



Darcy's Story

By Janet Aylmer
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Introduction

Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* have captured the imagination of readers for nearly 200 years. However, though readers know Elizabeth's thoughts throughout the story, little is known about Darcy's feelings. What prompts the haughty and reserved Darcy to become an ardent and humble suitor to Elizabeth? Here, Janet Aylmer retells Elizabeth and Darcy's courtship from Darcy's perspective, revealing the transformation that became the foundation for one of literature's most romantic love stories ever.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why did the author decide to tell *Pride and Prejudice* from Darcy's viewpoint? What does the reader gain?
2. The author relies heavily upon original dialogue from *Pride and Prejudice*. How does this help or hinder the storytelling in *Darcy's Story*?
3. In what ways does knowing Darcy's perspective affect your opinion of him? How does it affect your opinion of other characters in *Darcy's Story*, such as Elizabeth Bennet, Charles Bingley, Jane Bennet, Caroline Bingley and others?
4. At what point does Darcy begin to harbor feelings for Elizabeth? Could you tell that he felt this way at the same moment when described in *Pride and Prejudice*?
5. What are Darcy's feelings for Caroline Bingley? In his conversations with Caroline, Darcy often stalemates the conversation or refuses to "take the bait." What does this reveal about Darcy?
6. *Pride and Prejudice* was originally titled *First Impressions*. How do Darcy's first impressions of Elizabeth, Jane, and the rest of the Bennet family change from the start to the finish of *Darcy's Story*?
7. What qualities attract Darcy to Elizabeth? Why does Darcy believe Elizabeth will say yes to his marriage proposal? What is his response to her refusal and how do his feelings about it change over time? How is Elizabeth's refusal instrumental in Darcy's transformation?
8. Though Darcy comes to see how rudely put his proposal to Elizabeth was, does it change any of his core beliefs about class? Do you think a woman in Elizabeth's situation would have said no to a man in Darcy's position in 18th-century England? Why or why not?
9. How does sibling rivalry play a role in Darcy and George Wickham's relationship? What do we learn about Wickham that we did not know from *Pride and Prejudice*? How is Wickham an inadvertent catalyst for Darcy and Elizabeth's relationship?
10. Prior to Darcy's introduction to the Bennet family, Georgiana, Darcy's much younger sister, nearly ruins her reputation by running away with Wickham. However, by the end of *Darcy's Story*, Darcy trusts his sister so much that he confides his feelings about Elizabeth to her. What makes this possible? Why does Darcy need to tell his sister about his feelings for Elizabeth?

About the Author

Janet Aylmer is the pen name of an English Jane Austen enthusiast who lives in Bath.