



And This Our Life (Chronicles of the Darcy Family #1)

C. Allyn Pierson

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Jane Austen's classic novel, "Pride and Prejudice," ends with the marriage of the Bennet sisters to their hard-won fiancés, but the story of Elizabeth and Fitzwilliam Darcy's life together is only beginning. "And This Our Life" is an affectionate and historically accurate sequel that chronicles the lives of the Darcys during their first year of marriage. In addition to learning to be the mistress of Pemberley, the Darcy estate, and overcoming the preconceptions of her new relatives, Elizabeth must help her young sister-in-law, Georgiana, find her way to womanhood through the maze of ritual, tradition and marital politics that is Regency-era England.

Often snubbed by the first circles of society, Elizabeth strives to gain acceptance with the same grace and wit that attracted Mr. Darcy, while helping Georgiana acquire the confidence she needs to find true love and happiness, no matter what obstacles are placed in their way.

And This Our Life (Chronicles of the Darcy Family #1) Details

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From Reader Review And This Our Life (Chronicles of the Darcy Family #1) for online ebook

Alexa Adams says

A fabulous sequel. Ms. Pierson strays well beyond the bounds of Austen's two inches of ivory but it works.

Katherine says

Exact same story as C. Allyn Pierson's other novel - Mr. Darcy's Little Sister so if you're read one you know the story of the other. 2 slight differences - no kidnapping in this book and less letters quoted. This novel is a great continuation of Pride & Prejudice and Austen would be proud. All the "private" moments of a married couple as in love as Darcy and Elizabeth are kept private so the novel is very proper and fits the time period of writing. Elizabeth isn't accepted and liked by everyone including Lady Catherine. Georgiana is still shy even of her new sister but with time Elizabeth helps her to open up and they become very close sisters. In this novel you learn more of Jane, Bingley, Caroline, Lydia, and Coronel Fitzwilliam's life including interesting characters like Lord Byron and the Prince Regent. Realistic continuation of P&P. If I had to find something wrong with it I would only say that Mr Darcy is too perfect. He never says or does anything wrong but those of you who love Darcy will not mind!

Andrea says

One of the most readable of the current Austen sequels. Unlike many, this continuation doesn't go overboard on adventure or rush through its plotted incidents. Although the amount of detail concerning dress could get old, the book is generally well researched and entertaining.

Jennifer Gentry says

I really, really, really liked this book! I loved reading about what happened after the "happily ever after" in a way that left some things to the imagination, like the sex life between Darcy and Elizabeth. Too many of the continuations I've seen are little more than bodice rippers in disguise. This book is NOT that way!

It gives us details on the first year of the Darcys' marriage, Miss Darcy's debut and first season, and fills in the details of some of the other characters.

I sincerely hope Ms. Pierson continues this series very soon.

Laurel says

A sweet story that will delight most Austen purist

Everyone has their own thoughts on how the happily ever after continued at the conclusion of *Pride and Prejudice*. As of late, we have seen many creative sequels with Lizzy and Darcy taking another turn about the shrubberies. What they do in those shrubberies can be quite surprising. Rest assured, you will see none of that in *And This Our Life*, by C. Allyn Pierson.

This sequel takes the straight and narrow path from page one with few detours in Austen's tone, reverently recreating her characters and bathing them in an idealistic light. The story immediately picks up as the Bennet sisters, Jane and Elizabeth prepare for their marriages to Charles Bingley and Fitzwilliam Darcy. Lady Catherine de Bourgh is still miffed over her nephew Darcy's choice of a 'no name bride' and Bingley's sister Caroline is as acrimonious as ever. However, the ceremony proceeds and the couples depart for their London townhouses and wedded bliss. The narrative is primarily from Elizabeth's perspective and we experience her anxieties at being accepted by London society and the Darcy family quickly resolved, and her concerns over being Mistress of Pemberley not really materialize. One delight in Elizabeth's new life is Mr. Darcy's shy young sister Georgiana who she eagerly assists in her preparation for her society debut. Darcy gets his bit of storyline too as he aids the Prince Regent in the recovery of stolen letters in a James Bondish escapade in Paris. In addition to other familiar characters such as Mr. Bennet and daughter Kitty, we are introduced to Colonel Fitzwilliam's parents Lord and Lady Whitwell, a new amiable neighbor Sir Robert Blake, and a few villains thrown in for good measure: ner' do well Jonathan Walker, dissolute George Lewis Winslow Fitzwilliam, Viscount St. George, and the gold digging Comte de Tourney.

Overall this debut novel is a sweet story that will delight most Austen purist. The plot would have benefitted from more tension and drama as life with the Darcy's was a bit too perfect. One of the things that I appreciate about Austen's characterizations is that even her hero and heroine have their faults, and the process to overcome them is one of the most enjoyable aspects of her storyline. We do see Georgiana develop from a shy retreating girl into a confident young woman, but that was not quite enough for me. Furthermore, the pacing was slow until about 100 pages in, and then improved greatly. Ms. Pierson's understanding of literature, Regency history and social customs was the highlight of this novel. We are in no doubt of Lizzy and Darcy's happy ever after. I just wish that it could have been harder wrought.

Laurel Ann, Austenprose

Babs says

I wasn't sure how this book would be, but gave it a try and I am happy I did. This is a wonderful book. It takes up after Darcy & Elizabeth are married. It goes more into detail about society and Georgiana. I did not want to put the book down.

Christine says

Okay, I didn't finish it. But it was BORRRRRING. Too much talking and not enough action. I've read much better continuations of P&P. Sorry, it was not my cup of tea.

Leslie says

This is a strange little book. I can't put my finger on what was wrong and if I say "Everything" I would be lying. I will say it is exceptionally clean.

We begin after Lizzy's engagement but before the wedding. Jane and Lizzy accompany Darcy & Bingley to London to shop for their wedding clothes... I want to say there is a Regency manners error because they are unchaperoned.... but I really don't care.

After the wedding we proceed to London for Lizzy and Darcy's 'honeymoon'. There is some mild angst very mild and quickly resolved. Then they are off to Pemberley and this turns into a Who's Who in Derbyshire with visitors and visiting and I am wondering "who cares?" and "What is the point?" Also Lizzy and her father plot to keep Mrs. Bennet away from Pemberley in a plot that is both convoluted and cruel. I can understand keeping her from London but Pemberley? Mrs. B essentially vanishes from the book after the wedding. Lizzy is busy helping prepare Georgiana for her debut in the spring which seems too soon and what would Lizzy know about a London season (Answer - NOTHING)

Then there is a crazy plot twist involving the Prince Regent, stolen letters and a trip for Darcy to war torn France; there's a dissolute stalker neighbor at Pemberley who is after Georgiana's dowry and Lizzy preparing for her courtesy to the Queen; lucky for Jane she will borrow Lizzy's dress [What WHAT WHAT Jane wouldn't be going to St. James based on Lizzy being her sister. Nor her father being a minor gentleman and Bingley NOT even owning property. Maybe her daughters could but There would be no way Jane Bingley is going to Court]

Georgiana really isn't a formed character she is just like a enlarged version of JA's version. There is needless exposition as dialogue that could have been straight prose. There is needless detail about what they wore and what they ate and who said what ad nauseam.

And then there is this.... It is a truth universally acknowledged that Fitzwilliam Darcy was named for his mother's maiden name. Lady Anne Fitzwilliam, sister of Lady Catherine Fitzwilliam DeBourgh and Lord Fitzwilliam the Earl of _____. The author decides to reorganize the family making Lady Anne and Lady Catherine and the Countess of _____ the sisters and their family name was Winslow. Ergo Darcy should be Winslow Darcy otherwise he was named for his mother's sister's husband's family - which makes no sense.... Wookies don't live on Endor.

And there is the most wonderful magical conservatory at Pemberley. How wonderful? There are oranges and lemons on the branches of the trees IN DECEMBER IN 1812.

Stephanie says

Of the Pride and Prejudice sequels that I've read, this is probably the best. It lacks some of the wit of Jane Austen, was a little predictable, and was a little dry at times; but by the end I was engrossed and enjoying spending time with some of my favorite literary characters again. I will be giving the next book in the series a chance.

Christina says

And This Our Life is a wonderful sequel to Pride and Prejudice, especially for readers who don't enjoy all of the bodice-ripping that has plagued other sequels. The story immediately picks up where Pride and Prejudice ends with the Bingleys and the Darcys settling into married life. Society is both curious and distrusting of Mr. Darcy's new bride, a plot line I think would have been more accurate than other sequels where everyone falls under Elizabeth's charm. Georgiana matures in a believable fashion and her marriage to Colonel Fitzwilliam, a move I've never quite liked, made me change my stance.

The story could have benefited from a bit more drama — the Darcys' life is a bit too idealistic and perfect. Darcy comes across as completely perfect, although he all know he has his faults, and is given his own story line when he is sent to chase after the Prince's letters from his secret wife, which was my least favorite part about And This Our Life. But Pierson's knowledge of the Regency period is very obvious, and I will make sure to snag the second book in this series.

Jennifer says

What can I say? Reading Pride & Prejudice sequels is a guilty pleasure. I would give this one a B. The plot was pretty predictable (why does almost everyone pick the same gentleman for Georgiana to marry), but I enjoyed it. My favorite P&P sequels are by Elizabeth Aston.

Jeanah says

This is the best sequel of Pride and Prejudice that I have read so far. I am very impressed with its historical connections and storyline. The romance was touched upon in a Jane Austen flare with interesting surprises and witty moments. I could not put it down. This is apparently "Book 1" so.... I cannot wait until book 2 is finished. Definitely a wonderful read for any lovers of Elizabeth and Darcy.

Julie says

I've read a lot of Pride and Prejudice adaptations and I have to say this was one of the more boring books. It was so slow going and took me forever to finish. I didn't like how there was no romance. I don't need bodice ripping or explicit scenes, however, it was lacking in the mutual love that Darcy and Elizabeth have for each other that I have read by other authors. And the ending ugh, come on, at least finish it.

Sue says

Very enjoyable P&P sequel; only wish that Elizabeth became so matronly and lost her humor.

Alexandra says

I generally really only go for the romance based (read: bodice rippers) JAFF, with the other exception being the Carrie Bebris mysteries. This is the first G rated P&P sequel I've really been able to get into. I don't know if I can really explain what makes it different, but I found the plot absorbing enough to make me feel like I could read about the rest of the character's lives. Fortunately Pierson is working on book 2!

Highly recommended to all JA fans.
