



Definitely Not Mr. Darcy

Karen Doornebos

Download now

Read Online →

Definitely Not Mr. Darcy

Karen Doornebos

Definitely Not Mr. Darcy Karen Doornebos

There's no place for pride in this Austen misadventure. Chloe Parker was born two centuries too late. A thirty-nine-year-old divorced mother, she runs her own antique letterpress business, is a lifelong member of the Jane Austen Society, and gushes over everything Regency. But her business is failing, threatening her daughter's future. What's a lady to do?

Why, audition for a Jane Austen-inspired TV show set in England, of course.

What Chloe thinks is a documentary turns out to be a reality dating show set in 1812. Eight women are competing to snare Mr. Wrightman, the heir to a gorgeous estate, along with a \$100,000 prize. So Chloe tosses her bonnet into the ring, hoping to transform from stressed-out Midwest mom to genteel American heiress and win the money. With no cell phones, indoor plumbing, or deodorant to be found, she must tighten her corset and flash some ankle to beat out women younger, more cutthroat, and less clumsy than herself. But the witty and dashing Mr. Wrightman proves to be a prize worth winning, even if it means the gloves are off...

Definitely Not Mr. Darcy Details

Date : Published September 6th 2011 by Berkley Trade

ISBN : 9780425243824

Author : Karen Doornebos

Format : Paperback 374 pages

Genre : Romance, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Fiction, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

 [Download Definitely Not Mr. Darcy ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Definitely Not Mr. Darcy ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Definitely Not Mr. Darcy Karen Doornebos

From Reader Review Definitely Not Mr. Darcy for online ebook

Nic says

I gave it 74 pages, and I think that's fair.

It's a cute premise - Austenite (and single mom with money troubles) Chloe Parker goes on a Regency-themed reality dating show. And I *almost* like the writing, but I just don't find it quite funny. Real Austen fans may feel talked down to (do you really need to explain that a joke about coming out of a lake with a wet shirt refers to Colin Firth in the BBC *Pride and Prejudice*? To an Austen fan? I think not).

Plus, I just don't identify with Chloe, for reasons which I will present to you now in the form of a mocking impression.

"Hiii, I'm Chloe, and I love the Regency era and don't like the modern one! I'm kind of proud of knowing carriages better than cars and needing my eight-year-old daughter to handle the Internet for me! Can't imagine why my letterpress business is doing badly, can you?"

"But surely going on this Jane Austen-themed show will fix it! I'll win the grand prize of one hundred thousand dollars, and my whole life will be excellent! Plus, living in authentic Regency conditions in England will be a dream come true!"

"What do you mean, I can't have my cell phone?"

"I NEED my cell phone."

"What do you mean, this is a dating show? I thought it was a documentary where we all did Jane Austen trivia contests! I thought it would be all classy! You have to get the guy to propose to you to win? Well, sure, I got all the paperwork you sent me, but isn't it totally understandable that in my Austen-y excitement I skimmed it so lightly as to have NO IDEA how one goes about actually winning the money that I'm completely counting on taking home? Doesn't that totally make sense, and not indicate that I'm a complete idiot? Now la, watch me go off and interact in weird and obnoxious ways with other people, just in case you were still thinking of sympathizing with me."

"Also, I'm a Regency expert, but have never heard of a ha-ha. That's not weird, right?"

Cyndi says

I really wanted to like this book. I mean; I'm a major Austenphile, so I rarely pass by a book based on them, and equally rarely find any of them worth reading. But hope springs eternal so I keep trying. The characters never quite grasped their roles and it was hard to 'see' the scenery.

Regina says

I was extremely excited to receive my copy of *Definitely Not Mr. Darcy* as a Goodreads giveaway. It is a novel that I would have looked at in the bookstore, but may not have bought for myself. My reasons for wanting to read it are purely self indulgent as a confirmed Jane Austin fanatic. The novel, while referring to Austin's novels, is not a reboot or even a parody of the classic Austin novels we all know and love. It is set in a modern day reality show, but with a twist: the contestants must pretend like they are in the world of Jane Austin and everything is as authentic as possible, including bathing only once a week. The reason I enjoyed this novel so much is not based on a complicated plot (it's actually a pretty light read and the plot is somewhat predictable), but its homage to Austin and her work. I enjoyed being on the inside of little jokes and references to her literary works. Despite the predictable plot (at least to me) and the fact that at times I wanted to shake the main character because she couldn't work out things quick enough for me, I still found myself immersed in the book. It did give me new perspective on Austin's novels because like the main character I too have been guilty of over-romanticizing her works. We all think we would like to be a Jane Austin heroine until we realize we can't take a bath for a week and or can't talk a walk unchaperoned. (Women's lib? What's that?) I do recommend reading this if you are a fan of any of Jane Austin's novels or have seen the BBC production of *Pride and Prejudice* (the fact that the main character mocks the Keira Knightly version made me like the book even more). It is a fantastic weekend or beach read.

Sophia says

A divorced, middle-aged woman with a failing business, little girl, and fading dreams needs to catch a break, but is the prize money from winning her 'Mr. Darcy' really the way to do it? Chloe Parker is about to find out when the Jane Austen documentary she thought she signed up for becomes another animal entirely. She's a challenger to win the hand of the wealthy Mr. Wrightman in a Reality TV show challenge. Too bad her eye strays toward the wrong Mr. Wrightman.

I had a good time with this standalone chick lit. The scenario of a game reality show with points for how well the ladies do at Regency Era accomplishments, deportment, fashion, and winning the eligible gentleman was too delicious for words. Of course there was the requisite conniving mean girl type and a host of mishaps for Chloe as she fumbled and bumbled her way through as modern woman trying to adjust to living two hundred years in the past. She does manage to catch the eye of both Wrightman brothers, but only the ineligible one for the prize stirs her.

Chloe has been a dreamer and left looking for something more most of her life. She believes in romance, Mr. Darcy, and the dream of living in a genteel Austenesque world, but the story shows her the stark reality when she gets to have what she's always wanted. You know what they say about getting what you want... She's an engaging heroine and I was rooting for her to win, but at the same time, I wanted her to open her eyes and really see what was going on rather than the illusion. It was obvious to the reader for a long time what the real deal was with the situation, but Chloe was on a journey of the heart and had to find her own way.

There are reflective times, humorous moments, sweet moments, and sad ones. I did feel that the story dragged in the middle and I just wanted to get on with the heart of the conflict which did happen in the latter section. I also wanted a little bit more at the end, but that was because I wanted to see more romance after all the earlier misunderstandings.

The author provided some fun side characters around Chloe and totally convinced me that I might enjoy a visit to Regency times, but I definitely am glad I don't live there. I found this a perfect light, summer read and can definitely recommend it to those who want a modern story not necessarily focused on romance with

some humor and heartwarming along with the soul searching moments.

Meredith (Austeneseque Reviews) says

Chloe Parker, a thirty-nine year old divorced mother of one, is elated to be participating in a three week immersion documentary about Jane Austen! A master at Jane Austen trivia and Regency etiquette, Chloe expects to win this competition and walk out with a \$100,000 prize that will save her failing antique letterpress business and ensure that her daughter continues to receive the best education possible. The only problem is...Chloe didn't sign on for a Jane Austen public television documentary...she signed on to be contestant in a reality dating show titled How To Date Mr. Darcy!

Even though Chloe is not thrilled by this unforeseen development, and thinks the whole idea is ludicrous, she decides to remain in the competition. Who knows, maybe she will win the prize money and a man! Chloe enters the Regency Marriage Arena prepared for all the elements of reality dating shows such as: elimination ceremonies, group activities, and one-on-one dates. Yet she is woefully unprepared for the new Regency Era twists such as: earning Accomplishment Points, surrendering her cellphone, and living according to Regency Era norms for three weeks (even when the cameras are off!) Does Chloe have the right arts and allurements to attract the wealthy and charming Adonis, Mr. Wrightman? Will she be able to endure these next three weeks with limited privacy, fewer freedoms, and deplorable hygiene?

To continue reading, go to: <http://janeaustenreviews.blogspot.com...>

Tanya says

I had high hopes for this book, and it had it's moments of brilliance. What I wish is that authors would find someone with an ounce of logic in their brains and actually bounce their ideas off of them.

The premise of this story is a heroine that is a fanatic of anything and everything Jane Austen. She is a life long member of the Jane Austen Society, that should tell you everything about her passion. Yet as she enters this contest we are to believe that she doesn't know the basic details of life in the Regency era? Now me, I could get not know this stuff. I enjoy Jane Austen's stories, but I haven't extensively researched the era. This is woman that has won competitions galore and she doesn't get it. This to me is logic error number 1. Make her a woman that enjoys Jane Austen, someone like me that enjoys the books, likes some of the movies, and knows a bit but not too much so everything is a shock to the system. At one time she states she has read Sense and Sensibility 4 times. WHAT? I have read it 4 times, I would expect a true fanatic to have read it so many times they can't count it.

Okay, logic problem number 2, this woman is supposed to be a 39 year old single mother, with a failing business. I love her business, it works, what doesn't work is her persona. I could never decide if I wanted to love or hate her. Since there was a true antagonist you can't completely hate her, but her moods are off the wall. How could the hero fall in love with that? He loved her for her entry, she loved him for his bio, there is nothing real beyond that. I never could decide on the age of her daughter, sometimes I felt like she was a 4 or 5 year old or younger, but she could text on the phone. It never was made clear and often this woman acted like the child would be a disaster if she was out of her care for any length of time.

Now this leads to logic problem number 3. Why is she so upset about her ex wanting visitation over summer

and weekends. As far as I could tell in the story, he really wasn't a bad sort. A workaholic and not in the marriage and really not in the child's life, but in today's society I'm surprised that he didn't have that degree of visitation to begin with. If he was suing for full custody, I would get it, but visitation rights, not. I respected that she didn't say anything bad about him to her daughter but her reaction was a bit startling to me.

Logic problem number 4, why doesn't the antagonist know who the owner of the property she is trying to win is? If it was in her family, and lost it and she was trying to get it back wouldn't she have known that little tidbit?

Those are just a few small problems in the book. I didn't care for the method of the competition, or the Heroines over reactions. Why was she fainting all the time? Why was she always caught in a rainstorm? So many little things that got redundant. I don't mind her indecision with the two brothers for me that works since she was a divorcee, and really not prepared to be thrown into the situation she was. I could go on and on, but one more thing. NOT every woman delivering a baby in this day and age gets an epidural. Some of us actually don't want one, and that was actually rather inappropriate to even suggest such a thing. Research, research, research.

Oh, one more thing, although it would be hard for us to live in the conditions of the 1800's or earlier, and even into the 1900's, for those living in that time it was life. They don't have the things to compare to that we do. So as much as we might find it difficult, hard, and horrible, for them it was a way of life and normal.

Georgiana 1792 says

Una Janeite a *Uomini e Donne*

Confesso di essere partita un po' prevenuta quando ho letto la trama di questo romanzo: ero troppo scottata dalla delusione cocente di *Austenland*, un libro ben congeniato sulla carta, che però alla fine si è rivelato più una 'sinossi' che un romanzo vero e proprio, con una protagonista non all'altezza della situazione e ? soprattutto ? lontana anni luce da Jane Austen e dalle sue eroine. E la trama di *Definitely Not Mr Darcy* sembrava pericolosamente simile!

Invece Chloe Parker si rivela da subito ben diversa da Jane Hayes, la protagonista di *Austenland*. Chloe è una vera Janeite, che ha familiarità con le opere di Jane Austen e con i suoi insegnamenti, tanto che viene selezionata dalla sua sezione della JASNA (Jane Austen Society of North America) per partecipare a questo programma televisivo, in cui bisogna conoscere a menadito i costumi del periodo Regency.

Chloe crede che si tratti di un quiz a premi e invece... si trova invischiata in un dating-show, ovvero un reality show in cui uno scapolo in possesso di una cospicua fortuna è alla ricerca di una moglie. Una sorta di *Uomini e Donne* di Maria De Filippi, insomma, con la differenza di essere completamente calato nel 1812, arretratezza tecnologica inclusa.

La prima reazione di Chloe è di scappare via: dopotutto è una Janeite seria, che mal si presta a giochi e bambinate e non ha nessuna voglia di cercare un uomo ? soprattutto non in un reality show ? per quanto somigliante a Mr Darcy!

Chloe è divorziata e ha una figlia, Abigail, di otto anni, che ha bisogno di lei. L'ex-marito Whintrop, inoltre, ha una nuova compagna e ha appena chiesto di riaprire le pratiche dell'affidamento di Abigail: per Chloe non ci sarebbe un momento più sbagliato per stare lontana da casa per tre settimane!

Ma poi sbucca la questione economica: la vincita del concorso comporta un premio in denaro (oltre allo scapolo *abbiente e piacente*) e Chloe è in un periodo di grave crisi con l'attività di tipografa vecchio-stile, tanto che gli ultimi soldi che aveva li ha spesi per il biglietto aereo per l'Inghilterra.

E, per una volta nella sua vita, nasce in Chloe il desiderio di portare a termine qualcosa, lottando a denti stretti, sostenuta da Mrs. Crescent, la sua chaperone che, in caso di sua vincita, riceverebbe un bel gruzzoletto che l'aiuterebbe per le cure mediche del figlio William, che si deve operare per un nodulo al collo. Insomma, vuoi per il suo buon cuore, vuoi per le scarse alternative finanziarie, Chloe è costretta, suo malgrado, a immergersi nell'Inghilterra di Jane Austen.

Si trova subito in difficoltà, perché Chloe è più o meno consapevolmente drogata di tecnologia e di internet. Non riesce a credere di non poter sentire Abigail al cellulare e di dover comunicare con lei tramite lettera. La Doornebos mette in evidenza l'enorme differenza dei due mezzi: se è vero che l'e-mail è poco romantica, tanto da essere uno dei motivi di distacco nel matrimonio fra Chloe e Winthrop (lei ricorda che ricevere le sue mail al posto delle chiamate quando lui lavorava fuori per molti mesi, le aveva quasi fatto dimenticare il suono della voce del marito), è anche vero che è un mezzo di comunicazione immediato: si preme 'invio' e il destinatario può subito leggere le nostre parole.

Tantissimi altri progressi che il genere umano ha fatto in duecento anni vengono analizzati e celebrati da chi è costretto a farne a meno, dopo averli dati per scontati per tutta la vita. In questo *Definitely Not Mr Darcy* richiama molto il primo romanzo delle *Austen Addict* di Laurie Viera Rigler, *Shopping con Jane Austen*, con approfondimenti più dettagliati sulle abitudini di pulizia e igiene personale e sui rapporti con la servitù. Geniale anche l'introduzione di un parto in stile Regency, per farci vedere quanto questo evento naturale sia stato migliorato dalla scienza (sebbene, Mrs. Doornebos, le confesso che anch'io, come Mrs Crescent, sono stata contentissima di partorire senza l'epidurale!).

I personaggi sono molto ben delineati: in ciascuno di essi si può scorgere un richiamo a Jane Austen. C'è Miss Bingley, nella persona di Lady Grace, che rappresenta anche la *Janeite dell'ultima ora*, quella che si è innamorata di Matthew Macfadyen o di Colin Firth e non ha neanche letto i romanzi di Jane Austen, essendo interessata *a tutt'altro*. Lady Grace rappresenta, inoltre, la classica inglese gelosa di tutto ciò che è britannico, che considera una sua proprietà, pur rivelando di non essere degna di tenerlo per sé! C'è Mr Darcy, che si rivelerà diverso da quel che Chloe/Elizabeth credeva. C'è anche Wickham! Ma non voglio rivelare troppo.

Dunque mi limiterò a dire che Karen Doornebos ha rappresentato una Janeite dei giorni nostri non più giovanissima, in cui tutte possiamo immedesimarci, a prescindere dall'età; possiamo vagheggiare l'epoca Regency, ma in realtà non potremmo fare a meno dei nostri cellulari, della doccia calda (e con acqua pulita) tutti i giorni (noi italiani anche di un altro sanitario indispensabile, di cui non faccio ulteriore menzione), di internet e della sua connessione interplanetaria immediata, della luce elettrica, ecc., insomma di duecento anni di conquiste che diamo per scontate e di cui ormai non potremmo fare a meno.

Nonostante non sia originalissimo, *Definitely Not Mr Darcy* si legge con partecipazione e curiosità, grazie a uno stile incalzante e a una protagonista travolgente (c'è anche tanto di *Bridget Jones* in lei, come in ognuna di noi!).

Volete sapere se Chloe vince il reality show? LEGGETELO!

Kate L says

Ahhh! I was so dissatisfied with this book, especially the ending! There was no character progression, until the very end, which felt forced and rushed. The MC, Chloe is this confused and immature 39 year old woman who acts like shes an irresponsible 20 years old, and stays that way throughout. Then all of a sudden at the end she's all "I am woman hear me roar!" Anyway, she was not the brightest bulb in the bunch. She was supposedly a die hard Austen fan, but couldn't recognize the most classic signs of a Wickham/Willoughby. Also, I lost count of how many times I rolled my eyes at the dozens and dozens and DOZENS of references to revealing cleavage and tight breeches. Seriously, we get it, the gowns were low cut...we get it, the pants were tight...we get it, the men were perfectly muscled...WE GET IT! Also, the worst thing was when a quite beautiful moment, which was an allusion to Mr. Darcy's failed proposal (ardent admiration and all that, every Darcy lover knows the line :) was ruined shortly afterword by some crass and crude reference to what? Tight pants. The ending felt incomplete and left me un-sated (spell checker is asking me if I mean "nauseated", seems fitting, as the bulging pants references went on ad nauseum), wanting more, but not in the good way. Now with all that negativity, here are some positives: Despite my many annoyances, I couldn't seem to put the dang book down, the premise was intriguing, albeit as full of holes as a gangster on St. Valentine's Day (yeah...tasteless pun..deal with it). I enjoyed the Darcy-like character, even though he wasn't as great as he could have been. Bottom line...if you love all things Austen, read the book, It won't be your favorite, but the history and detail in the book of the Regency Era itself makes the book worth a read.

Nichola says

Please save me from the urge to read every Austenesque book that comes my way. This one had way too many things going on and rarely were they things I want to read about. The plot is not remotely believable for starters, Chloe is a single mother who prefers the ways of the past and is trying to save her business and raise her young daughter. So she leaves America to be in an 'immersive historical documentary' in the English countryside, which she has not really investigated well, and (surprise!)turns out to be a Regency dating reality show.

The narrative shows a real naivete about reality shows- it seems unlikely Chloe would go through all this for a chance at money, but no other remuneration (she has even paid for her own plane tickets). There is too much yucky detail about Regency living- one charcter's entire purpose in the book seems to be to teach the reader that women who were menstruating were locked into their bedrooms for days at a time. I know this is what happened back then, but it would not happen to real women today on a show, when it happened back then they didn't complain, and wouldn't talk about it. And the scene where the Chloe is filmed taking her first bath in a week (after sweating, mud and horseback riding) in water that has been used by 4 or 5 other ladies is similarly unnecessary, unbelievable, and silly. She snubs at every turn the appropriate food being served, but rarely seems to make up any meals. Meanwhile the men are all clean and given use of technology after hours, but must chew cloves instead of using aspirin for a toothache. The relationships with the servant actors is very muddy- sometimes she learns about their real life, sometimes she helps them with duties, and sometimes accepts what they say about her role's limitations. I can't even bear to go into the pregnant chaperone who wishes to have her baby in the style of Regency childbirth (with Chloe as an assistant). There

also seems to be a real time aspect, such that friends at home can see her videos and read the male lead's blog/tweets, but the show surely cannot be produced, edited, and broadcast while it is being lived. There seems to be no particular timeline for the show, it has been going on for weeks before she arrived, but she somehow hasn't heard of it or seen what it was really about. And finally she is somehow surprised at the end when things are revealed to be different from how they were represented. I want to tell her- they are all actors making a TV show dear.

Other than the historical stuff, I was bothered by the antagonistic bent she shows toward her exhusband, and father of her daughter. She separated from him because he was too distant and yet much of her distress is about his attempts to spend more time with her- evenings out and readjusted custody arrangements. And finally the message about technology is unclear. She overstates Chloe's wish for the ways of the past, and at the end she decides that the internet will help her increase her business, but the fact that she freaks out when giving up her mobile phone and texting muddies this too. I don't know what editors and publishers are up to these days.

Marilyn Rondeau says

Chole Parker is a thirty-nine year old divorced mother who runs her own antique letterpress business as well as being a lifelong member of the Jane Austen Society. At the moment Chloe's business is failing which in turn threatens her daughter's future and rumors that her ex is getting ready to wage a new battle for custody over their daughter. When the chance to audition for a Jane Austen inspired documentary show presents itself Chloe is absolutely ready to throw her hat in the ring even if it means being away from her daughter for three weeks. The only problem is what she thought was going to be a documentary turns out to be a reality dating show set in the Regency 1812 period with the women trying to win over Mr. Wrightman, the heir to a gorgeous estate along with a \$100,000 prize. Well, what the heck – Chloe is in, even though she will be competing with much younger and less clumsy women than herself.

*** The whole premise of the this book really appealed to me and although not an official member of the Jane Austen society – I should be – as I know I was born in the wrong era! Chole was wonderfully characterized by today's standards – a woman who is divorced, stressed, and trying to eke out a living while supporting her daughter. Chole having a particular love of all things Regency (and who is trying to make a success of her own antique letterpress business) knew that with her knowledge of Jane Austen – doing this would be a walk in the park. However, when the reality sunk in of having no contact with the outside world with her cell phone taken away, along with all things electronic. And having to live a passive life doing embroidery, painting, archery and a myriad of other lady-like accomplishments for points in order to obtain a smidgeon of time with the very hot Mr. Wrightman; and competing with much younger and prettier contestants; the predicament she had walked into became too real!

Ms. Doornebos – put together a very enjoyable scenario, in that their were two Mr. Wrightman's – Sebastien the heir, and Henry the conservative (yet equally hot) younger son and doctor. The point system was the bane of Chloe's existence for every time she was about to get something accomplished either the good doctor seemed to show up and threw her off kilter, or the other contestants including Lady Grace, who was determined to win by any method she could conceive be it foul or fair, made for some interesting and laugh out loud moments.

Bottom line: DEFINITELY NOT MR. DARCY is an amusing and very well researched book where I myself learned a few more of the not so romantic parts of living in the Regency period. Did you know what was

used for deodorant during that time? Read the book and find out! Very well written debut book I can highly recommend!!

Marilyn Rondeau, for www.ck2skwipsandkritiques.com

Erin says

Meet Chloe Parker. She is a 39 year-old, divorced mother of one running her own antique letterpress business in Chicago. She also eats, sleeps, and breaths anything Jane Austen related. She thinks she is going to be in a documentary/competition where everyone is dressed in regency style and answers questions about Austen.

Meet Mr. Wrightman. He is an eligible bachelor owning one of the largest estates in England. He loves history, science, and bird watching. Also, women constantly fall at his handsome feet wishing to be the object of his desire. A friend of his helps him sort through the cleavage by creating a dating show where all regency customs and attire are followed to the letter.

Chloe has no idea what she's in for until she lands on the set in the lavish English countryside. If it weren't for the prize money that would help save her business, Chloe would leave for home in a rush of disgust and disappointment. She decides to stay on the show filled with beautiful, talented 20-somethings with stubborn determination.

Chloe discovers that it is not so easy being a woman of leisure in the 1800's. She finds needlepoint, riding sidesaddle, and breathing in corsets to be much harder than she originally thought. What she wouldn't do for a hot shower!

And the men! The incredibly hot, Colin Firth-style Mr. Wrightman could sweep any girl off her feet. He's the tall, dark, and handsome man of every girl's dream. Then there's his younger nerdy brother Henry. This incredibly gentlemanly (and kinda cute) doctor gets ignored by most of the contestants, but to her frustration, Chloe ends up bumping into him constantly instead of his prize of a brother.

What starts out as a business venture ends up being so much more. Follow Chloe through the last heart-pounding episode. Will she be as cutthroat as the younger contestants? Or will she discover something more valuable than the prize money?

If you enjoyed *Austenland* by Shannon Hale, you'll love this book. It is a perfect mix of the modern and regency worlds. You get all the romance and atmosphere that you find in Jane Austen novels with a modern twist that you can relate to. Pick it up now!

Vicki says

As a member of the Jane Austen Society of North America, this book came to my attention through our newsletter. I got it through my local library and felt an immediate feeling of doubt when it arrived with the little heart sticker on the spine that indicates that it is part of the library's "romance" collection.

I'm no longer a young girl that thrills with romantic novels, but the Austen-inspired plot pulled me into the book anyway. There was an interesting twist: the main character thinks she's going to England to enter a Jane Austen trivia contest for badly needed funds to salvage her failing business. After she arrives, she learns that the show is actually a version of "The Bachelor" set in Regency times.

I'm guessing that the author is a bit of a Regency buff with a lot of otherwise useless trivia rattling around in her head, so putting it on paper in a novel (rather than a text book) was an innovative way of sharing that information. Learning all of those things about life during the Regency period was actually my favorite part of this book. Beyond that, I have to agree with the other negative reviews. The 39-year-old heroine acts like she's bi-polar a good bit of the time (I'm sure it was intended to appear "mad cap"), the 'surprise' in the story was easy to guess about 1/3 of the way through the book, the structure of the "competition" was ludicrous, and the introduction of the cook toward the end was just plain ridiculous.

Again, though, I enjoyed learning about customs during the Regency era and it really did make me think. The 1995 BBC Production of *Pride & Prejudice* is near and dear to the heart of any Austen fan, and I think we've all wondered what it would have been like to have been Eliza Bennett. I can now say that life during that time period would have been far from the romantic idyll portrayed in movies. Like the heroine of this book, I would miss my 21st century luxuries -- including my DVD collection of Austen-inspired movies that I can watch in the comfort of my home whenever I feel the need to revisit that gentle period.

Tanya says

After thinking this through, I changed my rating to 2 stars - more like a 2 1/2. I received this free through Goodreads (thank you) and while I enjoyed most of it, the ending left me cold.

Chloe has unwittingly signed up for a reality dating show - that's what happens when you don't read the fine print. She thought it would be more trivia, but it turns out to be a Regency date show. I don't think I'm giving too much away (since it happens in the first 50 pages), she discovers that there is one prize date, the wealthy older Mr. Wrightman for which she will receive \$100,000 for a proposal from him, and his penniless younger brother. She soon finds herself falling for both of them, although its the younger one, Henry, who she really gets to know. Will Chloe win the man of her dreams, the money or both?

This was a lot of book for a fluff chick-lit book - 373 trade paperback pages. I would have given it a strong 3 or 3.5 if the ending would have offered a better resolution. We read these types of books for the HEA. It was definitely not concrete enough. The hero was sweet but towards the ending became unbelievably so - no real man would ever act like that. Also, I'm not sure if I actually liked Chloe. As a former single mom myself, I found it hard to have too much sympathy towards a woman who was flipping out because after having her daughter to herself for four years was facing the possibility of having to share her with her ex for summers and holidays. Really? It's 2011. Many dads want to be with their kids. And yes, it sucks that it happens a lot of times after they get remarried because that's when they have more time for their kids, but you can't deny your kid their other parent. Like I said, it made it difficult for me to really like her.

All in all, an ok read with potential. It would have been good if it had an epilogue.

Breanne says

This started out with a lot of potential, and then it ended up just being... blah. I enjoyed a lot of the historical detail because she describes a lot of things that are usually hard to imagine, like what a pelisse is or how ladies avoided getting their ballroom slippers muddy. There was also a sort of charming sprinkling of Austen references at various moments. But the real drive of the book - the romance - really dragged on and then culminated in a scene that kind of horrified me... and then deflated into a sort of ridiculous ending where our heroine is idiotically mad at the leading man (I HATE when they HATE the guy for a really stupid reason. Hate it.), until, finally... she isn't mad anymore. BLEHH. Sorry. I mean, I didn't hate this book. But it became really disappointing after a very promising beginning.

One other irritant was the lack of rational, plausible explanation for some of the groundwork. The girls were voted for online each week, but the episodes didn't air until a few weeks after she leaves? What? It was really unclear how the filming was being relayed to the outside world and certain timing things were confusing. I think the ending needed to be re-worked. I would almost enjoy reading an alternate ending... without maybe half of the book beforehand.

Closing thoughts:

This was kind of like a mix of *Austenland*, which I liked, and *Confessions of a Jane Austen addict*, which I hated, and both for the same reasons. I loved the time-travel type of immersion experience you get with *Austenland* (and also some of the romance), and I hated the inconsistency and modern-day whyness/lewdness of *Confessions of a Jane Austen Addict* (not to mention how that supposed Jane-ite knew practically nothing about the Jane Austen era). Chloe certainly knows more about Austen, and tries much harder to enjoy her experience, but ultimately still succumbs to being driven out of her mind by not being able to take a shower (view spoiler).

Here are my issues with the ending and suggestion of a better one:
(view spoiler)

Susannah Carleton says

3 1/2 stars. An interesting and intriguing story of a divorced American single mom who loves Jane Austen and is selected as a cast member for a reality TV show set in 1812. She joins the rest of the cast after about three weeks of filming, and she's surprised to discover how realistic the show is, with all the prospective brides and their chaperones and servants living as they would have lived in 1812. The bachelor is attractive and wealthy, but the American is as attracted to his brother, a doctor.

A fierce rivalry ensues between the American, Chloe, and one of the younger, British girls, who resorts to trickery to try to get Chloe thrown off the show for violating the rules. Will Chloe win or lose when the bachelor makes his choice?
