



A Touch of Night

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When Netherfield is let at last, Mrs. Bennet is very much afraid that the new neighbors will be shape shifters. The English countryside is much plagued with the creatures and the Royal Were Hunters have their hands full. Meanwhile, Elizabeth Bennet tries to hide a deadly secret, one that could destroy the whole family. In a world where being a dragon is a crime can a dragon ever find love?

The novel is set in the world of Sarah A. Hoyt's Magical British Empire.

A Touch of Night Details

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From Reader Review A Touch of Night for online ebook

Bry says

HAHAHAHAHA!!! This book was nbad y'all. Not like I can't read another page it is so stupid and annoying it's bad - but omg this is so bad it's freaking hilarious and I cannot stop reading just because I want to see what else could possibly go wrong in this train wreak! It's like an horrible yet hilarious B grade movie like the The Lost Skeleton of Cadavra or The Blob or something!

First off, the typos. Dear god the typos. A monkey with a typewriter could have typed this better, and the monkey wouldn't even have to worry about using the old English spelling! I am not talking typos like a missing space or its v. it's. I am talking typos like "tour" instead of "your" or my favorite "raMr.od" instead of "ramrod." I mean COME ON!! Are you serious??? And this wasn't like 1 typos per chapter, more like 1 typo per page!! It's as if the author sat down, wrote this all out at once, never reread it, and just posted it to Amazon as a kindle book.

Second, the repetition. Like I said, its like the author wrote it out as a stream of consciousness without ever rereading the book! She repeats scenes, like Mr. Collins realizes at 2 different events (the Merryton assymply and the Netherfield ball) that Darcy is related to Lady Catherine. She also repeats memorable lines multiple times. Darcy uses the entire line about Elizabeth wishing him gone (when he comes upon her just after finding out about Lydia) 3 times in the book! The same exact line!!!

Finally, the plot itself. I liked the idea of all the different were animals people could be, and that it was hereditary, and could pop up in a family line with no warning, and the law of kill on sight was great because it added a danger. Otherwise though it was cliche and it only made me laugh harder because of course when you shift back from your were animal to your human shape you have to be naked which lead to tons of hilariously awful moments, and made Elizabeth think that Darcy and Bingley were lovers. Becasue come on, if you saw 2 grown men naked together in the rhubarb patch in the garden on a lovely moon lite night, you would think the same thing!

Also, it was as if the author was determined to make this spoof as dramatic as possible and include every possible bad thing that could happen to a chartacter in one work. It was never ending. Each chapter just introduced one more drama for the characters to deal with regardless if it made since to the story or not. Plus she tried to include additional side stories for the secondary characters such as Anne DeBourge, Fitzwilliam, and Georgianna that had no bearing on the main story and in some cases were completely forgotten for 90% of the book (i.e. Georgianna's side story) and was taked on in the very last chapter as a complete side thought.

Yet I couldn't stop reading! It was just that much of a hot mess! LOL!

Seriously, save yourself the trouble of reading this trash unless you are just looking for a total laugh!

Susie says

I actually thought this book was really fun. It was a little too long - I know the story of Pride & Prejudice, I

didn't need the entire thing again. It was a fun take, a bit of adult humor, paranormal aspect. I almost felt it improved on P&P, except the writing, of course, was not as good.

If you are sympathetic to homosexuals, you may be offended by this book. I thought the comparison was clever and tried not to be offended, but the "debased, debauched, disgusting"... well, it got old.

Sheila Majczan says

I am not one to like any books on the paranormal level much less in the JAFF genre I so love. (Although I do admit to reading the Twilight series in order to keep up with the interests of some young people within my scope of relationships.) However, about 6 or so months ago Mary Lydon Simonsen convinced me to read her Mr. Darcy Bites (werewolves) story by emphasizing that it was a love story. Plus the recent surge of interest in paranormal books due to the release of the P&P& Zombies movie has made me pay attention to those books in not wanting to be left out of the conversation. I have additionally read one book about Darcy being a shape shifter in The Darcy Madness. Thus when a blog was entertaining a discussion about paranormal books and I was given a link to this book on a forum, I tucked it away for future reading. That was today's activity.

I found this book to be very entertaining with some surprises. There were a variety of were-creatures, from wolves to bears to dogs to dragons to weasels in the story. But there is also The Royal Were Hunters, who seek out, capture and kill these feared creatures. The malady is not limited to any one level of society but it seems that the ton with their servants and acquaintances being many in number and more interested in observing their behaviors is thus brought more to the attention of the RWH and at the mercy of the laws as to the immediate capture and beheading than to which a lower level of personages is subjected. (As with stories of werewolves these creatures are subject to change during the full moon phases.)

This novel did follow canon loosely and I was immediately enthralled when close upon learning that Netherfield is let at last, Elizabeth spies a dragon flying by her window as she gazes out at the night skies and is caught by the look in his green eyes as he draws near. She knows of were creatures up close and very personal so she is not alarmed. In fact her relationship with the most gentle of any such mystical beings slants her judgment about all were beings.

Now what is comical are (and this is a fixture in all JAFF) the misunderstandings we read of between her and, of course, Darcy. And it is not just what she overhears...you will laugh out loud when you read of just who she observes being embraced tightly by Darcy and then who she comes upon in a state of undress among the rhubarb leaves! NOT a minor misunderstanding as to what she has seen and its meaning. I have to give it to Elizabeth in that she kept her assumptions here "under her hat". Throughout this book it was hilarious to read the role Mr. Collins played..."Ook, ook!" Charlotte and Lady C. seem to see his behaviors through rose-colored glasses.

Jane, Bingley, Wickham, Anne, Georgiana, Colonel Fitzwilliam, Lydia, Lady Catherine and even Mr. Bennet all have part in this story. And some of their roles are of denial, of subterfuge, of vile and hell-bent actions. As always Darcy maintains his honor, Elizabeth shows her caring side and there are romances for more than just a couple or two in Hertfordshire.

Darcy is a dragon to love!

(I have to note that the cover is not the best in attracting my good opinion - sadly.)

Ann Sepino says

I cannot imagine how difficult it must have been to mash the lycan/shifters subgenre with this classic, but somehow the book managed to do it. Like with the original "Pride and Prejudice," I was rooting for both of the ships as well.

Rachel says

Hee here

I thought this was great.

Probably won't be the next Great American novel, but it was fun.

It's a Pride and Prejudice variation with dragons, I mean, it could have been utter drivel, but instead it was a really fun read.

thistle says

Such drivel. Sorry, but it is. Temporarily free on Kindle, of course. *throws up hands* Didn't finish.

Kathryn says

Pride and Prejudice with were-creatures. It was funny in the "this is so dumb it's funny" sort of way. I don't recommend it.

Liza says

I'm giving this book four stars because it was a charming and creative take on Pride and Prejudice, entertaining enough that I kept reading because I wanted to know what happens next. The characters were entertaining, and the idea that some of the characters might be were-creatures was unusual enough to hold my attention through the beginning. The plot shifts away from the plot of P&P because of the inevitable consequences of having some important characters be were-creatures (which is illegal and punishable by death).

A few caveats. It desperately needs an editor. There are typos and grammatical errors sprinkled throughout, which weren't enough to distract me from the story. The characters do things that don't make sense in the context of the culture. That was distracting. The story as a whole could use some tightening, as things are repeated that don't need repeating. (Yes, we got the hint that [redacted] is a were. Yup, still got it. Yeah, didn't need you to point it out again, I already got it.)

The authors made the characters their own, as they do things that I wouldn't expect them to do from my understanding of P&P. It was occasionally distracting, but I enjoyed it throughout.

Carol Perrin says

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Enjoyed this supernatural were-beings mixing with Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice characters. Yes, to know that some of our favorite characters were were-beings and therefore punishable by death was a scary thought. As usual, the good were good were-beings and the bad were bad. Finding a human being that loved them for who they were was difficult, because the were-beings put their existence in their partner's hands. A touch of the supernatural helped make the story cute and enjoyable to read. Like many of these Austen variations, an editor was needed. While these mistakes didn't cause a disruption in the flow of this story seeing them disrupts my mind! Want to take a red pen to the document.

Tamara says

This book is better than both the original and the zombie version. It also makes more sense than either of those other versions.

Lanelle says

Warning: don't read this book in public. People will look at you funny because you're laughing out loud. So bad it's good!

Cayla says

Fun supernatural take on Pride & Prejudice. I read it before reading the original (but I had seen some of the films). I will need to re-read it now that I have completed the Austen work.

Ember says

Pride & Prejudice with dragons. Great fun.

Beth says

Read via snippets the author posted years ago on Baen's Bar. Whimsical reimagining of Pride & Prejudice. :)

Elizabeth McCoy says

Copying from my Smashwords review:

This is a very fun book. And, despite some presentational flaws, I'm rounding up five stars. (I'm an evil, evil stickler for copy-editing (watch the typos breed in my text now!), so dock half a star for typos.)

The flaws:

1: There are a fair smattering of comma-errors, and one search-and-replace that turned "ramrod" to "raMr.od" -- probably because "Mr Name" is appropriate for UK/Regency spelling, and "Mr. Name" is required by American custom. There are a few other typos, but it's hardly unreadable -- and I am terribly touchy about such things. Other people are likely to be less-bothered. (And there is always a chance that the author might upload a repaired file; ebooks are handy that way!)

2: I quibble about the cover art. The dragon should be far more noble, much larger, and without the smirk. This is one of the times when the book should not be judged by the cover.

So. Ignore the cover art, and cope with the typos, and develop a big grin. Pride and Prejudice meets were-creatures, from wolves to bears to dogs to dragons, and while I enjoyed the original P&P -- I do admit, adding were-dragons has quite improved it for me! Not only do Miss Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy have to cope with the usual sorts of misunderstandings of the era, but certain misunderstandings are compounded by the need to speak around delicate matters, which permits people to assume... quite different things, to the amusement of the reader. Add in a dash of Noble Selflessness even when the true misunderstandings are resolved, and the romance is quite properly complicated.

Also, since were-creatures' clothing does not change with them, there's a certain amount of "fan-service" -- though appropriately glossed! (No purple prose paroxysms of Paranormal P... er, Romance, though the admiring of a well-muscled body is perhaps not entirely period.)

All this, and currently a freebie? Download it! It's an entertaining read.
