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The Mistress Of Longbourn



Synopsis

A change in the circumstances of the entail leaves Elizabeth Bennet as the mistress of Longbourn, beholden to no one. Despite the tragedy that took her parents and all but one of her sisters from her, Elizabeth eventually heals, and she takes up the affairs of the estate with a flair her father never possessed. But estate ownership has its own trials, for it makes Elizabeth the target of those who might have otherwise viewed her as nothing more than a pretty vivacious girl. When the Netherfield party arrives at the area, the family they find at Longbourn is small, composed only of Elizabeth, who has been changed by the burdens of estate ownership, and her younger sister, who has grown much, but is still immature enough to be infatuated by a handsome face. They also find that Elizabeth faces her own social trials, primarily in the figures of George Wickham, who desires an easy life, and Mr. Collins, who is offended that his father did not inherit Longbourn. It takes all of Elizabeth's fortitude to withstand the men vying for her attention, stand by her principles, and abide by her desire to marry only for the deepest love. Yet Elizabeth must also recognize that deep and abiding love when it finds her. For in this world, nothing is perfect, and searching for perfection can lead to one letting true love pass by.

Book Information

File Size: 1174 KB

Print Length: 439 pages

Publisher: One Good Sonnet Publishing; 1 edition (August 16, 2016)

Publication Date: August 16, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01KKIU4CA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #5,681 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #12 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Classics > Romance #19 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Regency #23 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Classics > Historical

Customer Reviews

This was definitely a different premise for a P&P variation: Lizzy inherits Longbourn! I quite enjoyed the first part of the book, seeing her coming out of grief and settling into her role in a man's world. I loved that Darcy is the only male who shows a respect for her as mistress of Longbourn and as an intelligent, capable young woman. The Meryton assembly is so different than canon and quite charming. I quite enjoyed the early characterization of Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth. The story and characterization suffer when Darcy and the rest of the Netherfield crew absent themselves from Hertfordshire. It focuses too much on just Elizabeth and her issues with two persistent suitors; what's going on with Darcy during all this? I would have loved to see a little back and forth between what's going on in our hero and heroine's separate lives, even if plot dictates that they must be apart. Because we didn't see much of Darcy for a good portion of the middle of the book, his coming to the belief that he loves her seems false (even if he had some struggles). I like a little *multi-faceted* angst and struggle for Darcy. Even Elizabeth's journey to love doesn't ring true for what we've seen of her character early in the novel. Both characters needed how they came to this momentous, life-altering love to be more adequately detailed and more true to character developed early on. Some of the writing--both in specific words and specific scenes and themes--seems overly repetitious, though I do find the narrative prose of the story in general to be above most FF writers. I enjoyed the different take on Mr. Bingley (and Mr. Darcy's handling of it), even if that subplot also suffered from repetitiveness. And don't get me started on Miss Bingley and Mr.

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