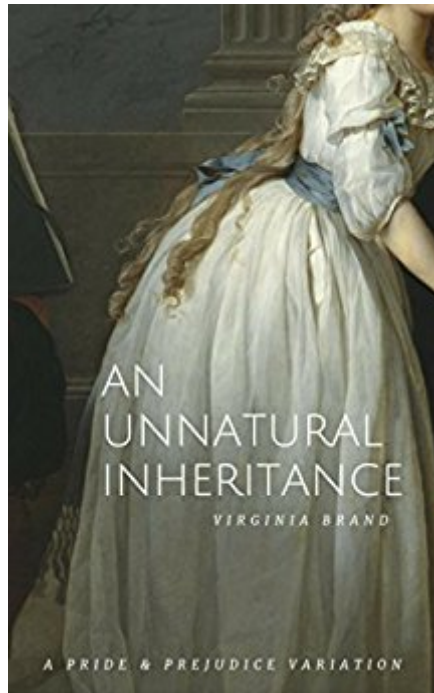


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An Unnatural Inheritance: A Pride And Prejudice Variation



Synopsis

“It is a truth universally acknowledged that a young witch in possession of ancestral magic must be in want of a coven. Elizabeth Bennet and her sisters are proud of their ancestral magic, even if it is entirely unfashionable. But when an entailment and arcane magical law threaten to strip the Bennet Coven of their inheritance, Elizabeth is prepared to do what she must to protect her family. Complicating matters is the arrival of Mr. Darcy, an insufferable man with no tolerance for magic. Even as he becomes captivated by Miss Elizabeth Bennet, Mr. Darcy unwittingly becomes the object of her affections and her power when she begins to trifle with magics far outside her control. An Unnatural Inheritance is a clean Jane Austen retelling which thrusts readers into a world of wild, elemental magic while retelling a timeless love story.

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Customer Reviews

A very creative reworking of Pride & Prejudice. Unfortunately, I couldn't stand Elizabeth's character for over a third of the book. She behaved worse than Lydia in her unchecked emotions and lack of reasoning. The other 4 sisters are terrific as written; although, knowing what she knows about Wickham I find Lydia's choice strange. She could have accomplished her goals with another officer

that would actually care for her. Wickham adds nothing to the marriage and yet she went forward with him.

The magic element of the story was interesting and sometimes humorous. Darcy is very stiff and less articulate than usual. I thought the author dragged out the story and it should have ended sooner.

What if Darcy believed in magic? What if he believed in witches? What if he believed in spells? When Darcy knows he has been surprised by the magic of love when he suspects he has been enchanted by a witch will he mention it in his proposal?

There never was a merry world since the fairies left off dancing, and the Parson left conjuring. ~John Selden, "Parson," Table Talk, 1689

The Bennet family is a coven of witches. Magic was inherited from their father and each sister has her own abilities. In many ways, Lydia is the strongest witch of them all. Their magical power has been tied to their land Longbourn which will pass to the non-magical Mr. Collins. If the sisters leave the land their powers will be gone; a fact which creates an unusual competition among the sisters to entice the Reverend. Wickham rears his handsome head of course. He claims to have magical powers; to be an earth worshipper. Yet he still insists Darcy unfairly denied him a living as an Anglican clergyman. Make up your mind, Wickham! Elizabeth creates a series of spells which don't have the results she intended. Does she have the power to make Wickham truthful? All the witchcraft here is "white magic" -- no Black Mass -- no Devil worship. Barefoot prayers in the natural world.

This is a work of fiction. All the characters in it, human and otherwise, are imaginary, excepting only certain of the fairy folk, whom it might be unwise to offend by casting doubts on their existence. Or lack thereof. ~Neil Gaiman

This is a book that will grab your interest and keep it. There's enough of the canon material from Pride and Prejudice that it's a legitimate piece of JAFF, but the variations are strong enough to make you wonder what's going to happen next. While spells and witchcraft figure prominently in the

plot, it is made clear that the practice only celebrates mankind's gratitude and reliance on the earth rather than any demonic element; it's not inconsistent with heartfelt worship of Almighty God. Only fathers can pass the ability to practice magic to their offspring. Mr. Bennet and his daughters all share this talent, but Mrs. Bennet isn't told because she cannot be trusted to keep this secret. The girls have varying degrees of mastery and are all still learning how to practice the ancient craft. In the Bennet line, magical ability also happens to be bound to the soil surrounding and encompassing Longbourn. This makes the entail particularly devastating because, if none of Mr. Bennet's daughters marry Mr. Collins, their ties to Longbourn will be broken and they all will lose their magical abilities. Mr. Bennet makes it clear he expects one of the girls to shoulder this burden. The magic involving Longbourn isn't exactly a secret in the Meryton area; it's just a topic that they speak of in hushed voices and never directly with the Bennets because witchcraft is "unfashionable." The family is discreet about it and well-liked by their neighbors. However, magic becomes a subject of discussion at Netherfield, and it is apparent that Mr. Darcy believes it exists but abhors the practice of it—just one of many things that Elizabeth finds distasteful about the gentleman. When Mr. Collins arrives, Jane feels it is her duty as the first-born daughter to be the sacrificial lamb to marry their cousin, while Elizabeth has recognized her sister's love for Mr. Bingley and wants to prevent her from throwing her life away. This leads to the two sisters actually angling for Mr. Collins' attention. Brilliant! Elizabeth decides she needs to take drastic measures to prevent Jane and Mr. Collins from marrying, and she elicits her sisters' aid in casting a series of well-intentioned spells that backfire. As a result, she and Mr. Darcy recognize their love for each other much sooner, but it sure doesn't lead to their HEA more quickly. And Darcy botches his initial proposal again, ticking Elizabeth off for a different reason. The plot twists and turns, going toward and then back away from the original. Mr. Wickham starts off telling Elizabeth a tale that somewhat parallels the usual, but the way she deals with it brings startlingly different results. The Wickham-and-Lydia storyline also has a major tweak in the way it resolves. I really enjoy the fantasy element of the story; it's incorporated into the plot very effectively. A plot twist at the end involving the Darcys is truly awesome. The writing is quite good and flows nicely. *****I'd originally rated the book at 4 stars and ended this review with complaints about an overabundance of "tinkling laughs" and "alrights." Having heard from the author that these have been addressed in the revised edition currently available, I've changed my rating to 5 stars.

This is a great book. I love these pride and prejudice variation books. I get so wrapped up in the personalities of the characters that I laugh out loud when they tease each other. The story is about the Bennett, Bingley, Darcy, and Fitzwilliam family and magic. Which I am enjoying so much. The

only problem I am having is I ordered this book on my kindle through kindle unlimited. Around 45 % of the book being read the paragraphs are jumbled and I have to read the first paragraph, then figure out which of the other paragraphs comes next. It does not take away from the fact that I am loving this book. Thank you for writing it.

I admit that I do love a good witch story, and there is something deeply satisfying about that deeper connection possible for Elizabeth and Darcy when any magic is involved. This was a very, very good employment of the magical possibilities, and I truly enjoyed the entire book. I do suspect that strict canon and historical accuracy fans will be bothered by some of this, but I can only shrug and reply that it is their loss. Highly recommend to any with even the slightest open mind for variation of the classic!

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