



## Lover's Knot: A Mysterious Pride & Prejudice Variation

*Jenetta James*

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## **Lover's Knot: A Mysterious Pride & Prejudice Variation** Jenetta James

A great love. A perplexing murder. Netherfield Park — a house of secrets.

Fitzwilliam Darcy is in a tangle. Captivated by Miss Elizabeth Bennet, a girl of no fortune and few connections. Embroiled in an infamous murder in the home of his friend, Charles Bingley. He is being tested in every way. Fearing for Elizabeth's safety, Darcy moves to protect her in the only way he knows but is thwarted. Thus, he is forced to turn detective. Can he overcome his pride for the sake of Elizabeth? Can he, with a broken heart, fathom the villainy that has invaded their lives? Is there even a chance for love born of such strife?

Lover's Knot is a romantic Pride & Prejudice variation, with a bit of mystery thrown in.

## **Lover's Knot: A Mysterious Pride & Prejudice Variation Details**

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Author : Jenetta James

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## **From Reader Review Lover's Knot: A Mysterious Pride & Prejudice Variation for online ebook**

### **Leslie says**

This is a simply brilliant bit of P&P FF and it is a cracking mystery to boot. Told from Darcy's perspective, not normally one of my faves, this book just knocks it out of the park.

We begin during the Bennet sisters stay at Netherfield and almost immediately there is a dead body. Not just any dead body but a mysterious dead body. This death will cause Bingley to cancel the Netherfield ball but our author works the Netherfield folks into Mrs. Phillips card party.

If you are looking for a traditional story this isn't it. But it is so unique and fresh it is a joy to read. And the mystery is so well plotted that it could be a non P&P book and be just as enjoyable.

This Darcy is admittedly in love with Miss Elizabeth and you know it. I actually think I enjoyed the mystery more than the P&P parts.

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### **EM Clark says**

#### **Very well written!!**

I usually dislike first-person point of view, but quickly realized that this was perfect for the mystery element of the story and was extremely well written. I was very impressed and really enjoyed reading this!

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### **Christina says**

I love this author's style of prose. Never a careless word. Never syrupy. And always authentic Regency without trying to school the reader. This was a wonderful read. I adore this writer and the challenge she undertook to write a mystery and in present tense! Wonderfully fresh. (Full disclosure: I edited this and have read it countless times. And still love it! :))

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### **James S says**

#### **A murder mystery unexpectedly wonderful**

A wonderful mystery that is a blending Dorothy Sayers or Agatha Christie and Jane Austen.

Well scripted Regency murder mystery and a great story of the down and up relationship of Elizabeth and Darcy leading to the typical parlor scene with all the suspects and the unmasking of the murderer. The road to the HEA for our couple has angst at the beginning and much sweetness in them finding their way.

I will buy this and read it again in the years to come, god willing.

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### **Tandie says**

3.5 stars, rounded up. A murder mystery told from Mr Darcy's POV. I enjoy the author's writing and liked her other book, *Suddenly Mrs Darcy* better. I think the difference was Elizabeth. She was mostly missing from this story, and when she did speak, it had more of a Jane vibe. *SMD* is told from Lizzy's POV and still had plenty of Darcy to satisfy me.

While lacking in Lizzy, *Lover's Knot* was still a well written regency mystery. The final chapter has our Mr and Mrs Darcy in an early morning discussion. She's still in bed and sits up in a state of undress to grab her robe. I don't recall any sex, if there was it was only alluded to.

It was a clean read.

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### **Nissa | Of Pens and Pages Book Blog says**

#### **5 stars!**

Review and Giveaway at [Of Pens and Pages](#).

When I was first contacted by Claudine about Ms. James' secret project, I jumped at the chance to read it because I absolutely love her works. I'm so happy that I did, because *Lover's Knot* was such a delightful read!

Fans of *Pride and Prejudice* and mystery novels will enjoy reading this as much as I did. It was a wonderful experience to see the story unfold through the eyes of this Mr. Darcy. I felt like I got to know him very well and see the events so vividly as if I was right there with him.

Meryton's peace is disturbed by scandal and mystery as two men are killed and there are no clues left behind that could lead to the murderer. Mr. Darcy is right in the middle of it, and after events that may or may not involve Elizabeth, is even more determined to help solve the crime.

I love reading mysteries like this! Murders with seemingly little to no clues, where you're left to trust the word of the narrator and look for clues anywhere you can. While it is easier to blame the most obvious subject, *nothing is ever that easy, is it?* Wink wink. I definitely had fun guessing who it was.

While the murder mystery takes center stage, don't think that the romance is ignored and completely set aside. Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth's tumultuous love story occurs alongside the murders, and I love how it was added to the story. It's very canonical, and since the story is told purely in Mr. Darcy's perspective, it was easy to see his longing, heartache, and love for Elizabeth, and also his growth after a Hunsford-esque proposal. Elizabeth is never really out of his thoughts, even when he's busy looking for the murderer. There was a subtlety to his feelings, but strong and evident nonetheless. It definitely made me sigh like a heartsick fool.

*If I court you before everyone who knows you, there can be no mistake that you are the first*

*choice of my heart."*

Just reading the story in Mr. Darcy's perspective made me love this Darcy just as much as the original. He was steadfast in his love, and in turn, was determined to help solve the mystery of the murders. While he was a prideful man, he was never quick to judge a person's innocence or guilt.

Of course, this Elizabeth is wonderful. Whether it's because the story is told in Mr. Darcy's perspective or not is beside the point. She was a picture of calm and grace in the face of trauma, and this Elizabeth felt true to the original.

I also have to add that I really enjoyed this book's Mr. Bingley and Jane Bennet. I didn't see much of them, but what little I did, I loved. Because of the ruckus, the Netherfield party couldn't exactly pack up and leave like they did in the canon, so Jane and Bingley were in each other's company more often.

There are new characters added into the mix, like the magistrate Mr. Allwood, a Mrs. Protheroe, and a few other people important to the story. It was interesting to see a glimpse of these characters, especially Mr. Allwood.

As I was near the end, I was worried that some loose ties would never be tied up, but I should have never doubted the author. The ending was beautiful, and I loved that little postscript after it, too.

I most certainly approve of it, Mr. Darcy. And I don't doubt everyone else will, too.

**POV:** First Person, Male POV

**Standalone:** Yes

*\*ARC received in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **Madenna U says**

I don't believe that I can review the book as well as others. I will simply add that I could NOT put the book down and was completely wrapped up in the story. The addition of the mystery added to the traditional angst between Elizabeth and Darcy.

I also loved the magistrate and how he was described to investigate the murder. It was a history lesson to understand how investigative police work evolved.

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## **Lynn says**

### **A most intriguing read.**

I started this book expecting to read for maybe an hour and then get on to other things. I should have known better. As with other Jenetta James books, I was hooked and could not put the book down until I had finished it. I love her writing style and use of language. Having the story told through Mr Darcy's voice just added to my enjoyment. The mystery itself is not so easy to solve, and the romance between Darcy and Elizabeth proceeds in a different yet similar manner to the original. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and highly recommend reading it. Enjoy!

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## **Sheila Majczan says**

4.5 rounded up to 5 stars

This is an author whose books I will pick up and read just on her name alone. She writes beautifully. This is the first mystery story she has undertaken and she certainly kept me in the dark as to the identity of the criminal. Various names are tossed about, including the ever present bad boy in JAFF, Wickham. We also read of Mr. Philips, Elizabeth's uncle, acting in a suspicious and secretive manner. The first man's death becomes even more of an enigma when it is found that the name he has used is an alias and no one can identify him.

Murder first occurs at Netherfield while Elizabeth is there nursing her sister, Jane. It is Elizabeth's scream upon encountering the body of an unknown man that brings others racing to the scene. Then after an evening at the Lucases another man is murdered in a different manner. Neither murder has any connection to the other it seems. Even the method used is different in that one is stabbed and the other poisoned. Darcy has made his ill begotten proposal already but the manner in which he is turned down (as per canon) does not make him any less concerned about the safety of Elizabeth, as well as her family and other citizens of Meryton. A murderer is on the loose and in their midst.

The local magistrate questions everyone in detail and even comes into London, following leads and/or looking for more clues. Darcy's only way of protecting Elizabeth (and others) seems to be that he must ferret out the person responsible in conjunction with this magistrate.

This story was well put together in terms of clues and connecting such to find the next level in solving the mystery. Only a fortunate wild guess would be sufficient to identifying the master mind in this tale.

There are several new characters; one being Darcy's godmother, Mrs. Protheroe, and the other main one is the magistrate, Mr. Allwood. Those two and, as the mystery unravels, we meet a previously unknown-to-us family. Enough said.

There is just enough romance to satisfy this reader as the mystery is solved and ODC have an encounter in which they determine how their "courtship" should continue and then a few lovely paragraphs after their marriage.

Well done and highly recommended.

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### **Carole (in Canada) says**

"Dusk is settling around me in its accustomed, creeping manner, falling like a veil before my eyes." (quote from the book)

I love a good mystery and Jenetta James has done a fabulous job in giving us one in this *Pride & Prejudice* variation. It is beautifully written and the heading of each chapter is presented as if you were in court. I really enjoyed that small detail. We see all the events through Mr. Darcy's point of view, and though we have a murder right at the beginning of the book, Mr. Darcy's true focus is Elizabeth Bennet, the impact she has on him and how to keep her safe.

"Hers is the sort of face that can reach into a man's mind and take up residence." (quote from the book)

This is a fast-paced story that flows like a river in spring as Darcy helps the magistrate, Mr. Allwood, search for clues and possible suspects. We also learn Darcy's thoughts on Elizabeth as he blunders through his pride to win her good opinion. This novel pulls you in and holds you tight until the very end. And what an ending it was! My suspicions never came close!

Another winner by Ms. James!

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### **Beau North says**

Jenetta James never fails to wow me with her beautiful, evocative prose. Her sophomore novel, *The Elizabeth Papers*, is not only one of my favorite forays into JAFF but one of my favorite books ever written, period. Now we return to the world of *Pride and Prejudice*, with Mr. Darcy stepping into a new role, that of amateur sleuth.

There are already JAFF Mysteries and even some Murder Mysteries out there, but what sets Ms. James' work apart from the crowd is her uncanny knack for putting the reader directly inside the mind of the characters. We see that Darcy's motivations for solving a series of grisly murders are the very purest: he wants to solve the case out of love, selfless love of a woman who, for all appearances, does not return that love. A murderer is free, and in their circle, and so he cannot be easy until they are caught. A tense game of cat-and-mouse follows, which will cast a murky light on everyone around him, even a shadowy figure from Darcy's own past. Ms. James' previous books have been told (for the most part) through the first-person narration of Elizabeth Bennet/Darcy, and it was an absolute delight to get to look through Mr. Darcy's eyes through this book. He fumbles, he fools himself, but he knows his own heart, and he is rendered fully, beautifully three-dimensional under Ms. James careful pen.

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### **Debbie Brown says**

#### **4.5 rounded up to 5 stars**

I just adore this author's writing style. Ms. James proves herself up to the challenge of writing this *Pride and*

*Prejudice* mystery in first person with Darcy's voice. She just nails it. The words create a moody, chilling atmosphere in sections and sound like the musings of a man in love in others. It's authentic-seeming Regency phrasing.

The mystery is a doozy, and you will find yourself completely caught up in this whodunnit. We begin at Netherfield, where Miss Jane Bennet has fallen ill and Miss Elizabeth Bennet is visiting in order to nurse her sister. It doesn't take long for the first dead body to be discovered. The victim is a footman hired only recently, and no one knows his background. The tenacious Mr. Allwood, the local magistrate, arrives to investigate.

Unfortunately, this murder is still in the early stages of investigation when a second occurs. The method of murder is different and the location is different, but many of the same individuals are common to both settings. It seems that the crimes must be related even though the victims don't have any apparent connection to each other. All of Meryton is on edge. Even Mr. Wickham is spooked, but not before he has a chance to tell Elizabeth his usual tale of woe regarding Mr. Darcy.

The tension of a serial murderer on the loose serves to make both Bingley and Darcy more constant in their attentions toward Jane and Elizabeth. (Not that Elizabeth recognizes it in Darcy's case.) Darcy is particularly protective, and even after Elizabeth spurns his marriage proposal, he cannot help continuing his own investigation to try and keep her safe.

The identity of the murderer and especially the motive are mindblowing. I'm not as enthusiastic about part of the explanation, which seems less than credible. (view spoiler) Despite those particular hinky details, the mystery is just plain fun, with various suspicious characters who aren't murderers and details that just might be relevant to the solution but aren't.

I will caution JAFF lovers that this is much more a murder mystery than a Darcy-and-Elizabeth love story. Their love-hate relationship is certainly a big part of the story so there's enough of it to satisfy me, but the romance takes a back seat to solving the crimes in this novel.

In conclusion, I have to come back to my admiration for the exquisite writing. Any book that flows as elegantly as this one deserves high praise, indeed.

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### **Ceri says**

<http://babblingsofabookworm.blogspot....>

Giveaway, with this!

Will post full review here later :)

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### **Olga Miret says**

Darcy as an amateur detective, secrets, lies, and a peep into crime detection in the Regency period. I am writing this review as a member of Rosie's Book Review Team (authors, if you are looking for reviews, do

check here) and was provided an ARC copy of this novel that I freely chose to review.

I have recently read and reviewed several books that take place in Jane Austen's universe, from sequels to versions transplanted to modern times. One of them was *The Elizabeth Papers* by Jenetta James (you can read my review [here](#)), the author of this book. I was so impressed I could not resist getting an ARC copy of this book before its publication.

This is a more straightforward (and shorter) story, although it shares with the other the element of mystery, although, in this case, the story is not a domestic mystery but a police procedural of sorts (the police as we know it now did not exist at the time). Readers familiar with *Pride and Prejudice* will walk right into familiar territory when reading this story. We pick up the story when Bingley has moved into the area where the Bennetts live, with Darcy as his guest, and Jane Bennett is staying at the Bingley's due to her illness, and her sister Elizabeth is looking after her. Rather than what happens in the original story, here we have a murder, and a bit later, another one (this one of a character we know, but I won't give anything away). There are many familiar elements but interspersed with those, we have the investigation of the murders and the secrets behind it. As the description states, this is a variation on the story, as all the original elements are there, and the characters remain true to the original, but new events come into play and disrupt the action.

The story is told by Darcy in the first person and the present tense, and that makes readers feel they share his thoughts and his detecting process. This is quite different from the original novel, and it is one of the attractions of this variation, as rather than judging Darcy by his actions and having to second-guess him most of the time (let's face it, he is the prototype of the strong and quiet man), we are privy to his thoughts and understand his motives and feelings. In this story, he becomes involved in the investigation, and that means it also fits into the genre of amateur detective fiction. In his case, though, he is not an old hand at this, eager to participate and imposing on the official team, but rather he is recruited by the magistrate investigating the case, Mr. Allwood, a fabulous character. Contrary to expectations, Darcy is not an immediate success at detecting as he is somewhat marred by his belief in appearances and his prejudices, but he is motivated to discover what happened to ensure Elizabeth is safe and goes out of his way to follow clues. The case helps him discover things about himself and about the society he lives in that make him change his outlook on life. The case is intriguing. There are plenty of red herrings, devious characters, and, of course, there is romance. As I mentioned, Mr. Allwood is a great character. This magistrate doggedly pursues the investigation, not concerned about who might be discomfited by his methods, and making no distinctions according to social classes. People underestimate him at their peril, and I hope he might reappear again in later books (or get his own). I particularly enjoyed the mock paper by a Professor acknowledging the role of Allwood in the creation of the Metropolitan Police. A nice touch and a good way of providing more information on a star character that is not part of the original novel. Having studied Criminology, I only wish that many of the papers I had to read were written in such an engaging manner.

I am aware there are other mystery novels set up in the *Pride and Prejudice* universe (although I have not read them, so I can't compare), although not at this particular juncture of the story (as this affords quite a different twist to the relationship between Darcy and Elizabeth). I enjoyed Darcy's point of view, having access to his thoughts and getting to see a more human and less stiff version of the character (he still has his pride, of course), although as this book is very short, some of the changes of heart in the main characters feel somewhat rushed (and, personally, the process by which both of them end up changing their opinions and the way they feel about each other is one of my favourite parts in the original, but that does not detract from the writer's skill). The scenes that take place in London and the friendship that grows between Georgiana and Elizabeth are among my favourite parts in this story.

The writing style is perfectly in sync with the original and it flows well. The mystery elements are well worked into the story, and they respect the nature of a criminal investigation of the time. In keeping with the proceedings, and with the role Darcy plays, there is a certain degree of telling and not showing, especially when it comes to tying loose ends, but that is also typical of the genre. Although the mystery elements would work in their own right, even without knowledge of the original novel, I think the ideal readers are those familiar with Austen's work.

An interesting variation on Pride and Prejudice that offers a new perspective on their favourite characters for fans of Austen. And for fans of mystery/crime books, an intriguing insight into crime detection prior to the establishment of the Metropolitan Police in England.

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### **wosedwew says**

**Murder is born of love, and love attains the greatest intensity in murder. – Octave Mirbeau**

So ... if murder is truly the greatest intensity of love ... why is a footman murdered? And in a household where he is practically unknown?

And what possible connection could the murder of an unknown footman have with the murder of a well-known cousin?

As I considered the plot twists I did discover a few characters' actions that didn't make sense but my first impression was of a carefully crafted mystery. And I never would have guessed the murderer!

I would recommend this to anyone who enjoys JAFF.

**Every unpunished murder takes away something from the security of every man's life. – Daniel Webster**

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