIS NOVEL:

I've heard many sooo much praise for Cassandra Grafton and this trilogy, and since I love Pride and Prejudice variations I knew it was something I had to read! The only question was when – because you definitely need to read this trilogy without break.

WHAT I LOVED:

- Inescapable: In this variation, Darcy and Elizabeth have a lot of unexpected and continuous contact with each other after his proposal. Darcy encounters Elizabeth (after delivering his letter!) at Rosings the night before he departs as Lady Catherine (in her celebrated generosity and kindness) invites Mr. and Mrs. Collins and their guest to one last dinner. In addition, instead of keeping the knowledge of Jane Bennet's true feelings to himself, Darcy immediately visits Bingley on his return to town, confesses all, and encourages his friend to seek her out. Thus bringing Darcy and Elizabeth together again and again. It was enthralling to see them encounter one another again so soon – their first interactions post-proposal are fraught with awkwardness, suffering, and a heightened consciousness that wasn't there before.

- Eloquent and Moving: Cassandra Grafton takes a very introspective approach to her storytelling, which I absolutely loved! She spends a lot of time in both Darcy's and Elizabeth's head and her prose beautifully illustrates the inner turmoil and emotional turbulence both are facing post-proposal. As I read these passages, I continuously felt awash with feelings of pain, tension, and compassion for these characters. Ms. Grafton's emotive and contemplative portrayal of Darcy and Elizabeth beautifully conveys how the proposal and letter immediately triggers a change to both Darcy's and Elizabeth's perspectives, but at the same time is a long and gradual journey of self-discovery and true understanding.

- Simultaneous Perspectives: I love how two-sided this story is! In every chapter we see two or more scenes – usually one from Elizabeth's perspective and one from Darcy's. I loved knowing what both characters were doing, thinking, and feeling every day. And thanks to ornamental section breaks, it was easy to know when the scene and point-of-view were about to change.

- Leisurely Paced: With so many interactions taking place in such a short period of time, this story is told in a

very leisurely pace. Volume I alone covers just the span of 4 and a half days. Even though this story is a bit slower in pace, I would never describe it as feeling too slow. These days are very eventful and the evolution of Darcy's and Elizabeth's perspectives is engrossing and ever-changing.

WHAT I WASN'T TOO FOND OF:

That real life kept getting the way of my reading time!

CONCLUSION:

I'm only one third into this story, but I already feel it is an exquisite and consuming journey! I love Cassandra Grafton's expressive and sensitive approach to these characters and I can hardly wait to witness their next encounter with each other!

Austenesque Reviews

Tamra says

I really LOVED this story! It's more like 4.5 stars. The only reason I won't give it 5 is because I believe the author could have made it a tad shorter. A little too much detailed, details. Even so, I enjoyed every page!

Joana Starnes says

A lovely book, beautifully written. A 'Pride and Prejudice' variation, painting the story of the journey Elizabeth and Darcy might have taken after the ill-fated Hunsford proposal. Very much a journey of self-discovery, in which both learn a series of home truths about the other, as well as themselves. The portrayal of depth of sentiment is exquisite, and sharing Darcy's tortured thoughts of unrequited love is one of the things the author does best. It is very moving to see him learning to recognise and deeply regret former errors, and equally so to witness his conversations with Colonel Fitzwilliam, who, by the way, is absolutely adorable in this story. There is a strong bond of brotherly affection between them, and a sense that regardless of how solemn and awe-inspiring Darcy might seem to those who do not know him all that well, he is nothing of the sort to those who have been close to him for years and, in the Colonel's case, have no compunction in occasionally treating him as an erring younger brother. Similarly, Darcy's relationship with Georgiana is skilfully addressed, as well as that with Bingley – and in this story both show a great deal more wisdom and strength of character than they are usually given credit for.

Elizabeth's journey of self-discovery is equally rewarding, and the portrayal of her increasing awareness of Darcy and of her feelings for him is moving, well-worded and compelling.

And last, but by no means least, the rich and handsome rival who is everything that Darcy is not and has all the advantages that the other has not got - especially the propensity to behave in a gentleman-like manner! Unusually for the genre, where the rival is merely a challenge to be overcome by the hero, in this case he is very much a person I could feel for and, even more unusually, almost root for!

Added to this is the author's ability to re-create the Regency atmosphere in exquisite detail, with absolutely no jarring elements of modern mentality or language - and no less to keep the characters faithful to their portrayal in the original novel, credible and real, and a joy to read about.

Looking forward to the next instalment!

Leslie says

see <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1...>
