



Dreaming of Mr. Darcy

By Victoria Connelly

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A Romance Worthy of Jane Austen Herself

Praise for *A Weekend with Mr. Darcy*:

"Sunshine on a rainy day. A charmingly written slice of warmhearted escapism."

— Lisa Jewell, bestselling author of *Roommates Wanted*

"Lively, funny characters ... the romances of this novel brilliantly reveal one thing that Miss Austen always knew: true love is often a complicated, but beautiful, mess." — *Luxury Reading*

Fledging illustrator and Darcy fanatic Kay Ashton settles in the seaside town of Lyme to finish her book, *The Illustrated Darcy*, when a film company arrives to make a new adaptation of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*. Kay is soon falling for the handsome bad boy actor playing Captain Wentworth, but it's the quiet screenwriter Adam Craig who has more in common with her beloved Mr. Darcy. Though still healing from a broken heart, Adam finds himself unexpectedly in love with Kay. But it will take more than good intentions to convince her that her real happy ending is with him.

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Dreaming of Mr. Darcy By Victoria Connelly Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"...good, clean romantic fun...hilarity ensues. Connelly generously sprinkles both Austen and Shakespeare throughout this diverting tale, proving all's well that ends well." - *Publishers Weekly*

"...light and fun with a nice ensemble of characters. I particularly liked Gemma, and Adam was a sweetheart. This makes for some good chick lit, whether you're a Jane Austen fan or not." - *Reader of Fictions*

"...a good book and an easy, fun read. I will definitely be checking out more of this author's work." - *A Pocket Full of Books*

"...a very enjoyable read. It was interesting and well-paced, something that you don't always find with Brit-lit. I had read Ms. Connelly's earlier book in the trilogy "A Weekend with Mr. Darcy" so I knew I would enjoy this book. 5/5 stars" -

"This was a cute story. Best Line: 'I gave him my heart , and he gave me a button.'" - *My 5 Monkeys*

"Connelly creates characters that are lively and fun, and readers will love hanging around with them as they gossip, maneuver, and fall flat on their faces looking for romance." - *Savvy Verse & Wit*

"Written with exquisite detail and engaging plot twists this series is a MUST for any Janeite who loves to read and longs to travel!" - *Austen-esque Reviews*

"Recommended read for those who enjoy lighthearted storylines, British culture, and, of course, Austen fans." - *SOS Aloha*

"...filled with interesting characters, wonderful descriptions of Lyme Regis and the surrounding countryside, and enough miscommunication and misunderstanding to keep any reader turning its pages." - *A Curious Statistical Anomaly*

"Connelly almost makes Lyme a character itself, and her love for Austen's final novel is very evident in the frequent mentions of the book's characters and scene locations... There were times of humor, family drama and of course delightful romance. And while there's a wink to the previous A Weekend with Mr. Darcy, this title stands on its own very well. Janeites (and Persuasion fans in particular) will enjoy this one, and I look forward to the third book in the collection, Mr. Darcy Forever." - *Calico Critic*

"There are lots of romantic mishaps and misunderstandings in Dreaming of Mr. Darcy, certainly reminiscent of Austen's books. Connelly is fast becoming one of my favorite authors of modern-day Austen-inspired novels... Connelly uses original characters and plenty of humor to create lively new stories, and her love and respect for Austen's novels shines through." - *Diary of an Eccentric*

"The author of A Weekend With Mr. Darcy has penned another dreamy novel for Janeites to swoon over... If you ever wished Jane Austen wrote a novel with both Mr. Darcy and Captain Wentworth, your wish has been granted! DREAMING OF MR. DARCY is an unexpected and delightful treat for anyone who has ever read and fallen in love with a Jane Austen novel." - *Fresh Fiction*

"...a light, quick read that is good after a heavy novel, if you're looking for a funny diversion, or if you like contemporary Austen spin-off novels." - *Library of Clean Reads*

"A delightful ode to all things Austen...If you pick up this novel, you'll fall in love with Connelly's characters, and her delicious prose. It's a fantastic escape from the everyday, and a step into the romantic seaside of Lyme." - *Luxury Reading*

"All in all, a sweet fun story perfect for an afternoon... Plus now I need to read A Weekend with Mr. Darcy."
- *YA Book Nerd*

About the Author

Victoria Connelly's first novel was promoted in Germany to celebrate World Book Day and was adapted into a TV movie. Her second was published as a lead title in the UK and chosen as a *Closer* magazine "hot pick." Her new trilogy features Jane Austen addicts. Connelly lives in London.

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Prologue

Peggy Sullivan leant forward in an attempt to get the pillows behind her just right.

'It's my eyes I miss the most,' she said to the young woman sitting by the side of the bed. 'I wasn't too bothered when my legs went. I was too tired to walk around much anyways. I didn't even mind when my right ear went last month, but I do miss my eyes.'

The young woman leant forward and patted her hand.

'It's so kind that you come and read to me, Kay,' Peggy said.

'It's my pleasure.'

'It can't be easy for you, my dear. Coming here, I mean.'

Kay looked at Peggy for a moment before answering. 'It wasn't at first. I kept seeing Mum everywhere-sitting in the conservatory gazing out at the gardens or serving everyone tea in the sitting room.'

'We all miss her so much. She always loved taking care of everybody-just like you do.'

Kay nodded. 'She used to call me "Little Mother" when I was growing up.'

Peggy smiled, but then her expression changed to one of bemusement. 'How you came to work at Barnum and Mason's, I'll never understand.'

'It was the first job I was offered,' Kay said with a shrug. 'I took it thinking I'd be there only a little while. I was hoping-'

'Someone would discover your paintings,' Peggy interrupted.

'Yes.'

'They're taking their time, I must say.'

They were silent for a moment, and Kay looked out of Peggy's window. She was on the ground floor of The Pines and overlooked the communal garden, which was shivering under a layer of early snow. The poor Cyclamen were doing their best to survive, but one more fall of snow, and they'd be buried alive, Kay thought.

Buried. The word sent a shiver through her. It had been only a month since her mother had been buried in the local churchyard after a brief but devastating illness. She'd been sixty-seven-not old by today's standards-and Kay missed her more than she could say. Perhaps that was why she was spending time with Peggy. She'd met her whilst visiting her mother, and the two of them had clicked. Both had a profound love of the novels of Jane Austen, and when Kay had discovered that Peggy was blind-a fact that she'd kept marvellously hidden-Kay had offered to read to her.

Peggy never seemed to have any visitors, and Kay couldn't quite give up visiting The Pines.

'I do wish I could see your paintings,' Peggy suddenly said.

'I do too, Peggy.'

'Tell me about your new ones.'

'I've got only one new one. I'm afraid work's been a bit hectic, and-'

'That ratbag Roger still working you late?'

Kay grinned.

'I remember him when he was a lad. I knew his father. Lived in my road. Bullies-both of them. You mustn't let him push you around, Kay.'

'I don't.'

Peggy nodded. 'Because I'll have words with him, if he's bullying you. I've got one of them portable phone jobbies. It'll only take one call.'

'It's all right. There's no need to call him.'

Peggy shifted forward, and Kay got up to rearrange her pillows.

'So, tell me about your picture.'

Kay's eyes took on a wistful look as she thought about her latest painting.

'You know the last chapter of Persuasion we read together? That moment when Anne Elliot and Captain Wentworth see each other for the first time since he went away?'

'I love that scene,' Peggy said, her face glowing with the pleasure of remembering it.

'I chose that moment when Jane Austen writes "a thousand feelings rushed on Anne".'

'Wonderful!' Peggy said with enthusiasm.

'And "a bow, a curtsy passed".'

'Yes, yes!' Peggy said. 'I can see it now. All those pent-up emotions they still have for each other. Oh, I wish I could see it.'

'I've always wanted to capture that moment when their eyes meet,' Kay said, tucking a strand of toffee-coloured hair behind her ear. 'It's fleeting, yet so much happens in it.'

'Which scene are you illustrating next?'

'One of the Lyme Regis ones. I want to paint that wonderful seafront with the sweep of the Cobb. I only wish I could visit it.'

'You've never been to Lyme?'

'No,' Kay said, her eyes taking on a dreamy look again. 'I've always imagined myself living by the sea one day, and I think Lyme would be just the place to be.'

'Then what are you doing in landlocked Hertfordshire?' Peggy asked. 'I mean now that you don't have any family ties.'

'My job's here. My house is here.'

'Oh, rot!' Peggy said. 'I know it's a terrible cliché, but if you don't take charge of your life, nobody's going to do it for you. Think of Anne Elliot and all those years she wasted.'

'But I've got a mortgage to pay. I'm kind of stuck here.'

Peggy's mouth narrowed. 'I don't like to hear such excuses. If you want to live near the sea then you should. It's as simple as that.'

'I wish it were,' Kay said. 'I really wish it were.'

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carla Ramirez:

The book *Dreaming of Mr. Darcy* make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable far more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make examining a book *Dreaming of Mr. Darcy* to be your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You could know everything if you like start and read a guide *Dreaming of Mr. Darcy*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this guide?

Pauline Bardwell:

This book untitled *Dreaming of Mr. Darcy* to be one of several books that best seller in this year, that's because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this specific

book in the book store or you can order it by using online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, since you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this guide from your list.

Donna Vandyne:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book particularly book entitled Dreaming of Mr. Darcy the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a e-book then become one type conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get previous to. The Dreaming of Mr. Darcy giving you a different experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful information for your better life with this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Janet Baltimore:

Are you kind of active person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your day to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your short time to read it because all this time you only find book that need more time to be learn. Dreaming of Mr. Darcy can be your answer mainly because it can be read by you actually who have those short time problems.

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