



# Second Glances: A Tale of Less Pride and Prejudice Continues

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“Yes, but he is Darcy, after all. Can you imagine the lady who would reject him?”

Sir James laughed. “I don't know; if he had made a muddle of a first impression upon his wife, as I have on Miss Bennet, then perhaps his gentlemanly status would have undergone similar attack.”

A year has passed since the conclusion of First Impressions, and the marriages made by the three eldest Bennet ladies are prospering. Expectations are high for the two youngest sisters to do equally well. Kitty, having excelled in school, receives an invitation to join Georgiana Darcy in her first London season, leaving Lydia to bear the burden of the classroom alone. Will the most forward Bennet tolerate such inequity?

Kitty arrives in London prepared to be happy, but her delight is marred when she finds a most unwelcome gentleman on intimate terms with her hosts. She has met the reckless Sir James Stratton before and would like nothing more than to never encounter him again, but his acquaintance she is forced to endure. Struggling for firm footing amidst the whirlwind of London society, will Kitty be allowed to follow her heart, or will her family force her hand? Join the reimagined cast of Pride and Prejudice as they pursue happiness amidst the ongoing obstacles of life, love, and interfering relations.

## Second Glances: A Tale of Less Pride and Prejudice Continues Details

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## **From Reader Review Second Glances: A Tale of Less Pride and Prejudice Continues for online ebook**

**Ann Smith says**

I loved this story of the courting of Kitty Bennet. Her suitor, Sir James Stratton, is handsome, charming and rich - but also rather eccentric and he takes several wrong turns on his path to happiness with Kitty, although he obviously gets there in the end. This is a very gentle story with no really nasty characters and it never strays into the bedroom - everyone is very proper and behaves as they should (well, apart from Lydia but even she does nothing very terrible in this tale).

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**pamela k cronister says**

**Wonderful**

What a perfect companion for the first book in this series. I do love a happy ending. Now what do we do about Charlotte Lucas?

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**Phillippa Silverlock says**

I very rarely write reviews on Goodreads, but I felt like giving it a go for this book.

After reading this, Kitty is now established as my favourite Bennet sister (sorry Lizzy). Someone who was always underdeveloped in the original and somewhat neglected by her family (Mary gets a fair share of attention in the first book in this series, which gratified me greatly) gets her very own story line and rightly so.

The best thing about Alexas writing, is that the way that she conveys the characters inner thoughts and feelings, to me, is so close to the original characters that I can't help but think Austin would be impressed. Take this for example:

' " I do not know how such rules apply generally, but in my family, Jane is the beautiful one, Elizabeth has the wit, Mary is the scholar and Lydia is the popular one."

"And which one are you?"

"She looked at him blankly. "I am just Kitty. There is nothing particular notable about me.""

This exchange, for me, not only is realistic to how I think Kitty must have felt for the majority of the the original novel, but really is the basis of this entire novel. Overshadowed for better or worse by extraordinary sisters and ignored by her parents, Kitty is unable to believe that the same good fortune that Jane and Lizzy came across in the first novel should be something that she would also have access to.

Another thing I really liked about this version of events is how Darcy is looking after Kittys interests-and it

has to be said Lydias, although he looks after Kitty because of affection and Lydia out of a sense of duty. I loved that Darcy took particular interest in Kitty and paid her the attention she was denied growing up. My heart swelled when he admitted to a friend that she was his favourite out of Lizzys sisters and I loved the idea that he was also going to supply the two younger Bennets with a £5000 dowry. It's little touches like this that, whilst the novel isn't focused on Mr and Mrs Darcy, helps to remind us that they are there and that they are still developing as a couple and people.

If I'm honest, although I will be reading book three, I would much rather just have an entire series of Kitty-even doing the most mundane of tasks. The fourth Bennet sister will now forever have a place in my heart.

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### **Lisa Pianka says**

#### **Fun**

Very well written and witty. I thoroughly enjoyed the new characters introduced. Sir James Stratton was the perfect comic to Mr. Bennett straight man.

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### **Saskia Tralala says**

I'm a sucker for these books. Fans, go and read this retelling. I'm pretty sure you will enjoy it as much as I have. Read it in a day. It's nothing much, first book was stronger, but still very enjoyable.

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### **Debbie Brown says**

#### **4.5 rounded up to 5 stars**

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### **Sophie says**

I have just finished reading this book, second in the trilogy, and it was thoroughly enjoyable! I was provided with review copies however this is my honest, unbiased opinion.

I really enjoyed the first story, First Impressions, and so I was excited for this second tale. From the blurb it seemed to suggest that the misunderstandings and miscommunications which were in fact missing from the first book (a very unique and interesting approach to the classic story, so loved for it's misunderstandings!) would instead be present in this second story. Therefore, I was looking forward to seeing Kitty's journey to love and how she would deal with a story line similar to the journey we know Lizzy to have experienced with Darcy; a romance based on bad first impressions followed by lots of confusion!

I will begin with the characters, and most importantly the heroine and hero, Catherine Bennet and the new character, Sir James Stratton.

I loved the portrayal of Kitty in this story. She really was, I think, the Bennet sister the most ignored in the original; Jane was the beautiful one, Lizzy the clever and witty one, Mary the 'accomplished' one (in theory), Lydia the lively and sociable one and Kitty was... living in Lydia's shadow. Although Kitty thrives at the school she and Lydia are sent to, and her friendship blossoms with the refined Georgiana and shrivels with her less refined sister Lydia (who is not benefiting from her education, surprise surprise), as a result of her upbringing, I think her disbelief and lack of self confidence is understandable. It is an interesting journey she goes on, learning that she is her own person and should be proud of who she is. She is an intriguing and very untouched character to develop and she really comes into her own in this story, with the help of Sir James, who is an important factor in this growth of self belief!

Talking of Sir James, what a great character addition he is! He's funny and a charmingly teasing man! He has a very care free attitude as well as a very strong and determined nature. He is rather eccentric (which is all the more fun!) and so his actions and behaviour are often very forward. This eccentric and adventurous nature is clear from the first encounter between him and Kitty - let's just say things do not get off to a good start thanks to a near death experience with a carriage!

As I said, Sir James is forward. However, I love his open and artless manner and his frankness with Kitty from the off. The two of them have some wonderful sparring matches, reminiscent to those we remember between Lizzy and Darcy! I have already said how the course of love does not run smooth for these two, and as well as an awful first impression to be righted, there are a few other problems of trust to overcome and mistakes to be explained before they can reach their happy conclusion - which you can be assured they do (as we were informed in the epilogue of the first book of one Kitty Bennet becoming one Lady Stratton!)

As well as this central romance, there is a secondary romance between the blooming Georgiana and a very sweet addition in a Mr Brooks - it was nice to have two romances going on, one progressing a lot smoother than the other!

Of course in a story where Kitty is the guest of Georgiana who is living in the Darcy's town house, Mr and Mrs Darcy are bound to be part of the story! I loved seeing glimpses of their new lives as man and wife - and they are as happy as you would imagine them to be! One of my favourite quotes from this book was a description about the newly married Darcy; "I cannot imagine such a description as jovial being applied to Darcy" - clearly Lizzy is having a very positive effect on her new husband! I found it very interesting - and pleasing - to see both the Darcy's facing the trials and tribulations (and natural consequences!) which marriage brings and seeing them learn to cope with such difficulties. It was lovely seeing their relationship grow ever stronger - they are a perfect couple!

There are some interesting character developments and some unexpected relationships explored further in this story...

Mr and Mrs Bingley are around now and then and it was enjoyable to read about their married life. Lady Catherine too is all amiability, and is actually quite motherly! (I suppose those who have not read book one will find this description of such a character shocking - a brief explanation would be that many characters are vastly different from how we know them to be, as that is exactly the point of this trilogy (particularly book one) 'Tales of LESS Pride and Prejudice' and of course Lady Catherine as we know her causes far too much trouble to fit with this series!)

Darcy and Kitty have grow closer and get on very well and Mr and Mrs Wickham (who is, incidentally, the former Caroline Bingley) end up having a rather happy marriage - actually their characters are much a like, I can see how they might suit one and other!

Mr Darcy and Mr Gardiner's familial relationship continues to grow as he becomes very much like a father to Darcy. Mr Bennet makes a welcome return and continues to tease his love-lorn prospective son-in-laws (just as he did with Darcy in *First Impressions*), making any meetings they may have as diverting as possible for him!

Another great addition was the wonderful Mrs Westingham, Sir James' aunt. She is a lot of fun and a very perceptive, motherly character who is responsible for some great scenes in the book! The most diverting relationship for me is the idea of Mr Bennet and Lady Catherine being very good friends!

And who could forget Lydia, who still manages to cause trouble for as many people as she can, have no fear! Her involvement in the story is all rather amusing. That's enough on characters I think.

I mentioned earlier about the links between Kitty and Sir James' relationship to the true story between Darcy and Lizzy - this was one of my favourite aspects to the story. There are many parallels between the two stories and a few clever comments which allude to the fact (for example Sir James states to Mr Brooks at one point how if Darcy had messed up his first impression on Lizzy, as he had managed to do with Kitty, it might not have been such a smooth journey for them - as was just the case. He even talks of "having to overcome a truly wretched first impression." Sound familiar?)

I love the authors style of writing - it was just as clever and witty as it was in the first story. The alternating between all the different characters points of view allows you to get to know each character better, and the transitions are carried out very smoothly thanks to the brilliant writing, meaning it did not annoy me one bit to jump so often between different characters and locations - I enjoyed it and I think it really adds to the story and works well for the style of story telling trying to be achieved (and being achieved very successfully!)

I have already mentioned how I really enjoyed seeing glimpses into Darcy and Lizzy's marriage, and so I am really looking forward to the final book in the trilogy, *Third Encounters*, to give me further insight into the first year of their marriage. As well as that, I will be very happy to read Charlotte Lucas' tale and to read a story where she will discover the joys of love (as in this series she has managed to escape marriage to the infamous Mr Collins!)

Although this tale is the second in a series, this would easily work as a stand alone story, but just be prepared for a few odd character alterations and unexpected story twists coming along, all which have taken place and are explained in book one.

So far a very well written and fun and unique trilogy!

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### **Meredith (Austenque Reviews) says**

Out of all the Bennet sisters, Kitty is perhaps the sister that is the least developed and defined by Jane Austen. Described as "weak-spirited, irritable, and completely under Lydia's guidance," she doesn't seem to possess any unique characteristics or admirable marks of distinction (unless you count being an indiscriminate cougher!) And as far as Austenesque novels go, to date it would seem that both Mary and Lydia are more frequently chosen as heroines over poor, unpopular Kitty. Which is why I am so elated and thankful that Alexa Adams has penned a sequel to her *Pride and Prejudice* variation, *First Impressions*, that features Kitty Bennet as the heroine!

At the close of *First Impressions* with Kitty and Lydia being sent to a ladies school in Bath, it would seem that “two of the silliest girls in the country” were on the path to improvement! As one might expect, one sister made the most of this rare opportunity and worked hard with her studies, while the other remained preoccupied with flirting, frivolity, and fun. Because of Kitty's remarkable progress with her accomplishments and manners, she is invited to London to accompany Georgiana Darcy during her season. As bosom friend and sister to the illustrious Darcys, Kitty anticipates a season full of entertainment, excitement, and elegance. What she doesn't expect is to be plagued by one of the most presumptuous, eccentric, and eligible bachelors in town!

How I adored this novel! As with *First Impressions*, I was greatly impressed with Alexa Adams' adept use of satirical tone and Austenesque language. Her narratives and asides cannot help but make one think of Jane Austen and her delight in the imperfections and follies of others. But my favorite aspect of this book was the development and fleshed-out characterization of Kitty Bennet! Ms. Adams delved into Kitty's psyche and thoroughly explored this oft forgotten character. With her modesty, more reserved nature, understandable insecurities, and romantic heart – Kitty easily won my heart and compassion. Furthermore, I greatly enjoyed observing how spending time with the Darcys (during her summer and winter holidays) has impacted and influenced Kitty's development. Especially Mr. Darcy, who can be credited with triggering the most significant change in Kitty's character. I loved witnessing the mutual respect and high opinion these two had for each other.

However, Kitty's admirable transformation isn't the only aspect of this novel I enjoyed. Far from it! The hero, Sir James Stratton, with his impulsiveness and absurdities, charmingly reminds one of Georgette Heyer's characters. In addition, Mr. Bennet, with his matchmaking machinations and perverse delight in teasing young men in love, provides much sport and mirth. Moreover, Caroline and Lydia, per their usual, enhance the drama of the story with their schemes and shenanigans. All of these amusing and intriguing components mixed in with Alexa Adams' brilliant prose and gentle wit create a sequel that is delightful, diverting, and very hard to put down! I highly recommend!

<http://janeaustenreviews.blogspot.com...>

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## **Sophia says**

I for one am one of those people who like to imagine what happens in the lives of some of the secondary characters in memorable stories. In this case, the story is Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. At the end of *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane and Elizabeth ride off into the sunset with their handsome loving husbands, but there are still two of the five infamous Bennet sisters left at home along with a sweet gentle Darcy girl getting ready to re-enter life a little older and a little wiser. What becomes of them?

What indeed! Alexa Adams not only tackles that question in this sequel to the famous classic, but this is also really a sequel to her own *Pride and Prejudice* retelling '*First Impressions: A Tale of Less Pride and Prejudice*'. I heartily recommend that you read her first book '*First Impressions*' first though it would be possible to muddle along through this one if you're familiar with Jane Austen's original characters. Ms. Adams has made these characters her own and interesting things happened when just one element of the original story is changed. In the first book, she asked the 'what if' question: What if Mr. Darcy never uttered those fateful words about Elizabeth? So much changed in the story as a result. *Second Glances* is the ongoing telling of this tale.

The story begins with the introduction of a new character, Sir James Statton, who is of an age and possesses a fortune worthy enough to be pestered by all his relations to get on with it and take up a wife and start a family. Unlike other men around him, James will not settle for just any female of good breeding and prospects. He awaits that special someone, but it is too bad when the woman who captures his eye wants nothing to do with him when he nearly runs her down in his curricle (the sports car of carriages back in the day) and has the audacity to tease her about it. Sir James is a bit of a scamp frequently rushing headlong into trouble of the generally innocent, but no less dangerous sort. It is while in Bath that he bumps into (literally) Miss Kitty Bennet and makes a rather poor impression on her even while she makes a strong favorable impression on him.

Kitty is on the brink of leaving her school years behind especially now that her dear friend and family connection, Georgiana Darcy, requests her to come up to London and enjoy the Season with her. She thinks of herself as just 'Kitty' while placing titles on her other sisters like Jane 'the beautiful one' or Mary 'the intelligent one'. Kitty is much improved from what she was living at home and now is uninfluenced by her still silly sister Lydia. She hopes to make a good match when it is her turn, but does not have high hopes beyond finding at least a gentleman of Mr. Collins status. It certainly won't be someone like the odd and teasing Sir James who persistently makes her uncomfortable even if he is the friend to Georgiana's gentleman friend Simon.

The plot of this one flows slow and gentle with low angst. It is a fun regency romp and a lovely tribute to Austen's characters between the lively courtship of Sir James and Kitty, the conniving schemes of Caroline Wickham and Lydia Bennet and the ongoing tale of Darcy and Lizzy after their happily ever after. It was a real pleasure to read a story with Kitty Bennet as the heroine who is both spirited and sensible and the introduction of the new character, Sir James, was pure fun. The secondary characters like the older generation in Lady Catherine and Mr. and Mrs. Bennet just added to the enjoyment. Personally, I think poor Mr. Bennet ought to get frequent flyer miles on his carriage or some sort of medal for dashing around southern England putting out the fires his daughters started and settling their love lives. Haha!

It was a light, sweet romance that will greatly appeal to those who enjoy Austenesque stories and to those who enjoy sweet historical romances.

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## **Anna says**

Check out my review on [Diary of an Eccentric](#)

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## **Sheila Majczan says**

3.5 rounded up to 4 stars

We have here another author who selects to give happy endings to those of the Bennet sisters not yet settled at the end of her previous book in this series of two, *First Impressions*. Kitty and Lydia have been sent away to a Mrs. Rivers' establishment to learn better manners and gain some education.

Darcy and Elizabeth decide now is the time to give Kitty a season. Lydia has her own ideas about how to gain precedence over Kitty in regards to finding a suitor and marrying. Then we also meet several young



men, Sir James Stratton and Mr. Simon Brooks, who have decided this season would be the time for their own securing a young lady to be by their sides and to help manage their estates. They have been pushed in this direction by some determined relations.

Kitty becomes the main focus. While the young man who meets her by accident claims to have fallen in "love at first sight", she cannot believe he is anything but teasing due to her own lack of self esteem. He does not help his pursuit when he makes overtures which are perceived as forcing her hand. (After all anyone with a mother like Mrs. Bennet knows that as soon as that same mother learns a man is interested in a daughter's hand, that said mother will nag and complain until the daughter gives in and accepts his proposal.)

This is another sweet tale with no angst in my humble opinion. But if you like to read that Kitty finally gets some attention in the world of JAFF stories, you will definitely like this story. Part of what I did like was reading the opinions of certain aunts who seem to know or think they know their nephew well.

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### **ana darcy says**

Very nice tale after a year of Darcy and Elizabeth's wedding. They are present but they are not the main characters. Kitty is the main protagonist and it is nice to see her grown up and quite strong.

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### **Victoria says**

Very sweet and diverting! I thoroughly enjoyed this sequel. I would strongly recommend reading them in quick succession. I did not and it took me several minutes to get back into the mindset of this world. The story revolves around Kitty's whirlwind and rocky courtship to a long time friend of Darcy. They were engaging, and there were several moments where the reader could definitely feel for poor Kitty, or be frustrated at their actions. My only critique is a few errors in the story, typographical and one consistency (Maria Lucas informing Lydia of Kitty's involvement with Sir James, but later it is said to be Mrs. Bennet who spilled the beans). Other than those, I found it to be an excellent story!

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### **Don Jacobson says**

#### **A Delightful Romp**

Diving into backlist books is a wonderful way to spend a summer day or two. Ms Adams "Second Glances" continued the trend of pairing Georgianna Darcy and Kitty Bennet. Here in we also see the author sketching out a strong, if sometimes unconfident, fourth Bennet sister. Strong character development along with a convincing Austenesque love story makes this a worthy read...once for the story and twice for the writing.

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### **Maria says**

After a year spent in Bath to study and become a proper lady, Kitty Bennet receives an invitation from

Georgiana Darcy to join her in London. Right before she leaves, Kitty meets a young man and argues with him because he puts her life in danger. She hopes to never meet that foolhardy man again, but to her chagrin she discovers, once in London, that he is one of Darcy's best friends! How is she supposed to behave towards him, especially after her previous unladylike conduct?

What a fun and entertaining book! Alexa Adams does know how to catch my attention! Her writing is captivating and her plots are always amusing. The whole story flows perfectly and all of the characters have a lot in common with the ones described by Jane Austen. Ms. Adams has a great talent at writing her novels, indeed! I can tell she is the only writer who, with her original writing style, reminds me of Jane Austen's witty remarks and irony more than the others.

The absolute protagonist of "Second Glances" is Kitty, the Bennet sister who has always been Lydia's shadow and has never had a real chance of happiness. I have always pitied her, but now it is her turn to shine and I could not be happier to see her grow and become an accomplished lady! I loved how the author depicted her personality, somehow similar to Elizabeth's, and I liked the fact that because of this trait Kitty easily gets Darcy's approval. She has not Elizabeth's wit but she proves herself wiser and more educated than readers can imagine. I was really impressed by this new Kitty, definitely a lovable heroine!

As for the hero, we have the chance to meet a very charming man, Sir James Stratton, who is in my opinion a very good match for Kitty, not only because he is a baronet (for her mother's happiness and Lydia's jealousy!), but also because of his nature. He is a reckless and adventurous man who meets our heroine in a very weird way (which I found romantic by the way, but it is just my personal thought, because it was a very dangerous encounter!), but I believe only a girl like Kitty can stand up against a man like Sir James, she has the nerve and the sweetness to do that!

I had a great time reading this story which is the second instalment of the series "A Tale of Less Pride & Prejudice", a book that Austen fans will find enjoyable and engrossing. However, I recommend to read the first book before this one to have a clear idea of what happened to "Pride and Prejudice" characters' lives.

Rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars.

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