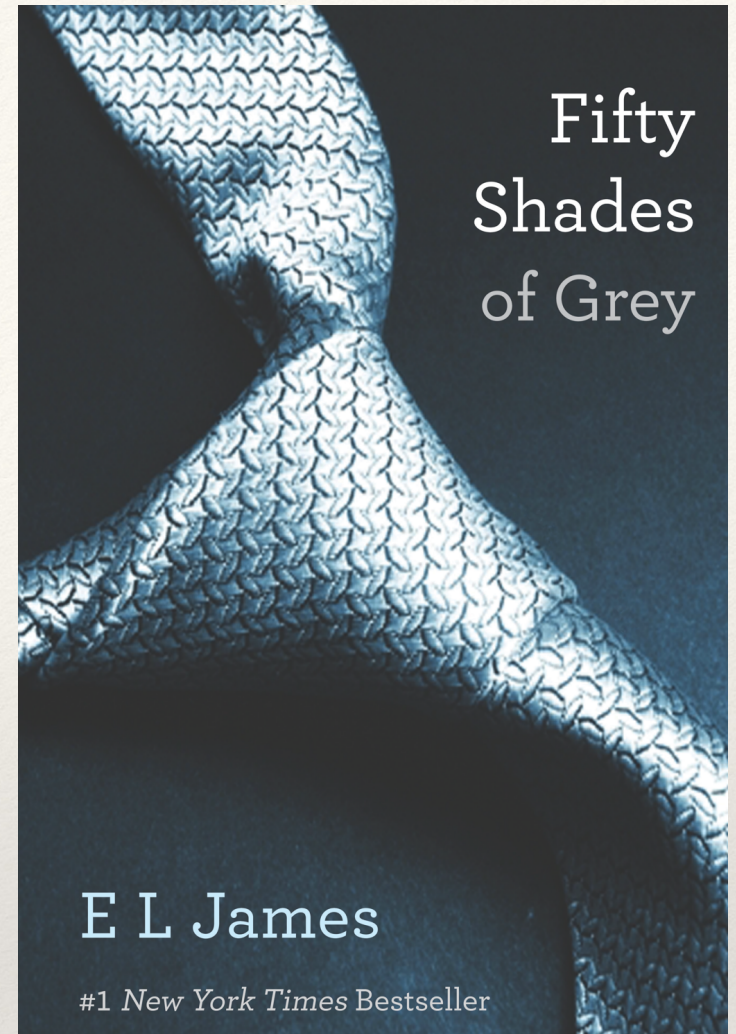
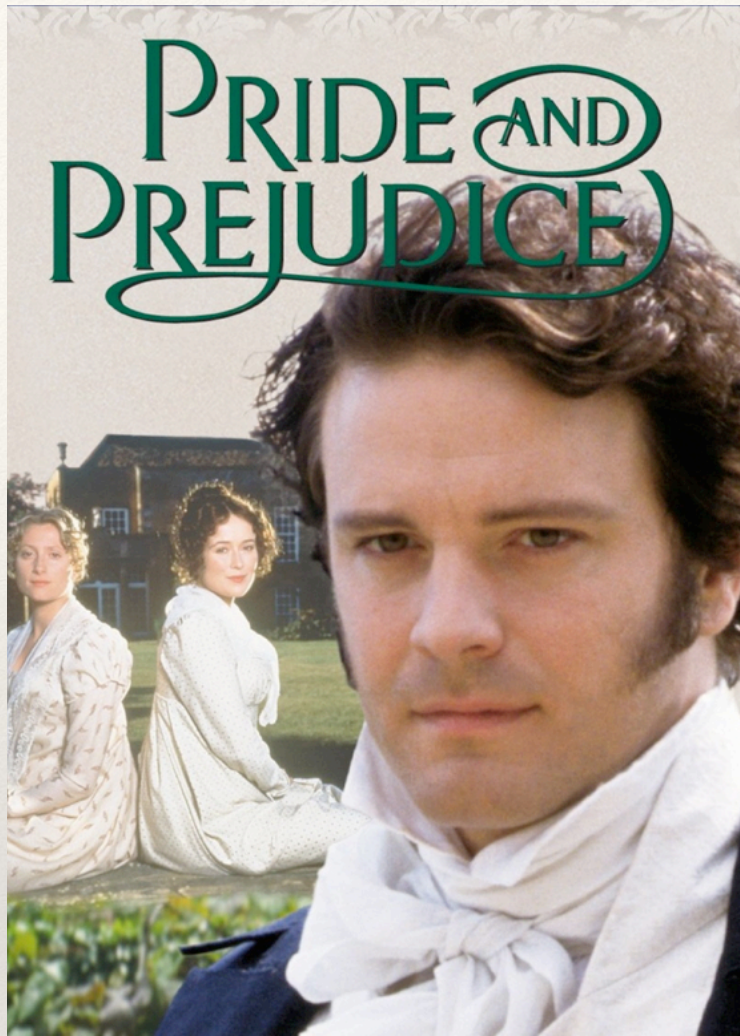


PROFANE JANE

VOLUME 1



or



From *Pride & Prejudice* to
50 Shades of Grey
(also there are zombies)

NOTA BENE!

Section attendance is not optional; indeed, as stipulated in the class policies, if you miss 5 sections (or 10 lectures), you automatically fail the class.

NOTA BENE!

I mistakenly didn't order Fredrick Douglass' *Narrative of the Life* (long story, but when you order books, you can duplicate a previous semester's order — I did, but from a year in which we didn't read Douglass). I strongly encourage students to pop over to Amazon and order that Dover Thrift paperback edition of Douglass which costs — I kid you not — \$1.62. If you have Prime, that includes free shipping. However you choose to obtain the book, that's the correct edition, so please grab a copy before February 13 (not this Wednesday, but next).

EXPERIENCE & FANTASY

- ❖ Experience was vital for Austen, and she did not write anything she did not know from direct personal experience.
- ❖ In particular, *there is not a single scene in any of her fiction of men alone or a man alone*
- ❖ Testament to Austen's devotion to direct experience, but also the gender separation of 1780-1820.



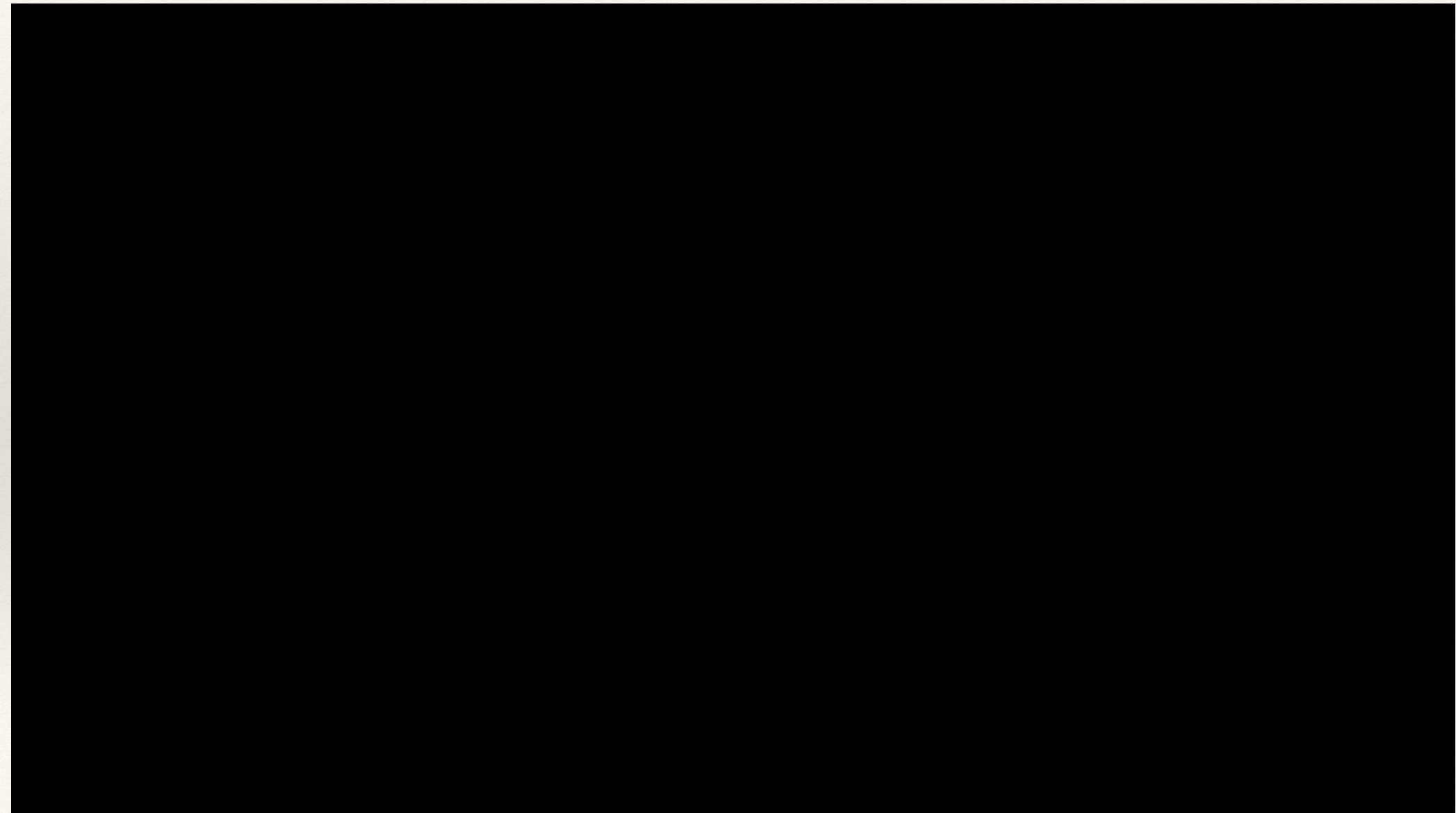
Consume | Transform?

- ❖ We normally think that we consume culture, but we also (sometimes) *do* things with culture. Such as?
- ❖ Some actively transform and re-work culture, make things, do things with it. We call them *fans*, a short form of the Latin *fanaticus* (temple, *fanum*)
- ❖ It is also the source of the word *profane* (*pro*, before + *fanum*, temple)
- ❖ This transformational culture isn't just “weird”—it also re-appropriates culture into the popular (profane), and tells us what *the people* valued about the original
- ❖ Let's take a look today at some transformations of Jane Austen.



Jane Austen Fight Club

2010



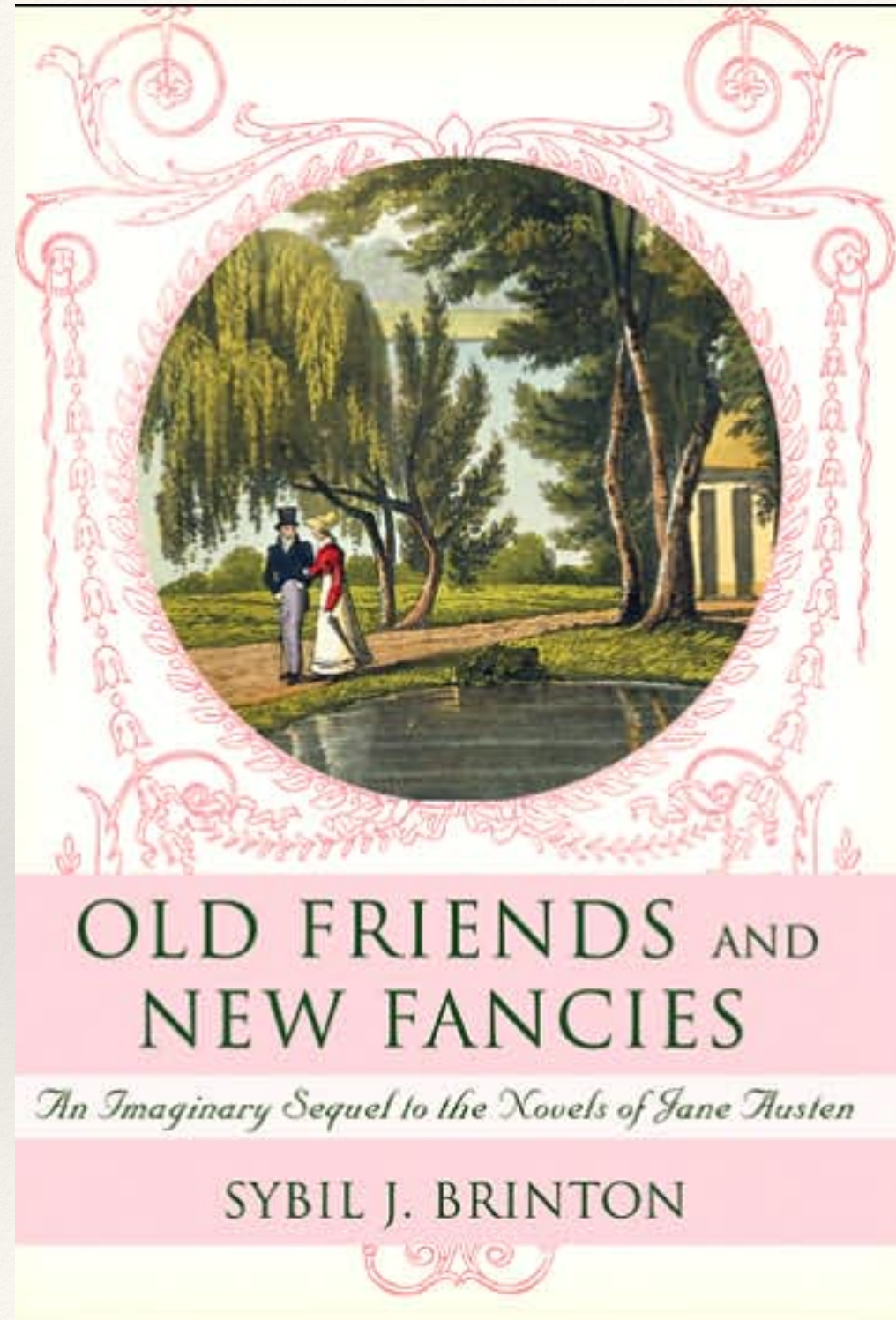
Jane Austen Fight Club

- ❖ Post-feminist (women already liberated, like Austen, in the remote past; no social or economic forces constrained them; women have always been free)
- ❖ Post-racial (idealized contemporary vision of racial equality in the past; we have always been post-racial)
- ❖ Women assume aggressive (classically masculine) and competitive behaviors; ready for the competitive market of jobs, love, sex
- ❖ Directly connects something about Austen in 1810 to the contemporary age, 2010. It is hardly the only text to do so, as we will see.



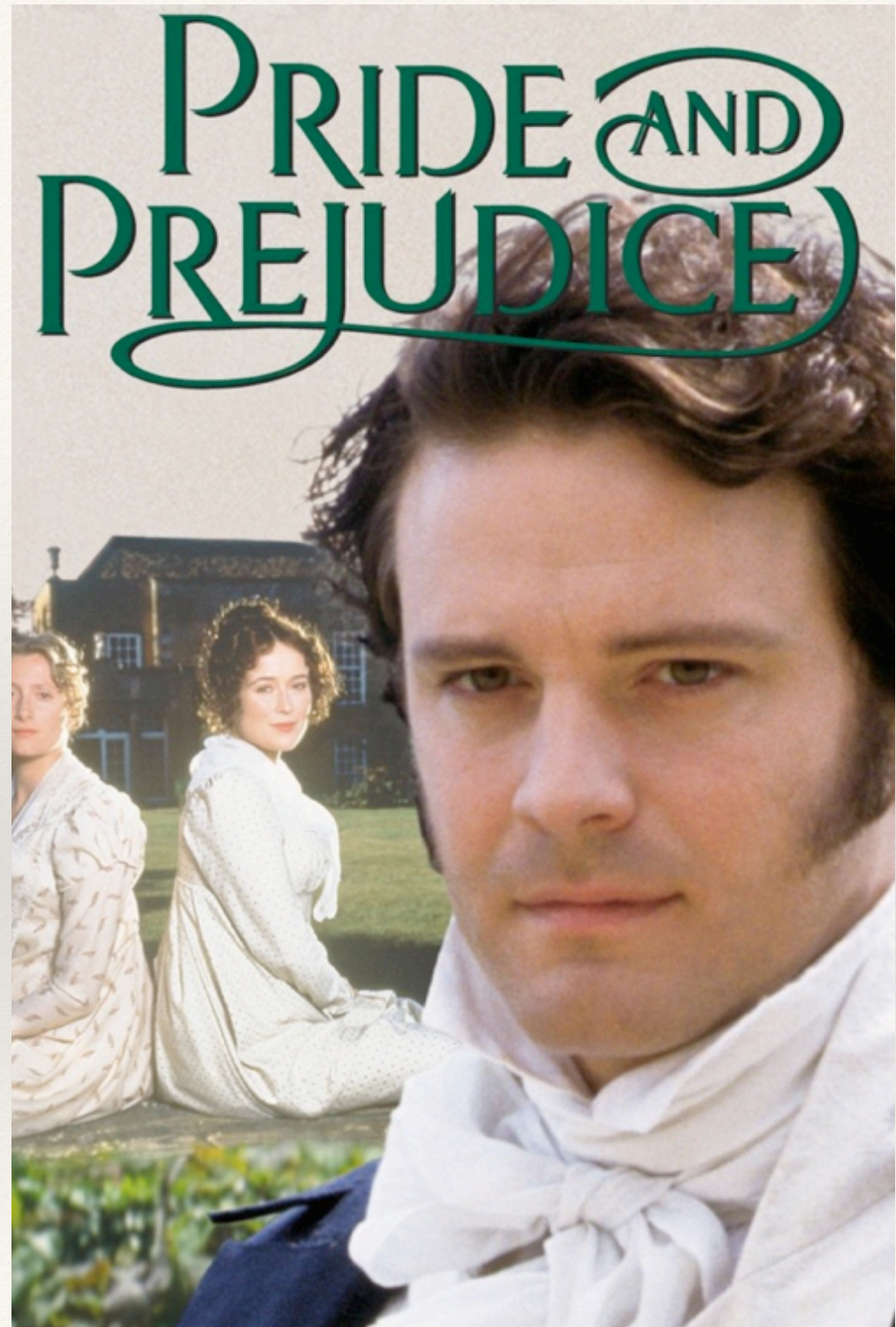
Austeniana

- ❖ 1830, continuation of *Sanditon* by Anna Lefroy (familiar?)
- ❖ 1850, continuation of *The Watsons* by Catherine Hubback
- ❖ 1913, *Old Friends and New Fancies*
- ❖ 1924, “Jane’s Marriage” by Kipling
- ❖ 1949, *Pemberley Shades*
- ❖ 1990s- literally *hundreds* of Austen continuations and variations published
- ❖ See David Brewer, *Afterlife of Character*: going on since at least late 1500s (i.e., since printing press)



1995: Part 1

- ❖ BBC releases a miniseries of *P&P* that becomes a “national event”
- ❖ Although marketing initially stressed Jennifer Ehle (Lizzy), the series eventually would be presented (and understood) as being about Colin Firth’s *Byronic* (tempestuous, dark, brooding) portrayal of Darcy
- ❖ Becomes a standardized, even *ritualized*, part of young womanhood—around the world
- ❖ Adds numerous voyeuristic sequences without dialogue



1995: Part 2

- ❖ At exactly the same time, Helen Fielding is writing a fictionalized column in England about a character called “Bridget Jones”
- ❖ It was *already* based on *Pride and Prejudice*, but Fielding watched the 1995 miniseries, and modeled Mark Darcy on Colin Firth (whom she would later get to play Mark in the film)
- ❖ Single-handedly created the genre of “chick-lit” (about which more in a second)
- ❖ Understands that Austen is *calculating*; money, love, etc.



Bridget Jones' Calculus

Alcohol units 3836 (poor)

Cigarettes 5277

Calories 11,090,265 (repulsive)

Fat units 3457 (approx.)

(hideous idea in every way)

Weight gained 74 lbs.

Weight lost 72 lbs. (excellent)

Total lottery tickets purchased 98

Total lottery tickets winnings £110

Total lottery tickets profit £12

(Yessss! Yessss! Have beaten system while supporting worthwhile causes in manner of benefactor)

1471 calls (quite a lot)

Valentines 1 (v.g.)

Christmas cards 33 (v.g.)

Hangover-free days 114 (v.g.)

Boyfriends 2 (but only one for six days so far)

Nice boyfriends 1

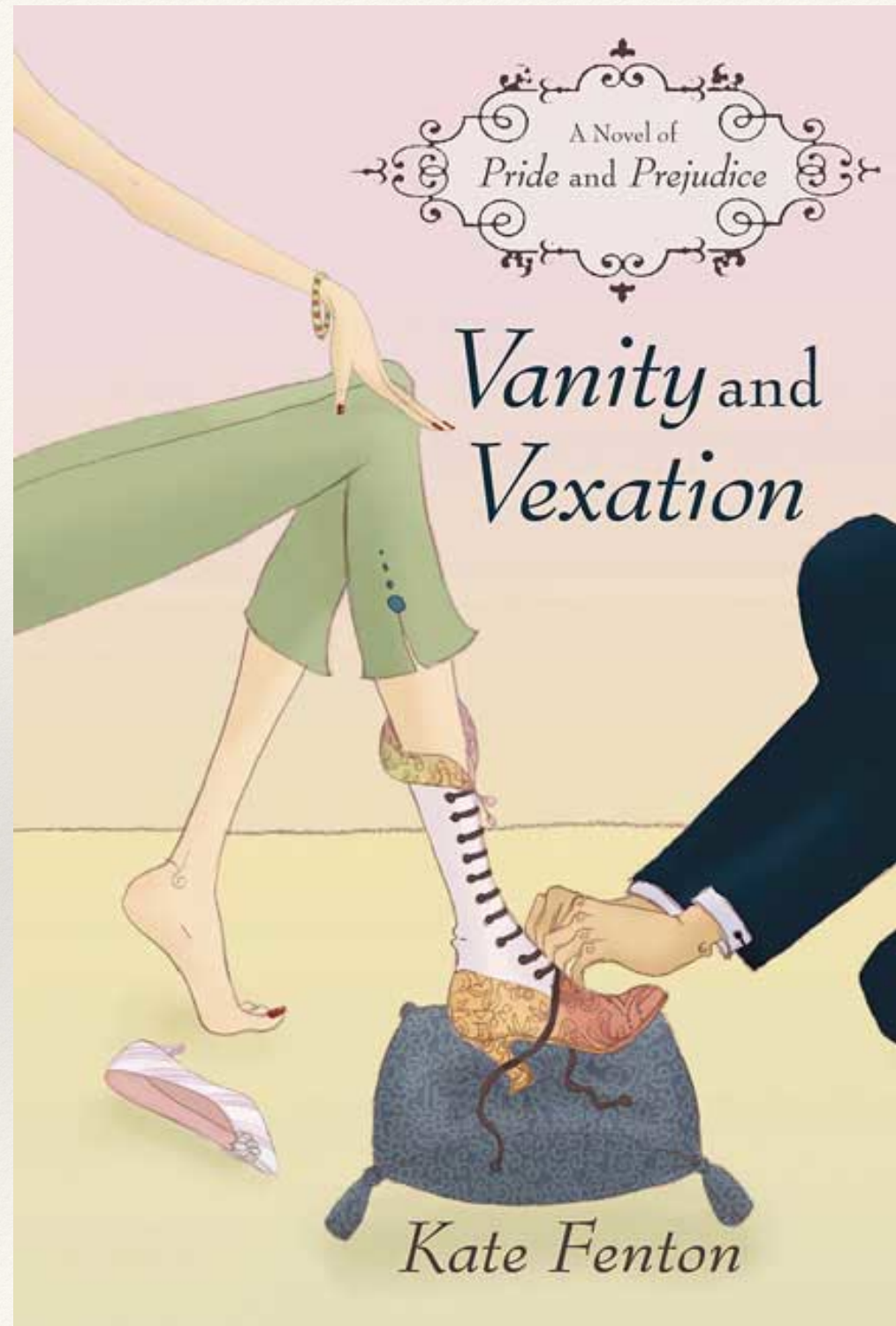
Number of New Year's Resolutions kept 1 (v.g.)

An excellent year's progress



“Chick-lit”

- ❖ Modern version of the traditional romance novel; 2 plots
- ❖ Sassy, self-deprecating, slightly nutty heroines; 1st person
- ❖ Financially precarious: much of the plot revolves around attempt to get career off the ground
- ❖ (Good) men are scarce, women are presented as desperate and slightly hysterical in their pursuit
- ❖ Villains and obstacles are generally other women, not sexist men; post-feminist



1995: Part 3

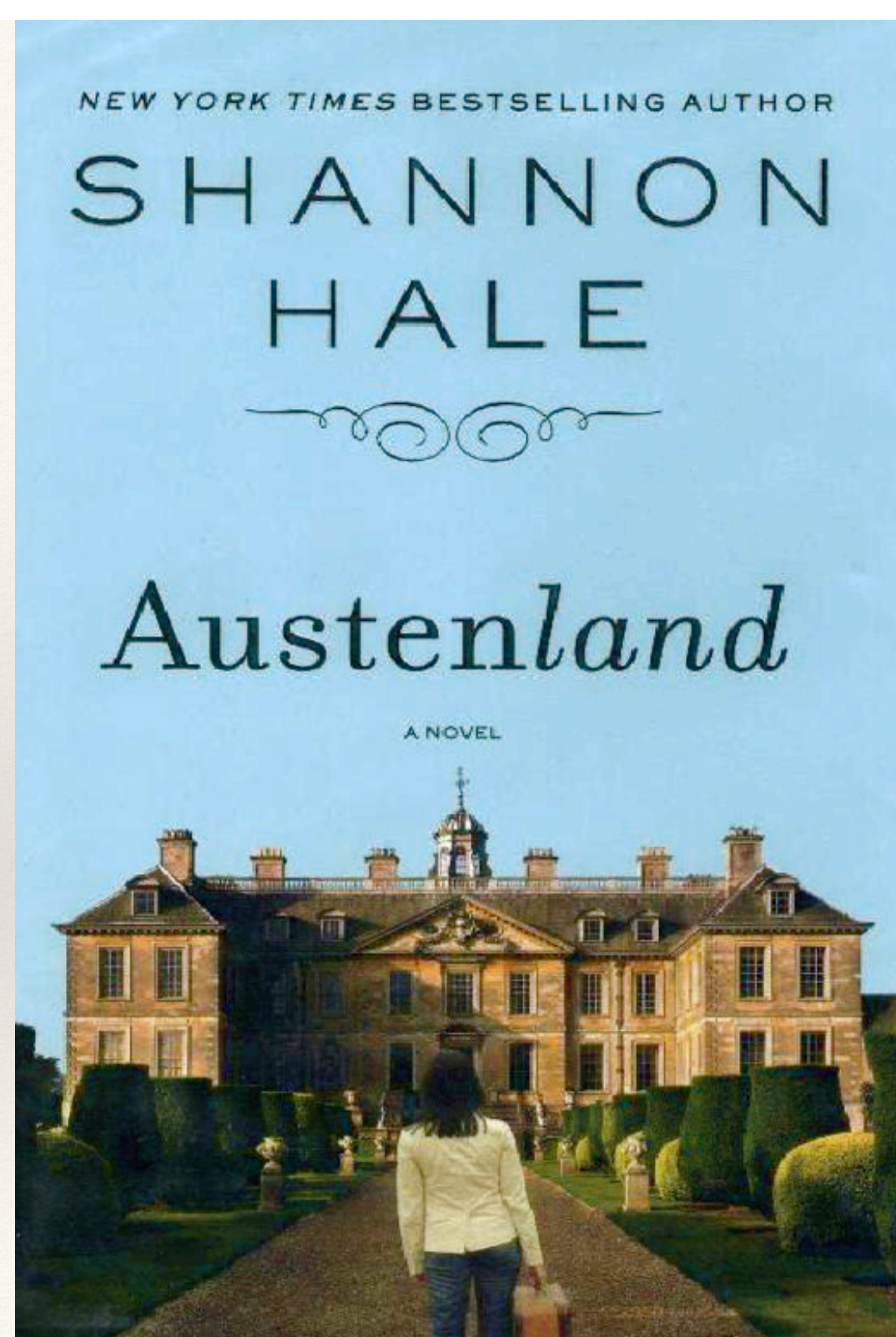
- ❖ The internet grew at 100% per year throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, but was still almost completely unknown...
- ❖ ...until 1995. *Time* magazine proclaimed “Welcome to Cyberspace” and Americans went online
- ❖ 1995-1996, internet grew at 1000%
- ❖ Makes possible “narrowcasting” and global fandoms; insistence that race and sex “disappear” in cyberspace. The internet is *post* everything. Supposedly.



Lost in Austen

Welcome to Austenland

Coming soon to Las Vegas?



In Austenland,
Pride and Prejudice
goes on...

...and on, and on, and on.
There are currently *hundreds* of
continuations in print.

PEMBERLEY
or
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
Continued



"AUTHENTIC AND CONVINCING..." — *Lady Antonia Fraser*

Emma Tennant

The same story, told
again...

...and again, and again, and
again...



An Assembly Such as This

A NOVEL OF

Fitzwilliam Darcy,

GENTLEMAN



PAMELA AIDAN

Lots of alliteration
from over-eager
authors:
Duty and Desire



Duty and Desire

A NOVEL OF

Fitzwilliam Darcy,

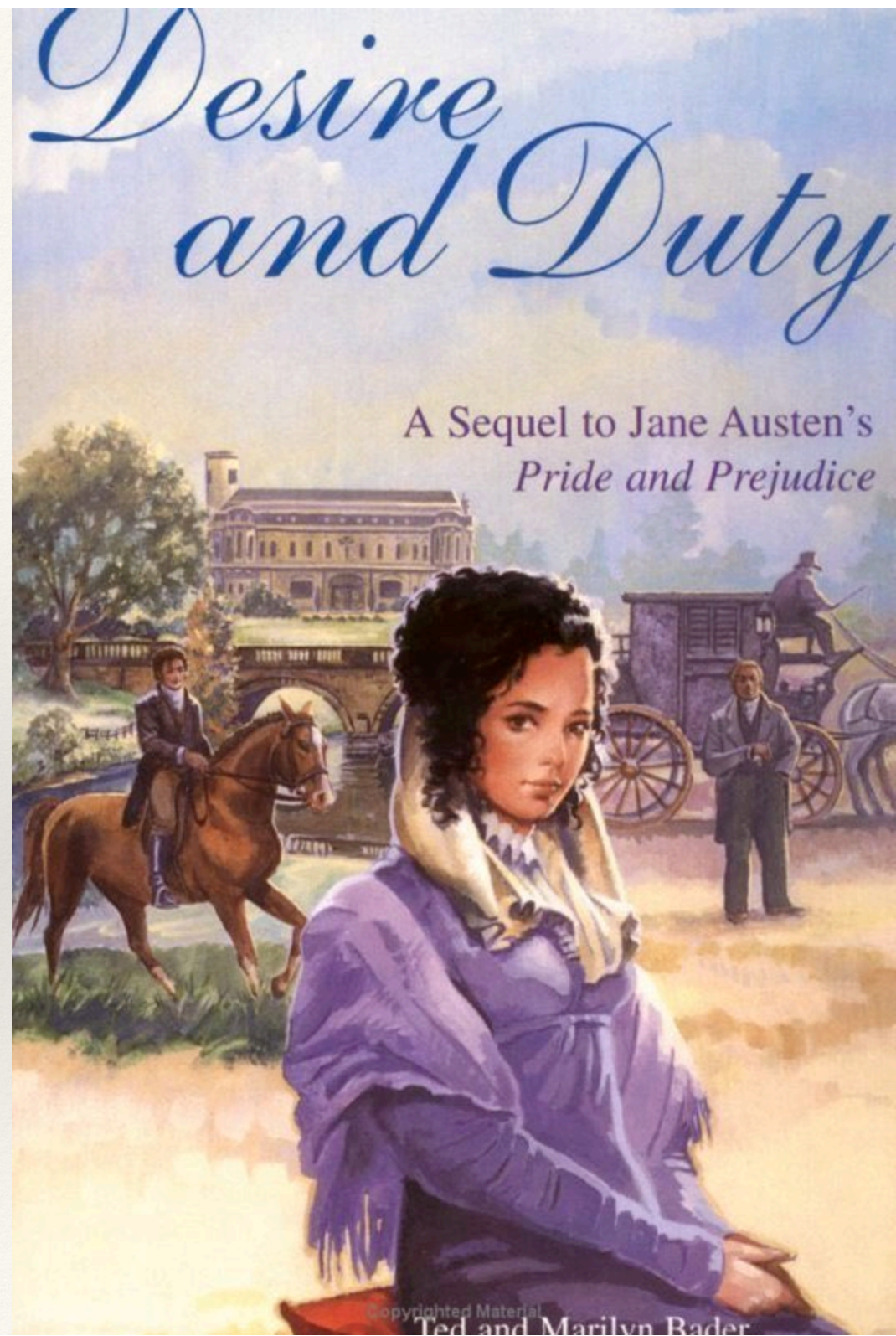
GENTLEMAN



PAMELA AIDAN



Lots of alliteration
from over-eager
authors:
Desire and Duty



The Darcys
reproduce...



Mr. Darcy's Daughter

The acclaimed Pride and Prejudice sequel series

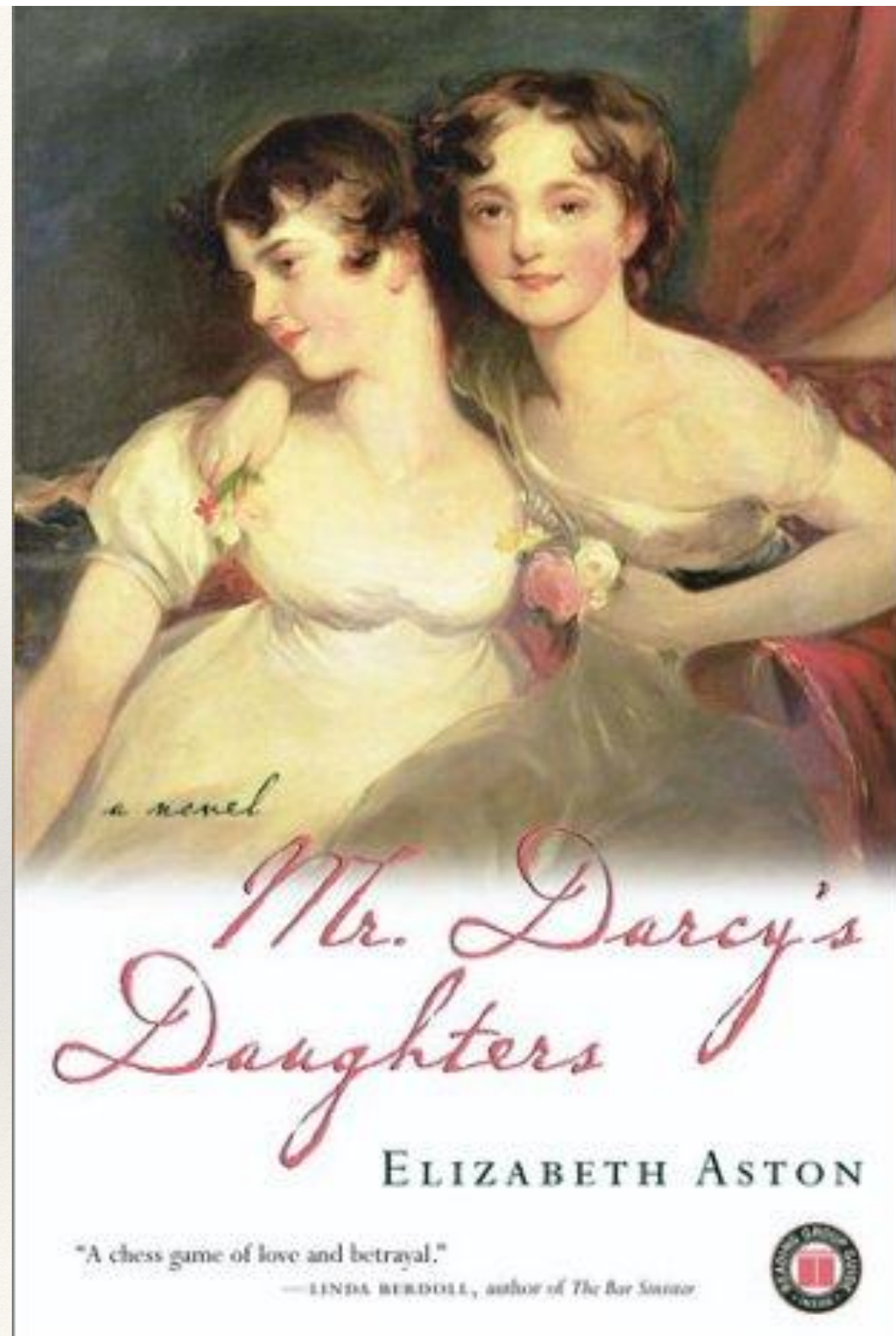
The Pemberley Chronicles

A NOVEL BY
Rebecca Ann Collins

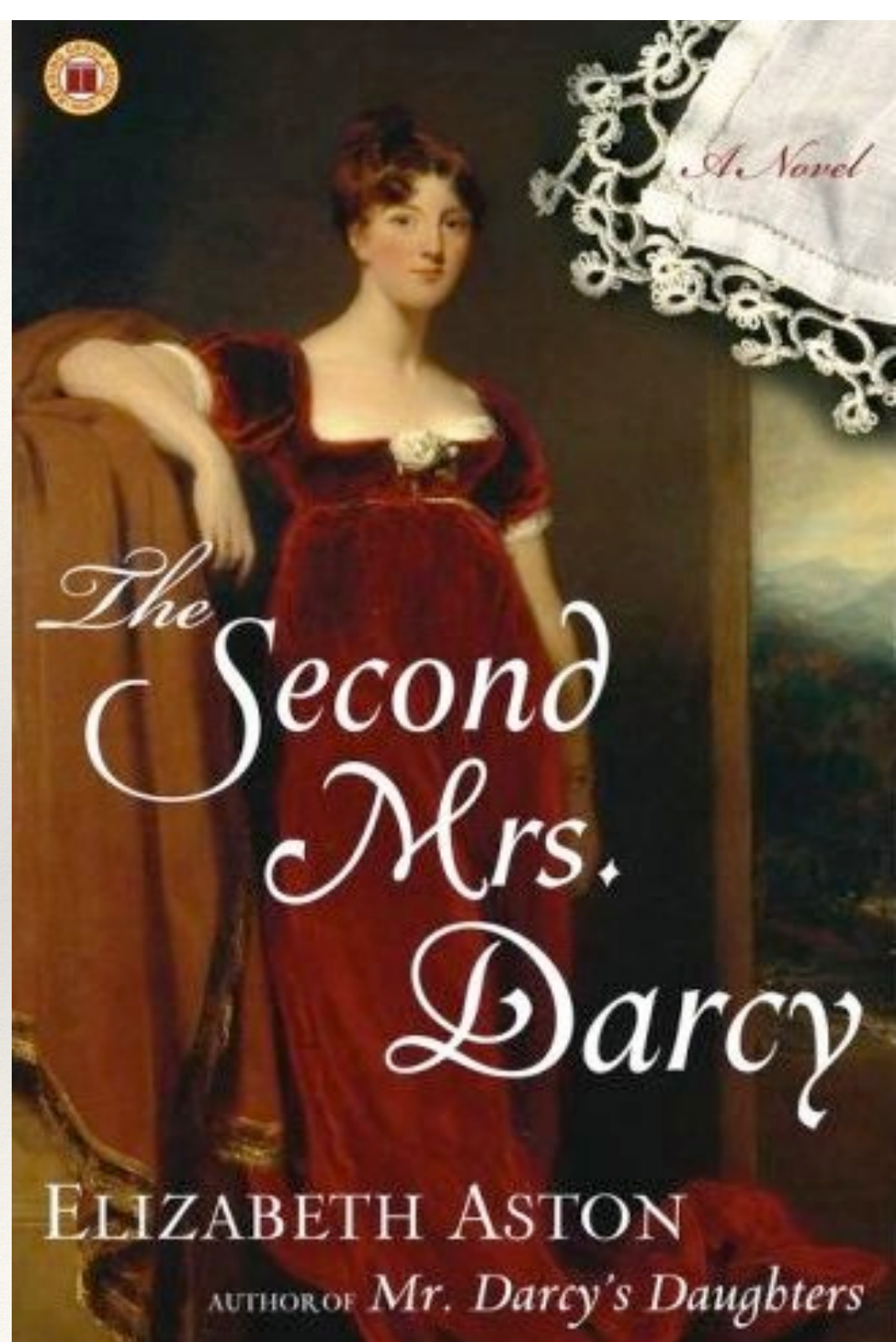


BOOK 5

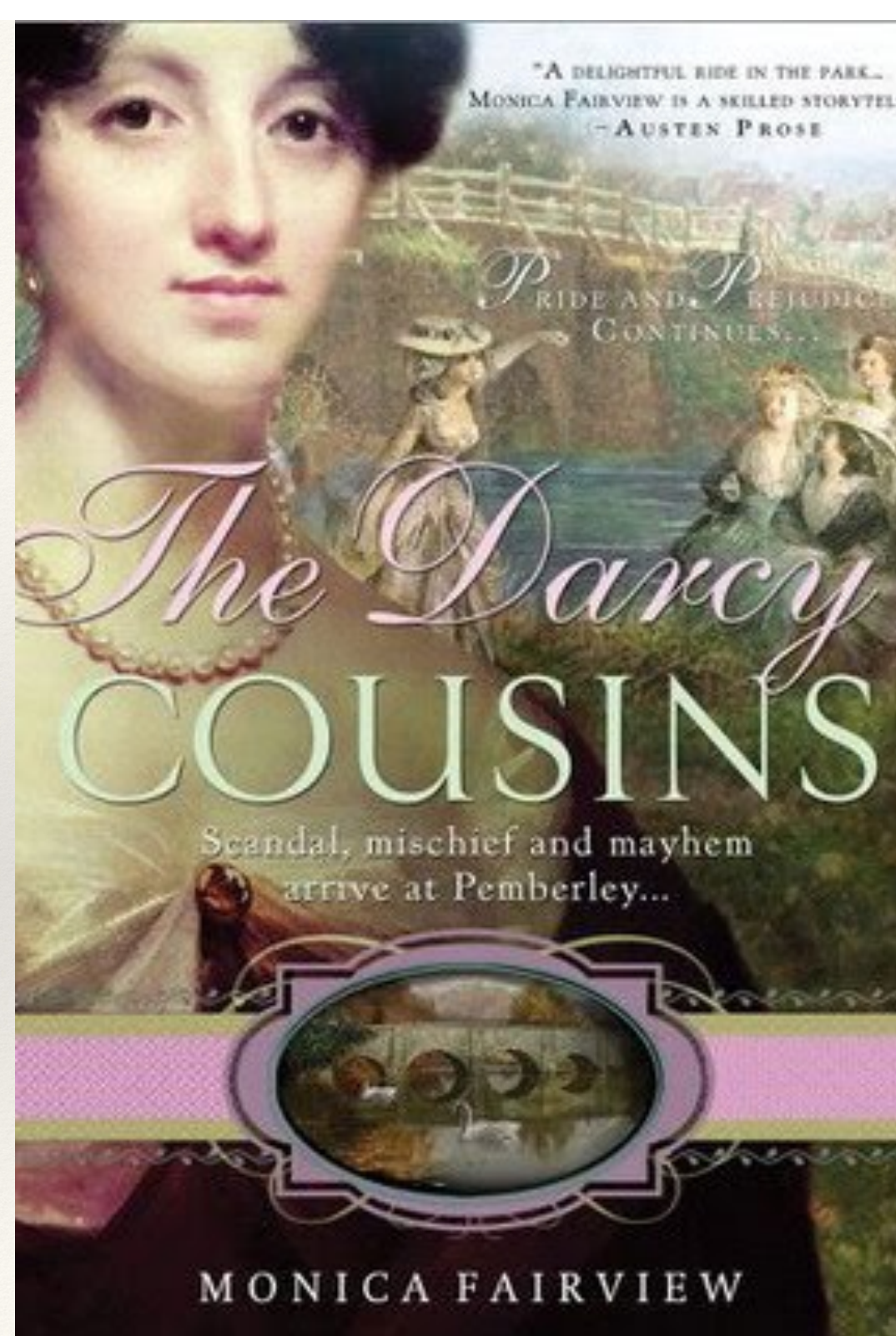
...and reproduce
some more!



Darcy has a cousin



Er, make that
'cousins' in the plural



And another one,
in America!

UNIQUE...A DELIGHTFUL RIDE."
—AustenProse

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
CONTINUES...

The Other
MR. DARCY

UNPREDICTABLE COURTSHIPS
APPEAR TO RUN IN THE DARCY FAMILY...



MONICA FAIRVIEW

And they all have
romantic adventures

The EXPLOITS &
ADVENTURES
of MISS
ALETHEA
DARCY

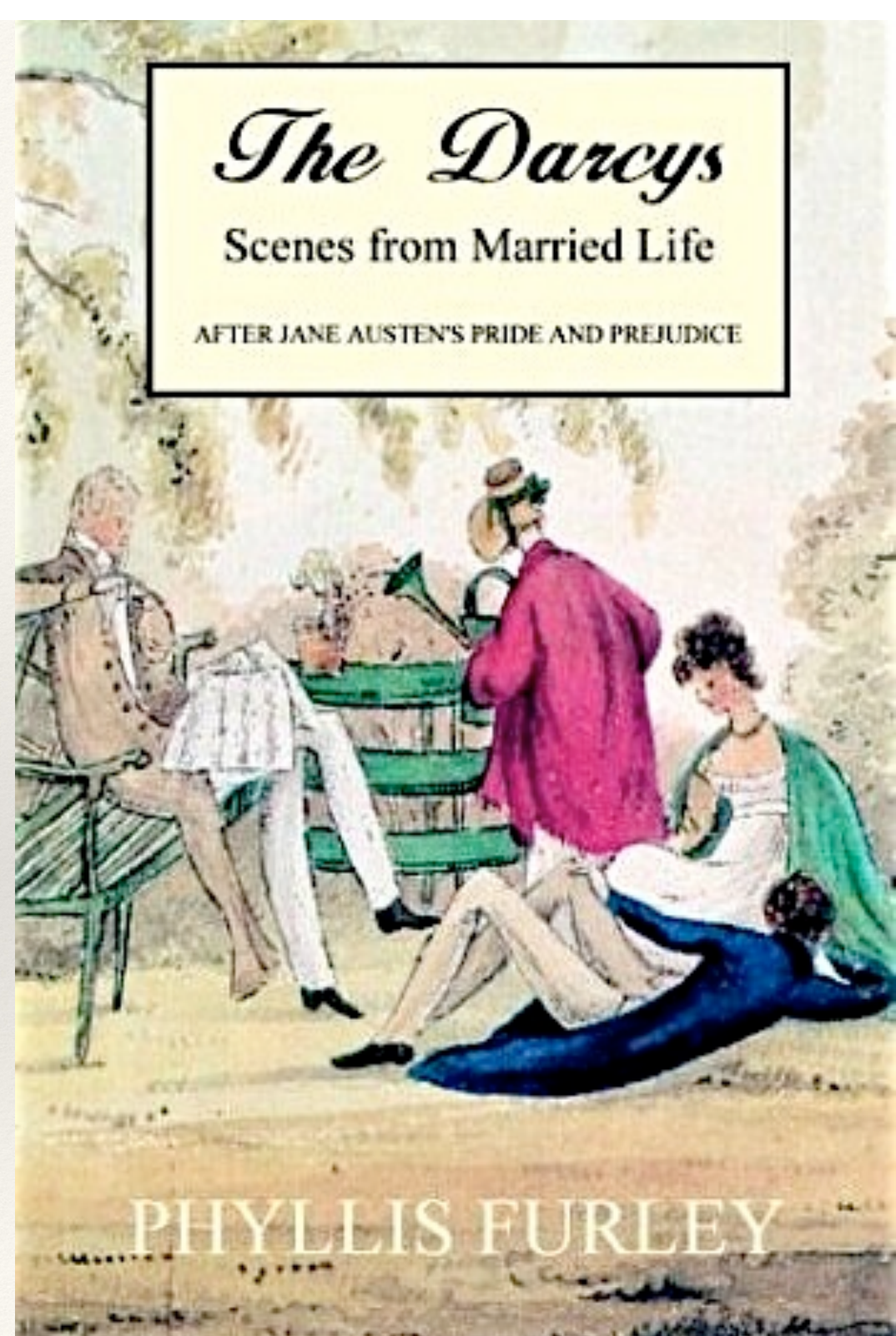
A Novel

ELIZABETH
ASTON



AUTHOR OF *MR. DARCY'S DAUGHTERS*

All kinds of adventures. Like — wait, what kinds of scenes?



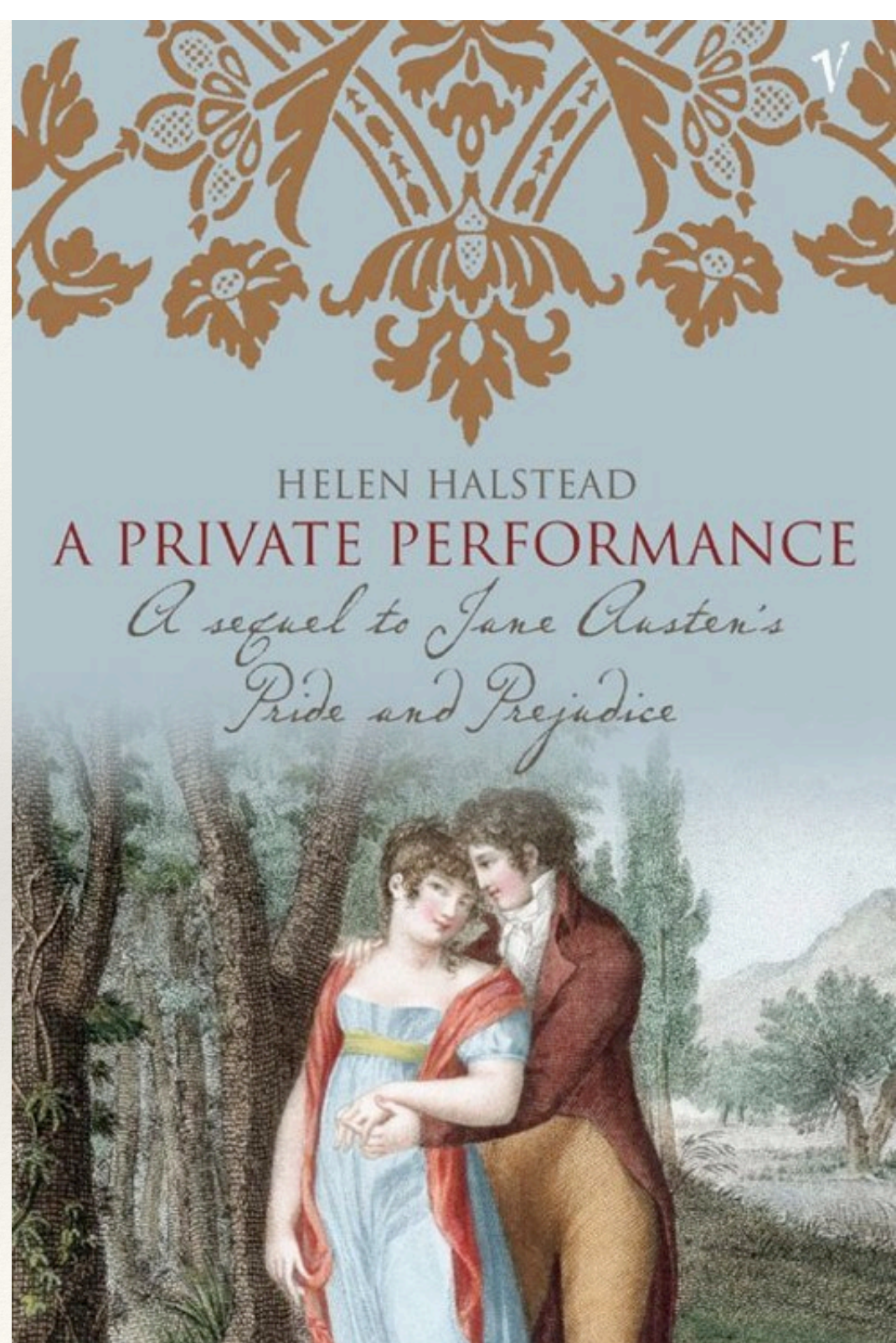
The Darceys

Scenes from Married Life

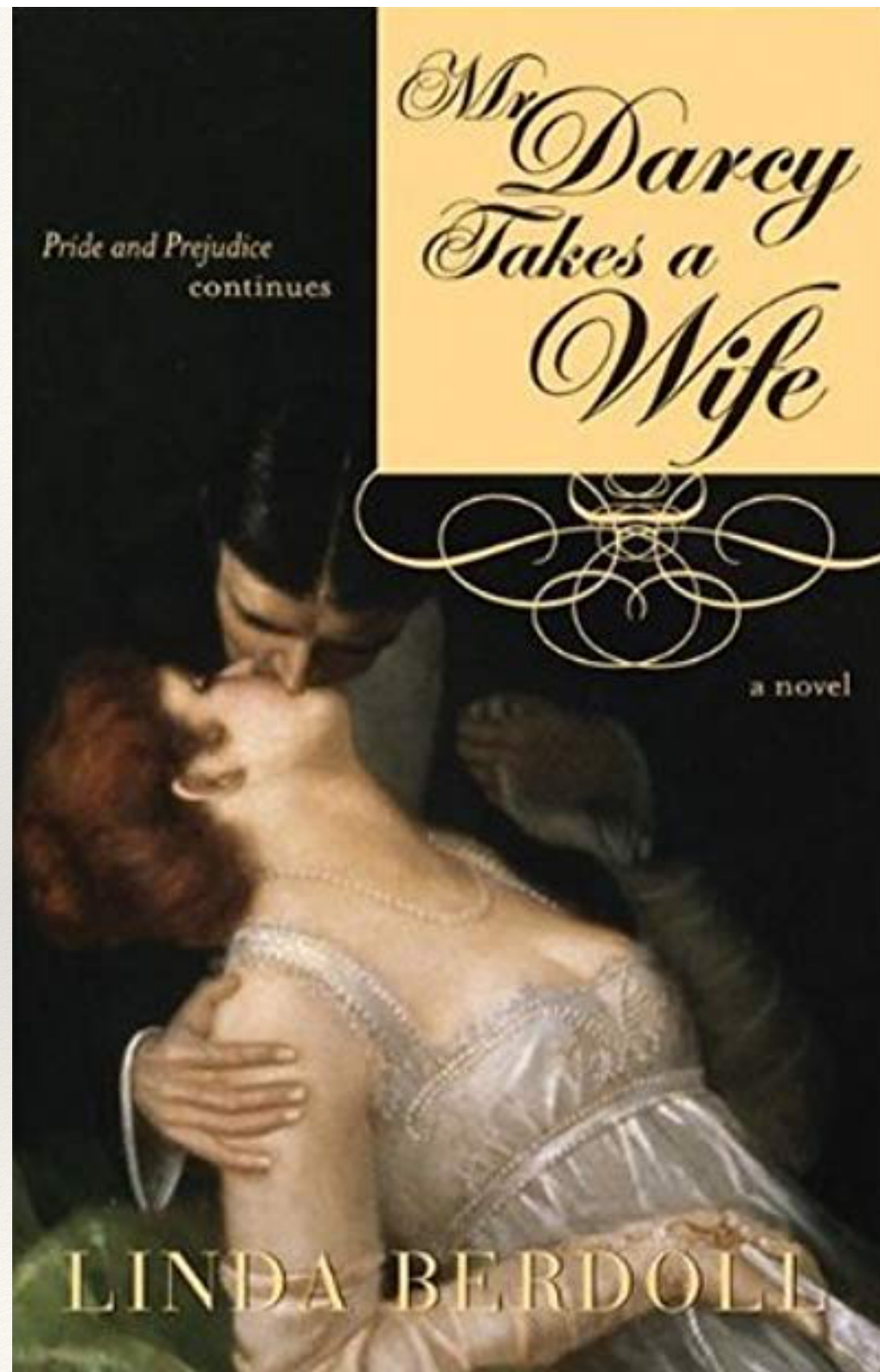
AFTER JANE AUSTEN'S PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

PHYLLIS FURLEY

Oh. I see. Those kinds of scenes.



Emphasis on *takes*



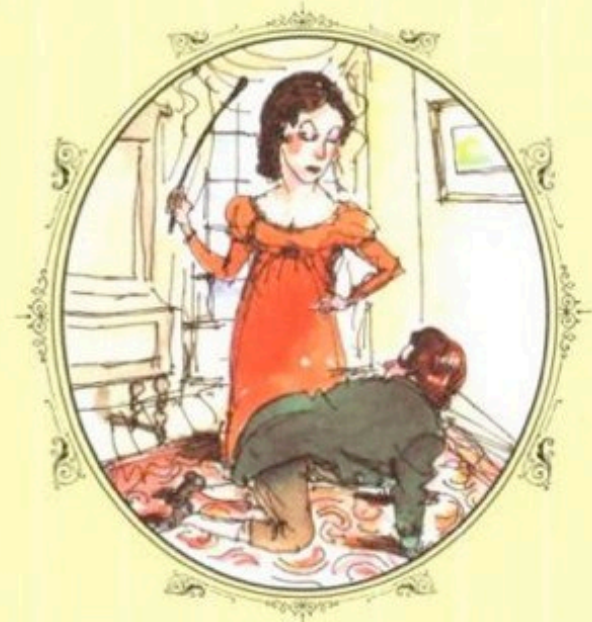
It's Mr Collins who
likes getting
spanked, of course

According to the “scholarly”
introduction, Austen had lots of
torrid and explicit sex scenes, but
her prudish *editor* forced her to
remove them. These scholars
discovered the original
manuscripts, however.

PRIDE AND PROMISCUITY

THE LOST SEX SCENES OF

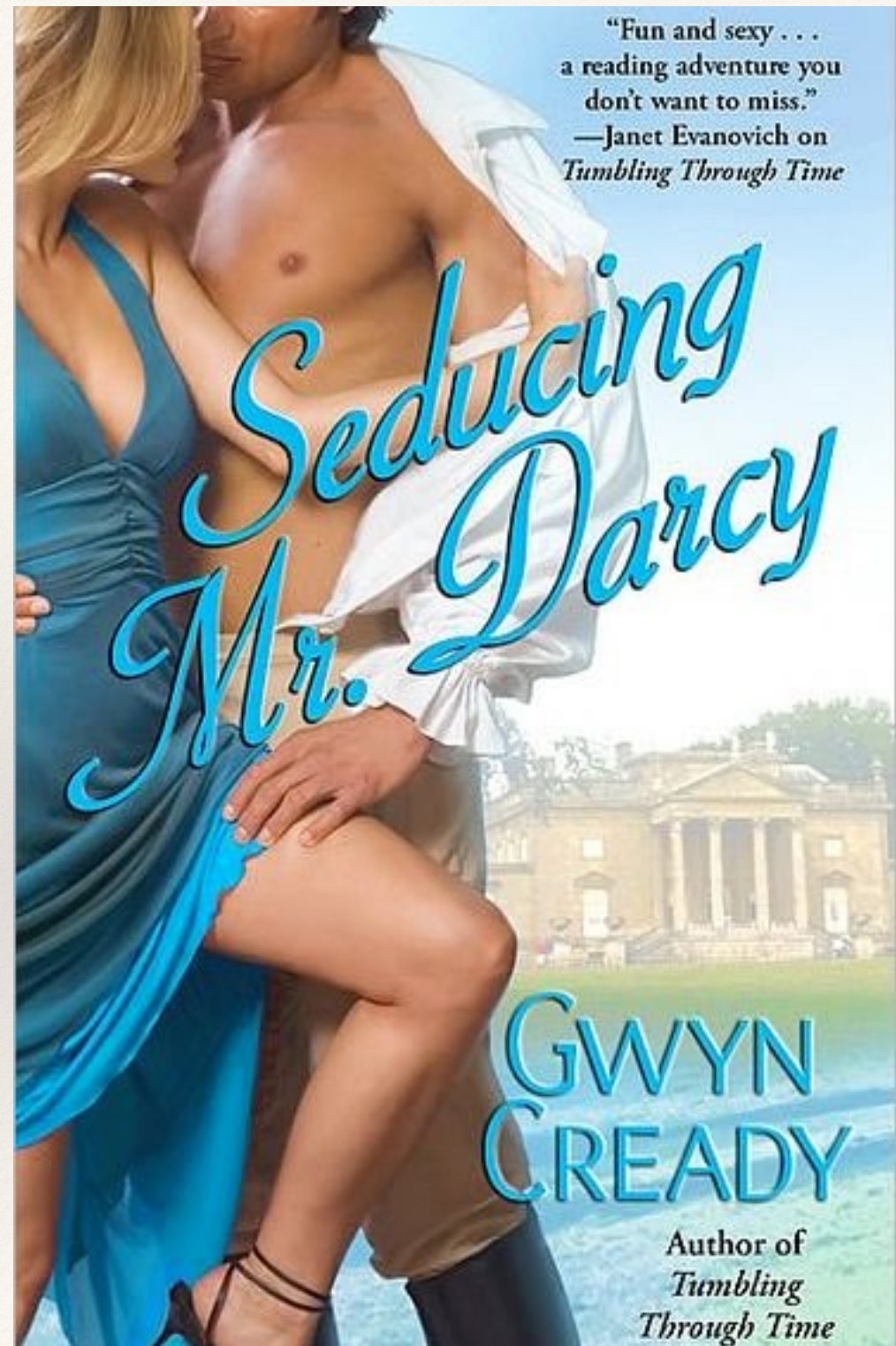
Jane Austen



ARIELLE ECKSTUT AND
DENNIS ASHTON

A sassy writer, a red-headed lawyer, an uptight girl and sexpot travel into *P&P*

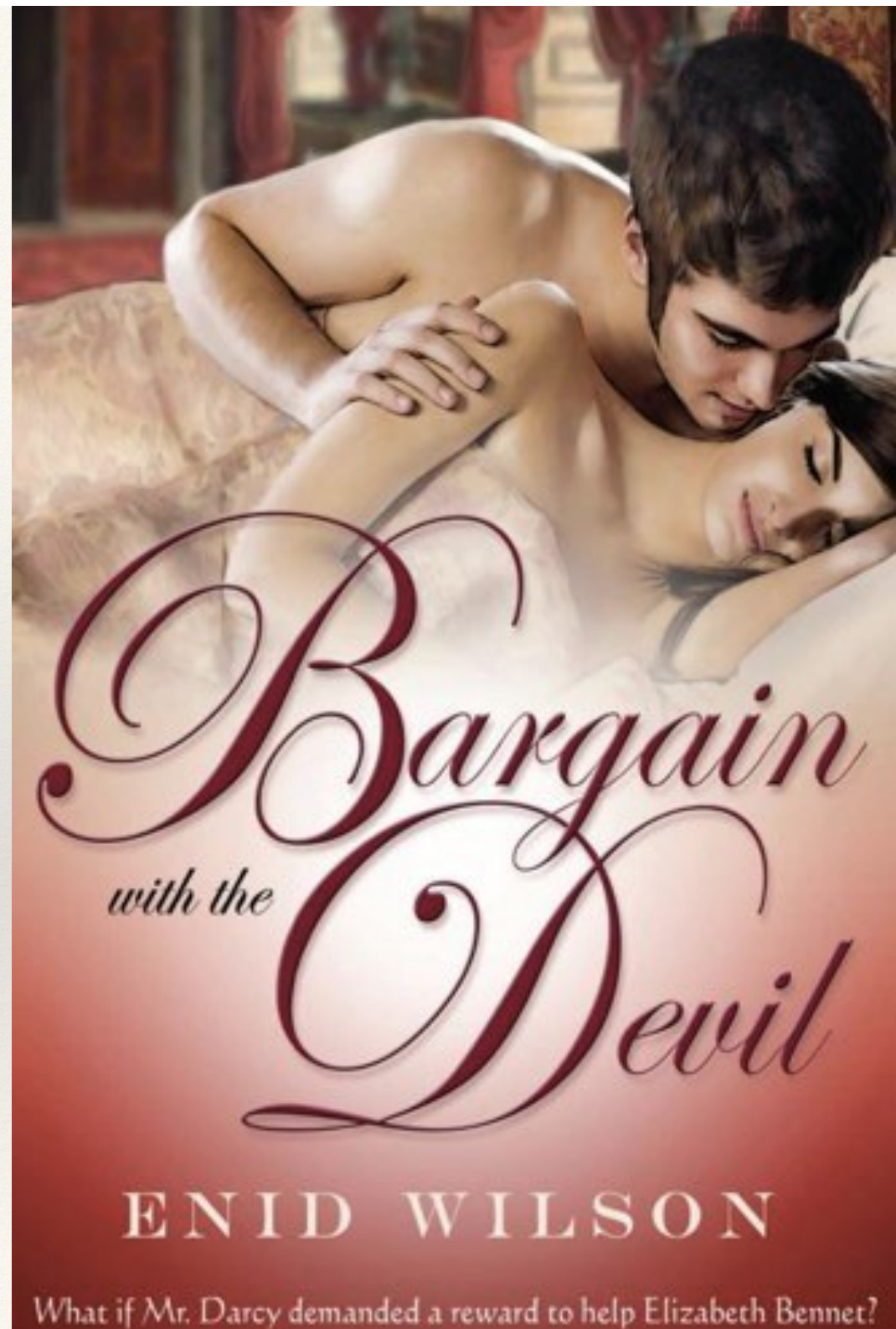
The villain is a professor.



Softcore

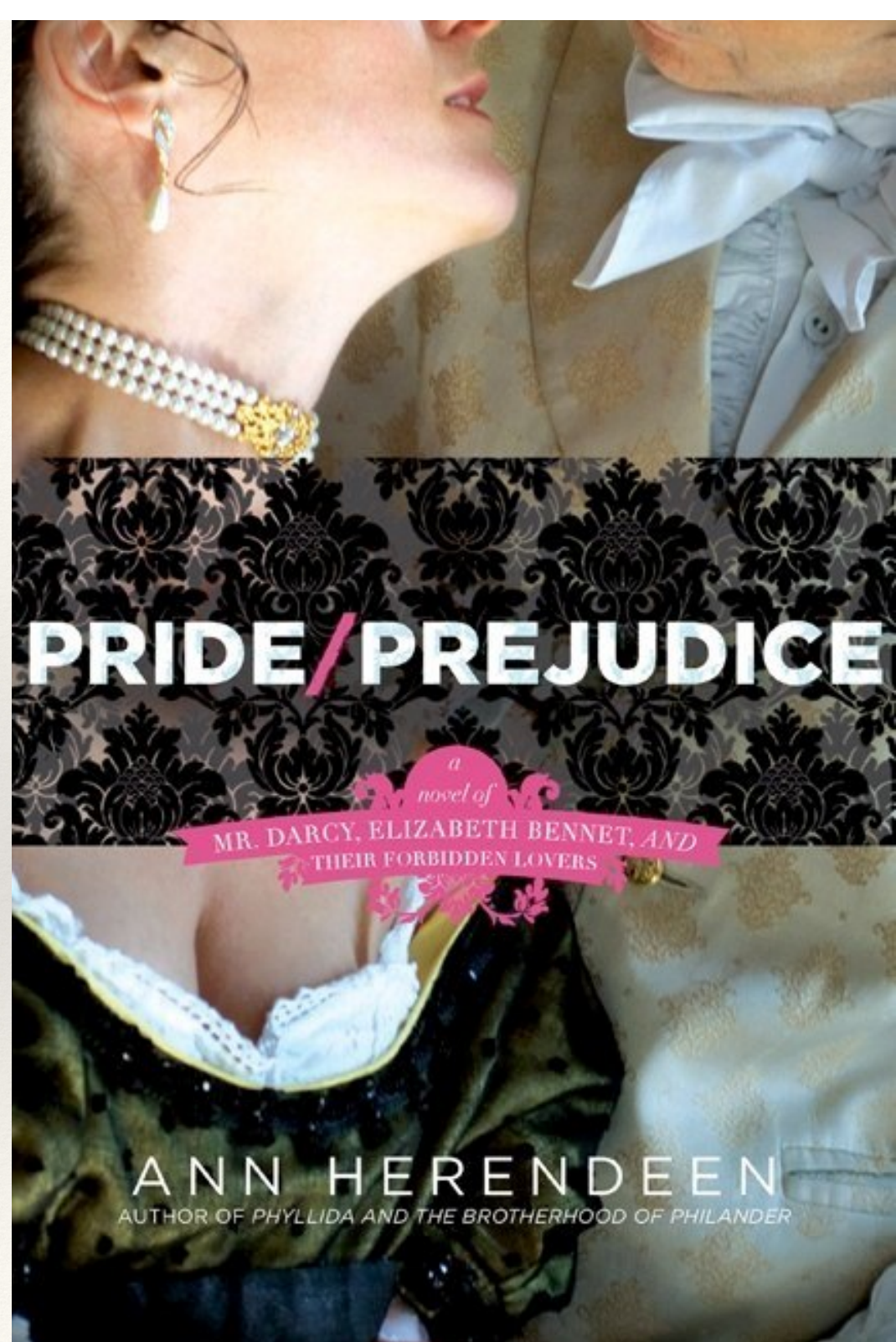
Enid Wilson runs a full-time website that publishes nothing but *Pride and Prejudice*-themed erotica: SteamyDarcy.com

Also about a dozen Darcy-themed erotica novels, some of which are in outer space.



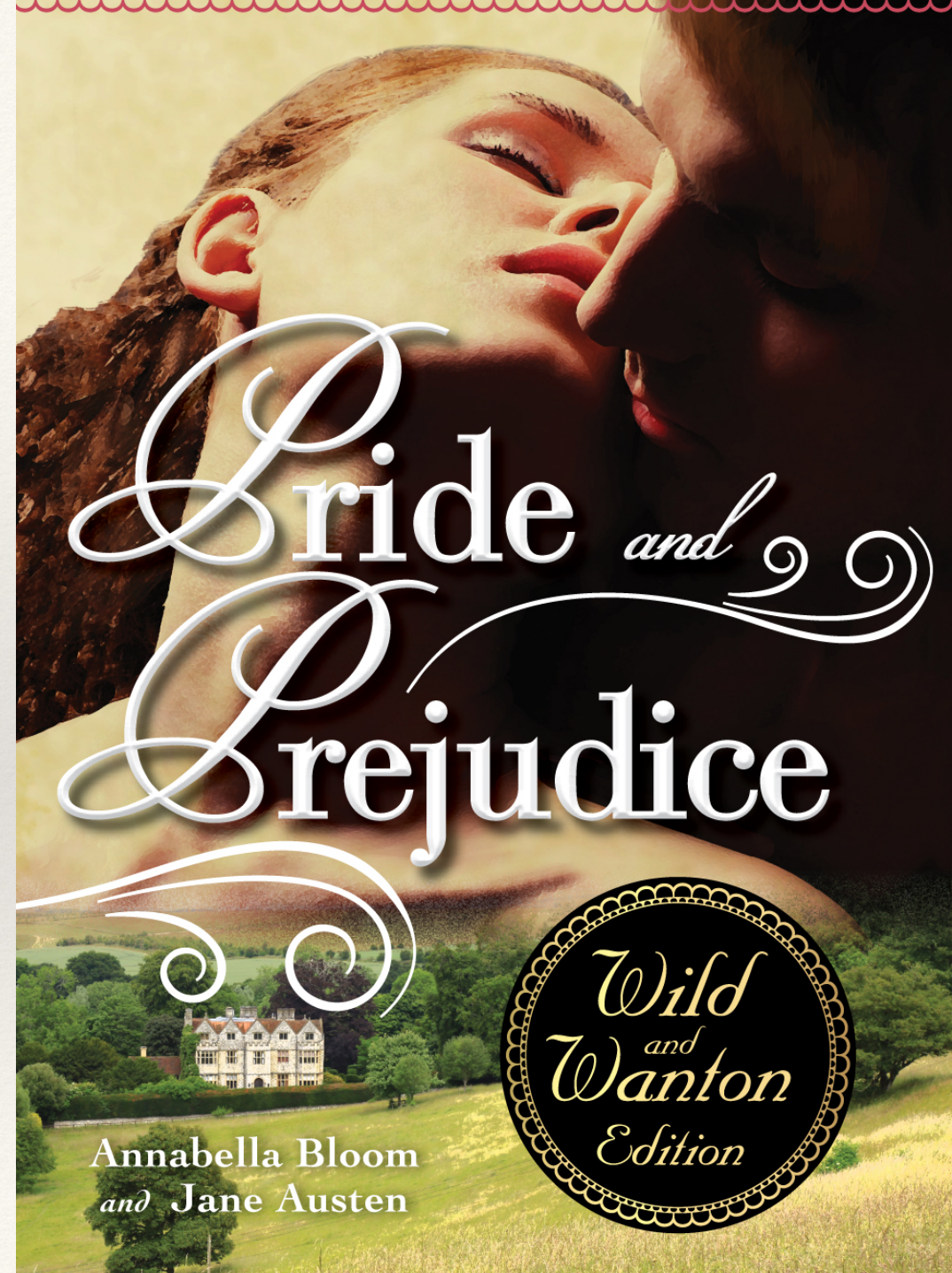
Slash [/]—the re-telling
of hetero narratives,
emphasizing or
creating gay (sub)texts

Lizzy and Charlotte
Darcy and Bingley
Darcy and Wickham
Darcy and Denny
Darcy and pretty much every man
mentioned in the book—*except* Mr.
Collins



Straight up porn

Mostly Austen's original text, verbatim, but with sex scenes added in bold type to make them easier to find



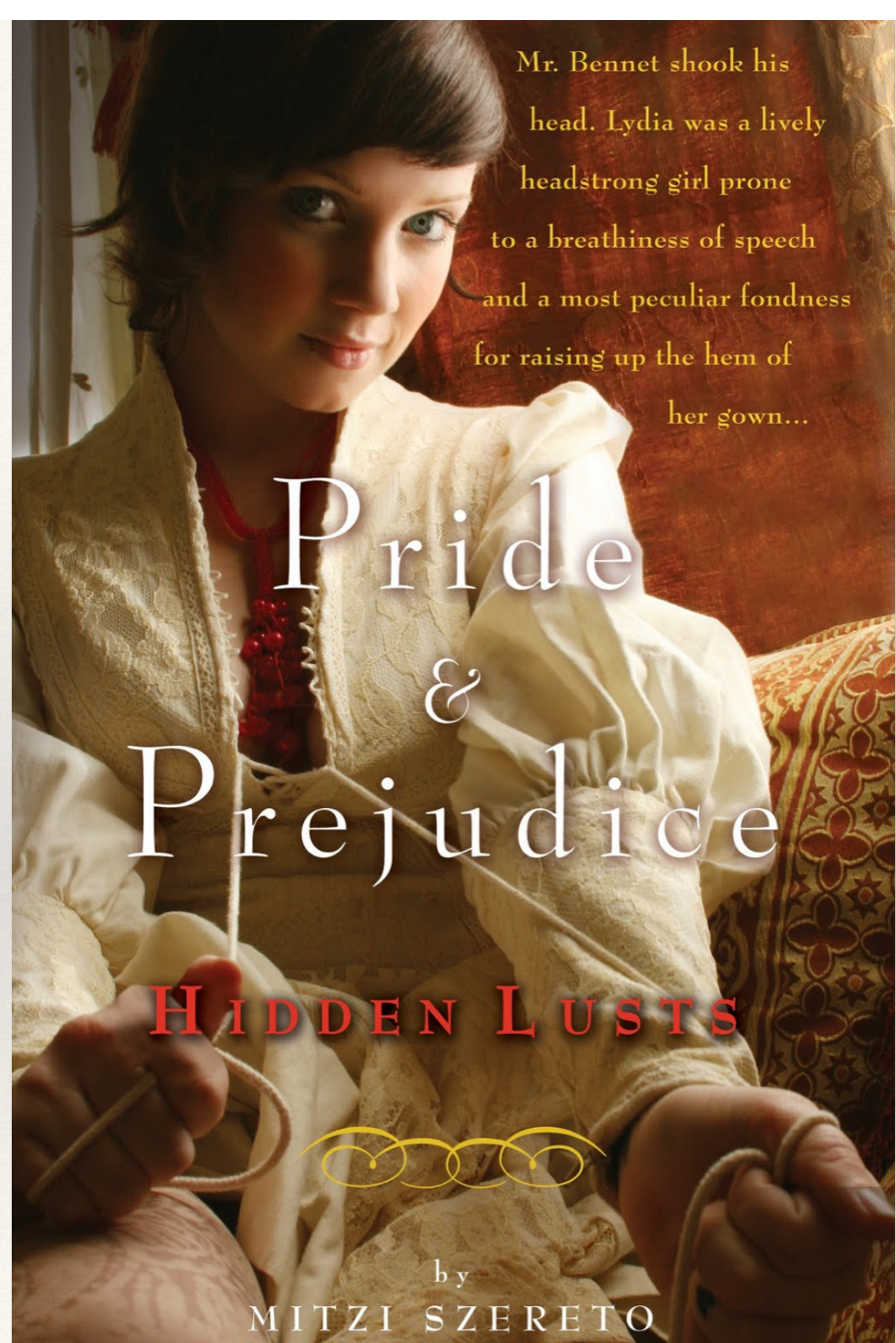
Pride *and* Prejudice

Annabella Bloom
and Jane Austen

*Wild
and
Wanton
Edition*

Straight up porn

Some original text, but mostly just original sexual encounters



I think this one is
pretty clear

I really doubt Austen had much to
do with this

Riverdale
AVE
Books



*Spank Me,
Mr. Darcy*

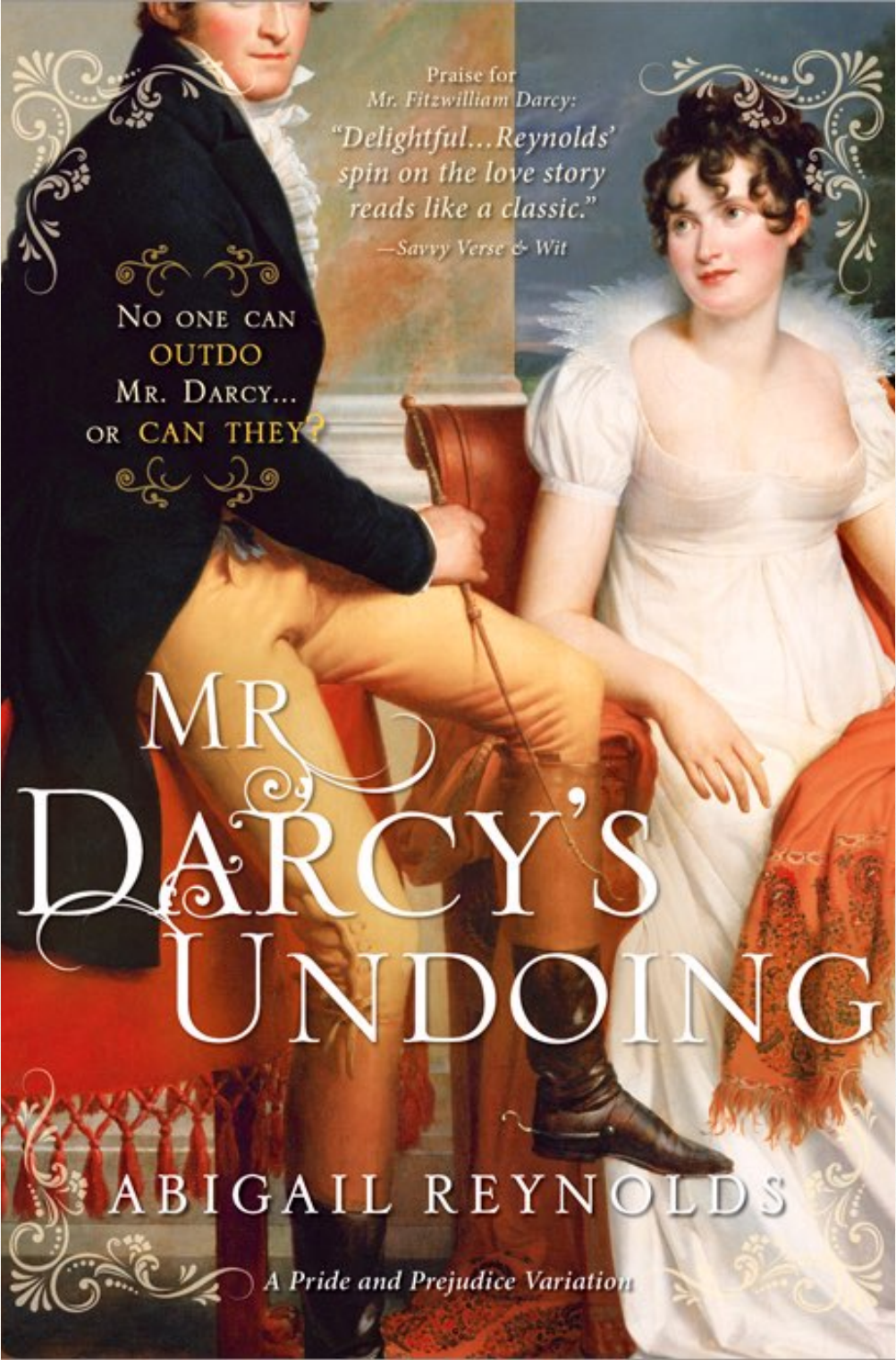
by Jane Austen
& Lissa Trevor

So far...

- ❖ High degree of creativity (history and geography are malleable, plastic), low degree of fidelity to the original
- ❖ Politically populist, deliberately profane (anti-elite, especially anti-university): Austen is restored to the people!
- ❖ consistently post-feminist—even when in the past, modern women are as free as today (hence the erotica); *Becoming Jane* shows Austen as having complete freedom in a world with no constraints on women if they are sufficiently feisty
- ❖ Almost all inspired directly by 1995 BBC; conspicuous fascination not with Jane (Austen) nor Lizzy, but with someone else...



The Incredible Mr Darcy



Praise for
Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy:
*"Delightful... Reynolds'
spin on the love story
reads like a classic."*

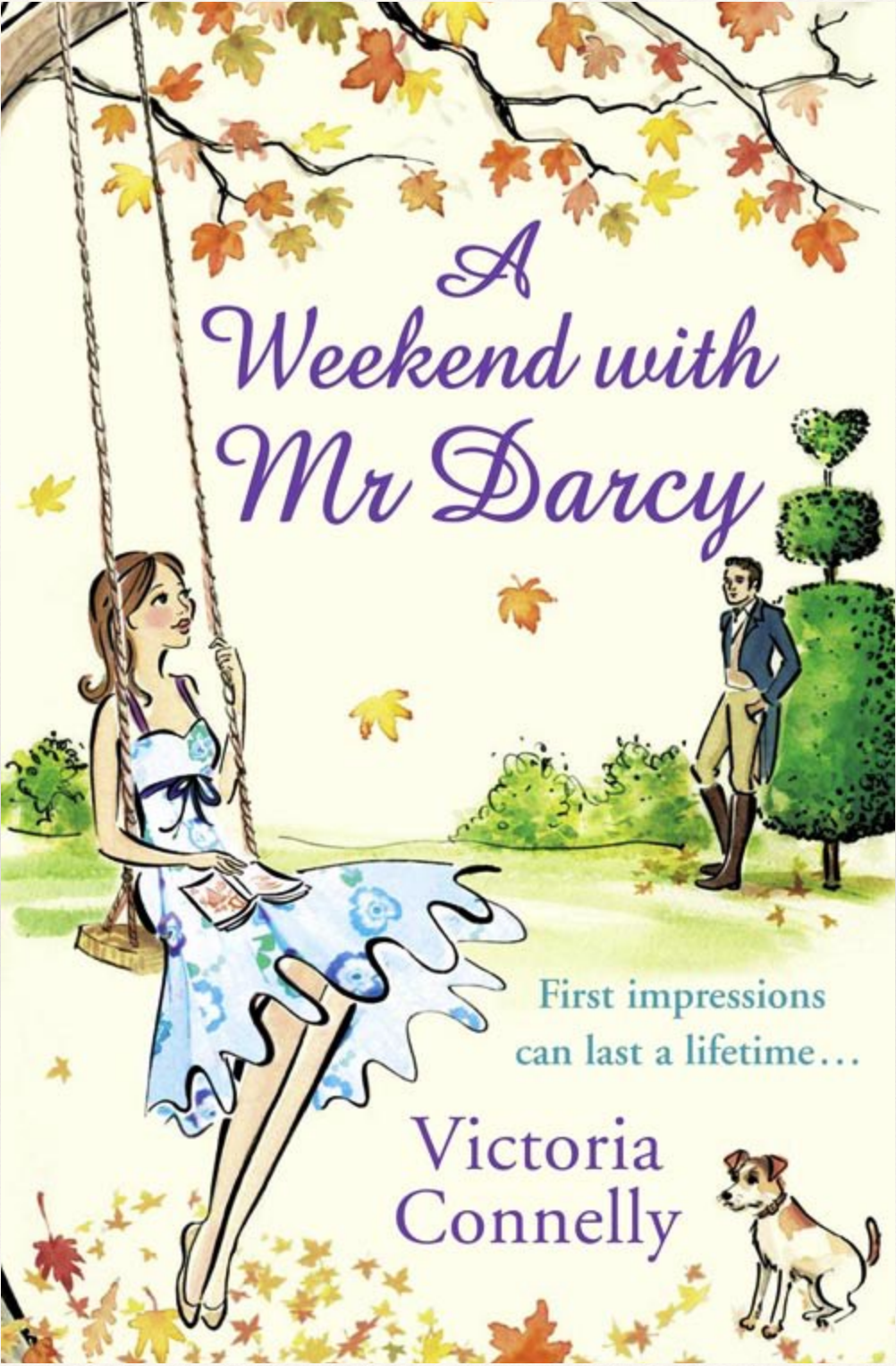
—Savvy Verse & Wit

NO ONE CAN
OUTDO
MR. DARCY...
OR CAN THEY?

MR. DARCY'S UNDOING

ABIGAIL REYNOLDS

A Pride and Prejudice Variation

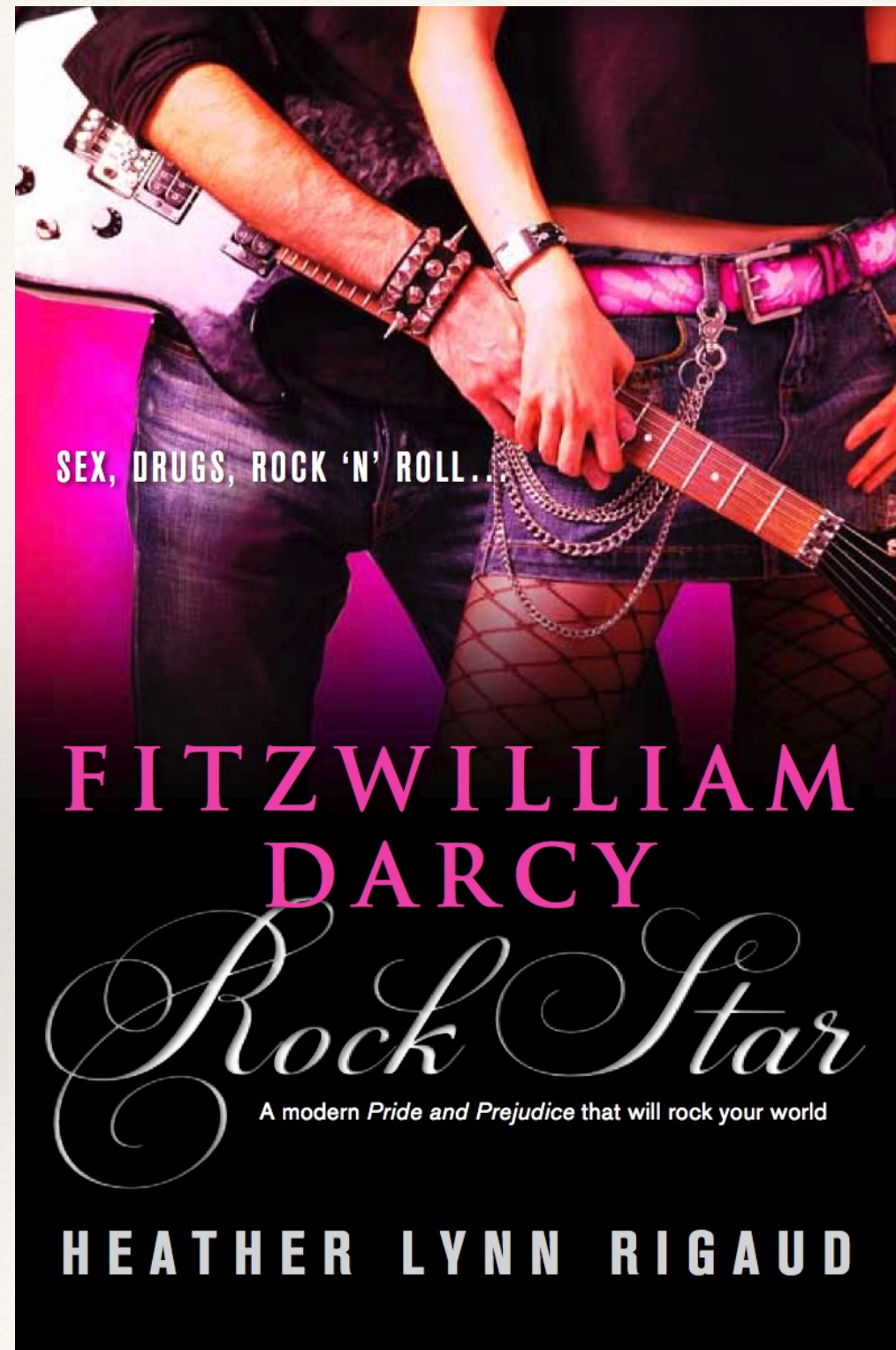


*A
Weekend with
Mr Darcy*

First impressions
can last a lifetime...

Victoria
Connelly





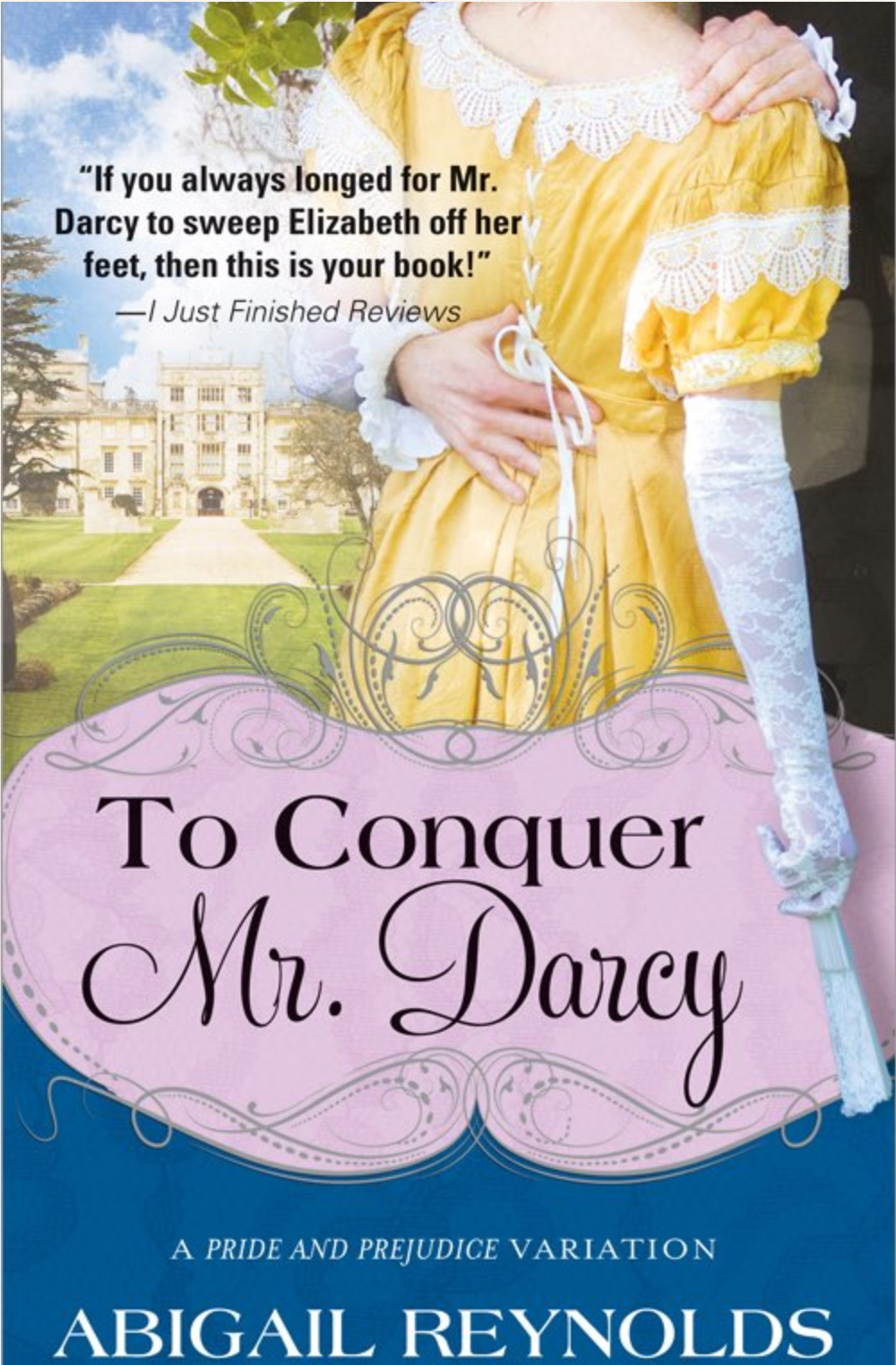
SEX, DRUGS, ROCK 'N' ROLL...

FITZWILLIAM
DARCY

Rock Star

A modern Pride and Prejudice that will rock your world

HEATHER LYNN RIGAUD



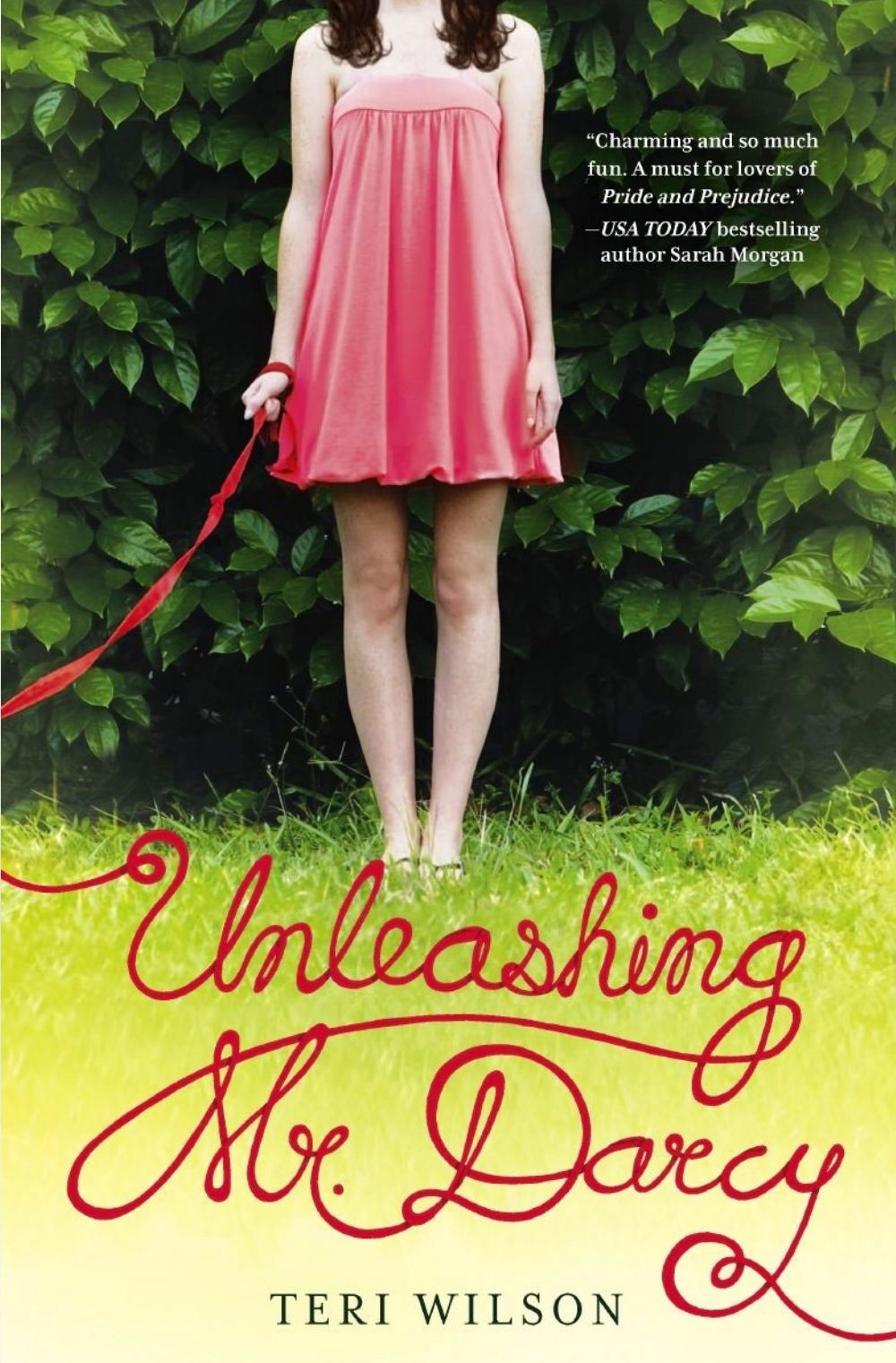
"If you always longed for Mr. Darcy to sweep Elizabeth off her feet, then this is your book!"

—I Just Finished Reviews

To Conquer Mr. Darcy

A PRIDE AND PREJUDICE VARIATION

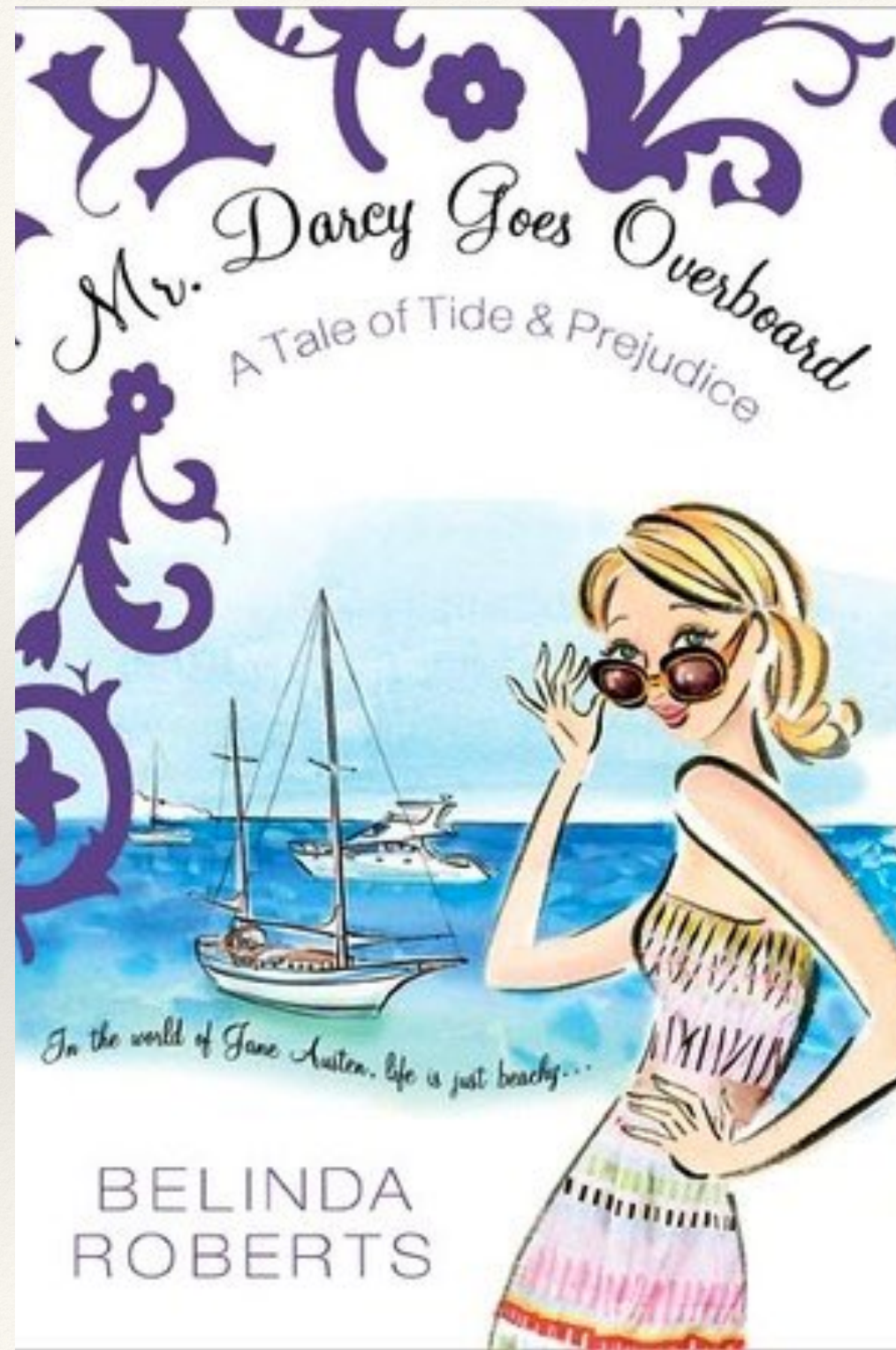
ABIGAIL REYNOLDS



"Charming and so much fun. A must for lovers of *Pride and Prejudice*."
—USA TODAY bestselling author Sarah Morgan

Unleashing
Mr. Darcy

TERI WILSON



Mr. Darcy Goes Overboard
A Tale of Tide & Prejudice

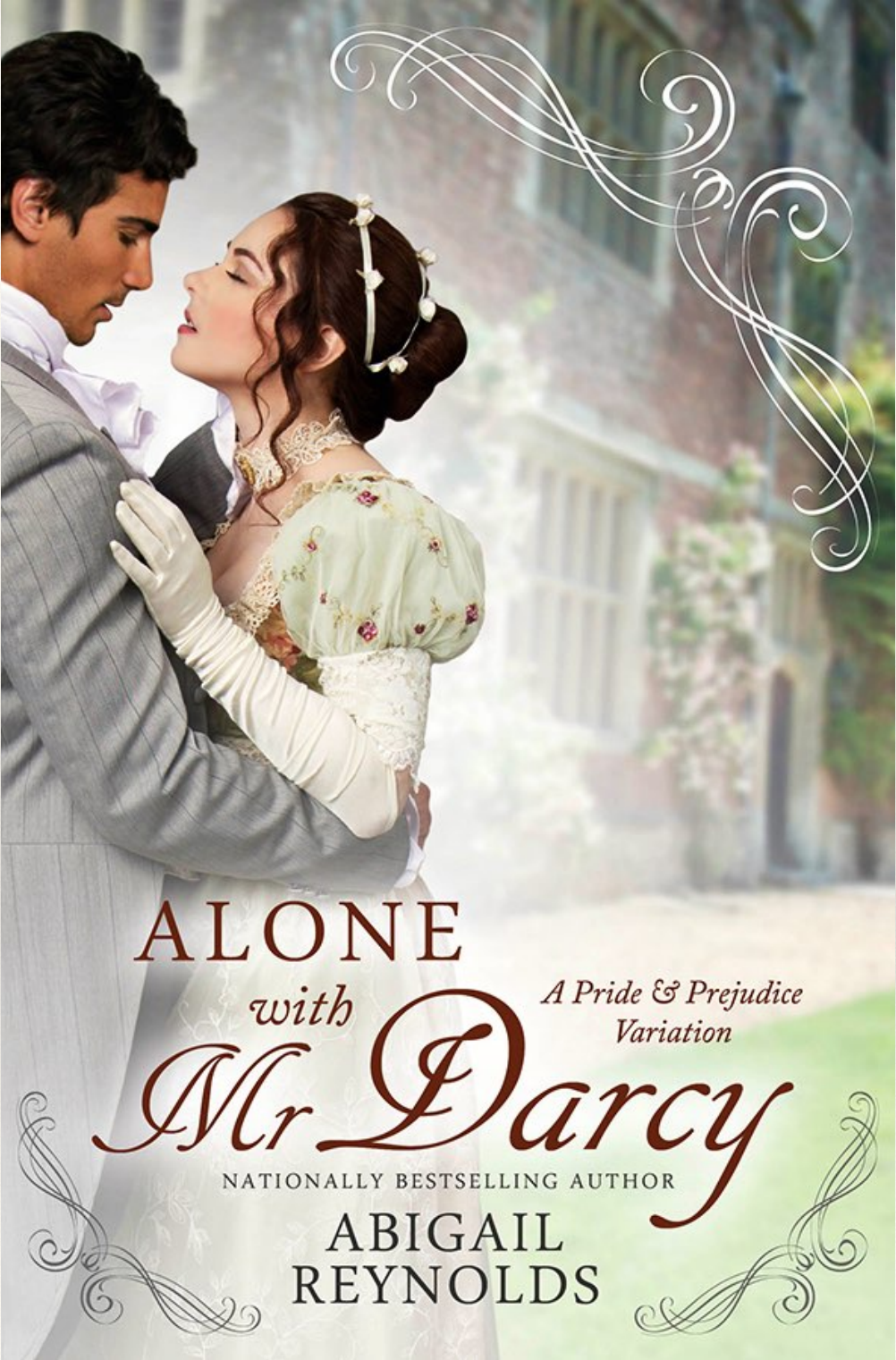
In the world of Jane Austen, life is just beachy...

BELINDA
ROBERTS

*At Home
with
Mr Darcy*



Victoria Connelly



ALONE

with

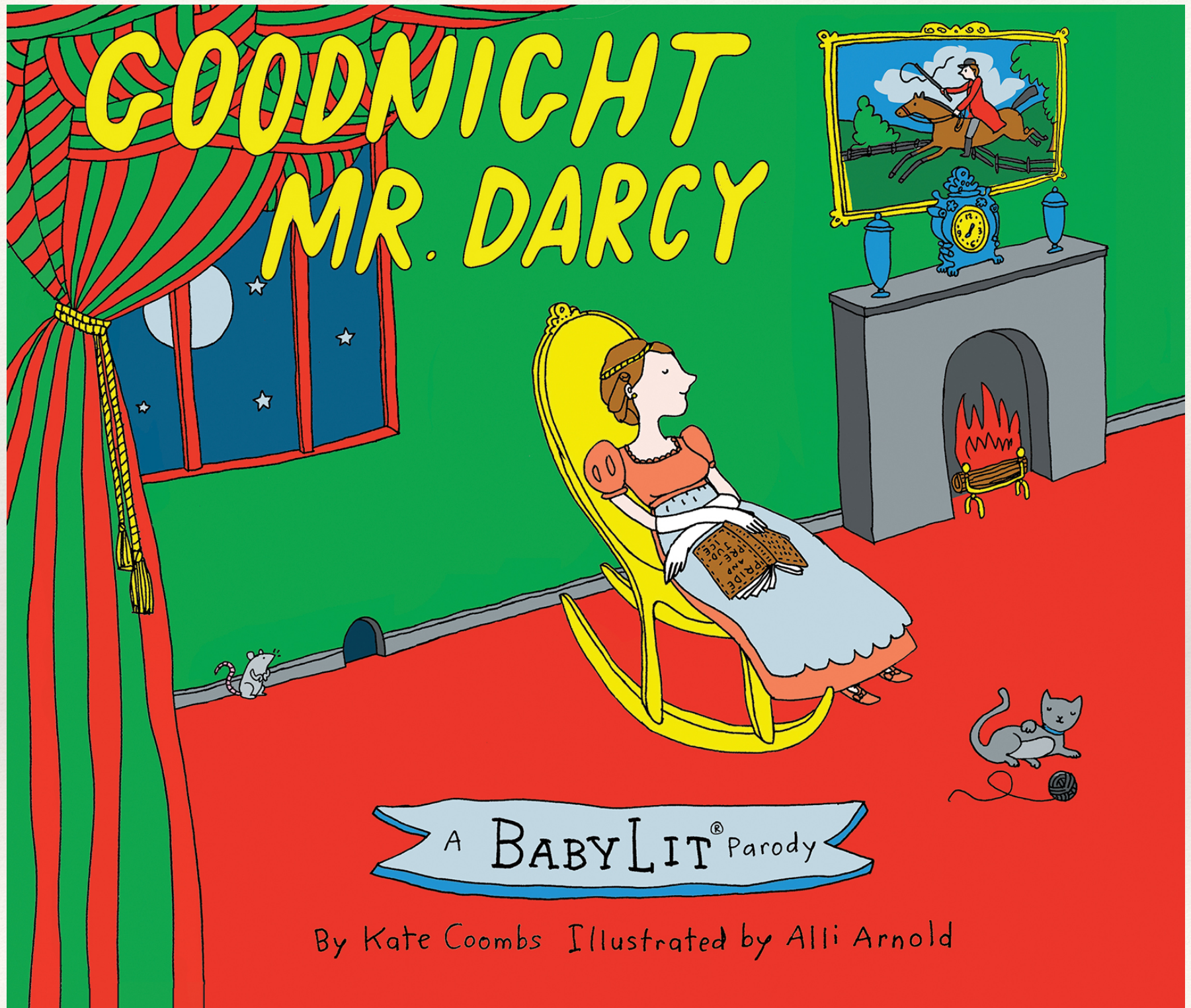
Mr. Darcy

*A Pride & Prejudice
Variation*

NATIONALLY BESTSELLING AUTHOR

ABIGAIL
REYNOLDS

GOODNIGHT MR. DARCY



A BABYLIT[®] Parody

By Kate Coombs Illustrated by Alli Arnold

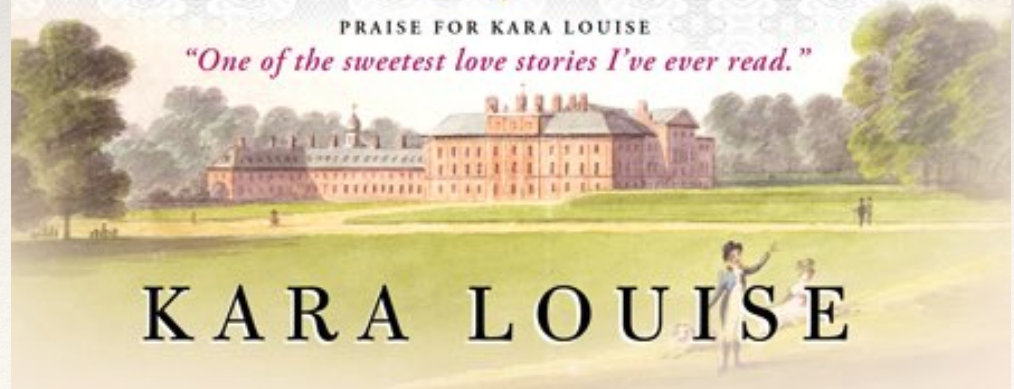
HE'S THE ONE MAN EVERY WOMAN WANTS...



ONLY
Mr. Darcy
WILL DO

PRAISE FOR KARA LOUISE

"One of the sweetest love stories I've ever read."



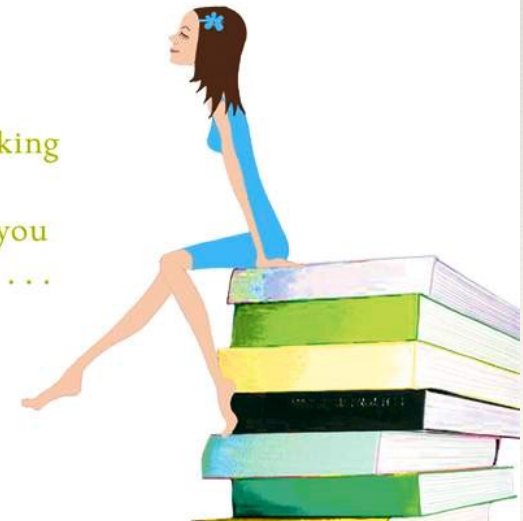
KARA LOUISE

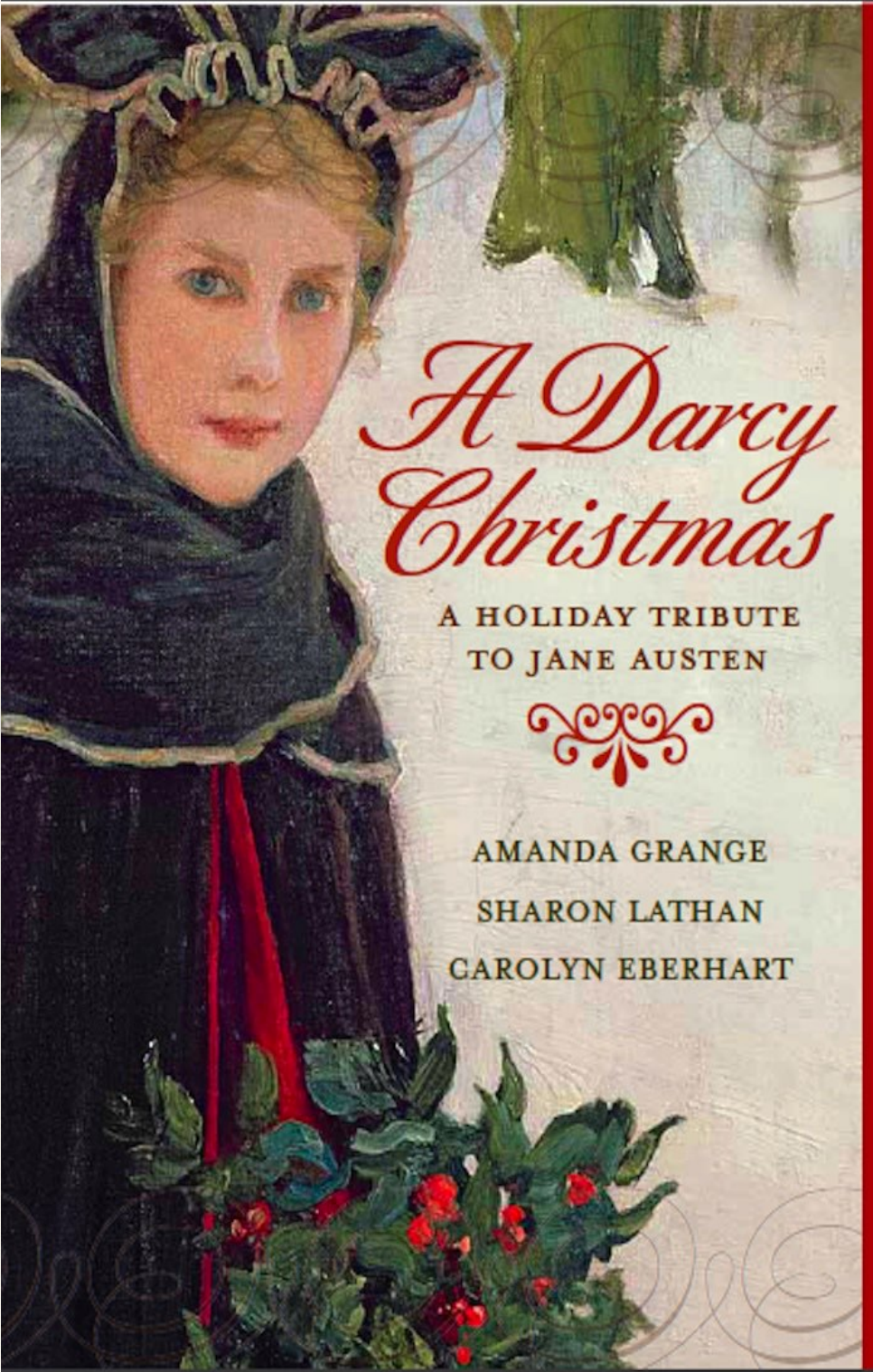


Me and Mr Darcy

ALEXANDRA
POTTER

Every girl is looking
for her Mr Darcy.
Imagine if you
found the real one . . .





*A Darcy
Christmas*

A HOLIDAY TRIBUTE
TO JANE AUSTEN



AMANDA GRANGE
SHARON LATHAN
CAROLYN EBERHART

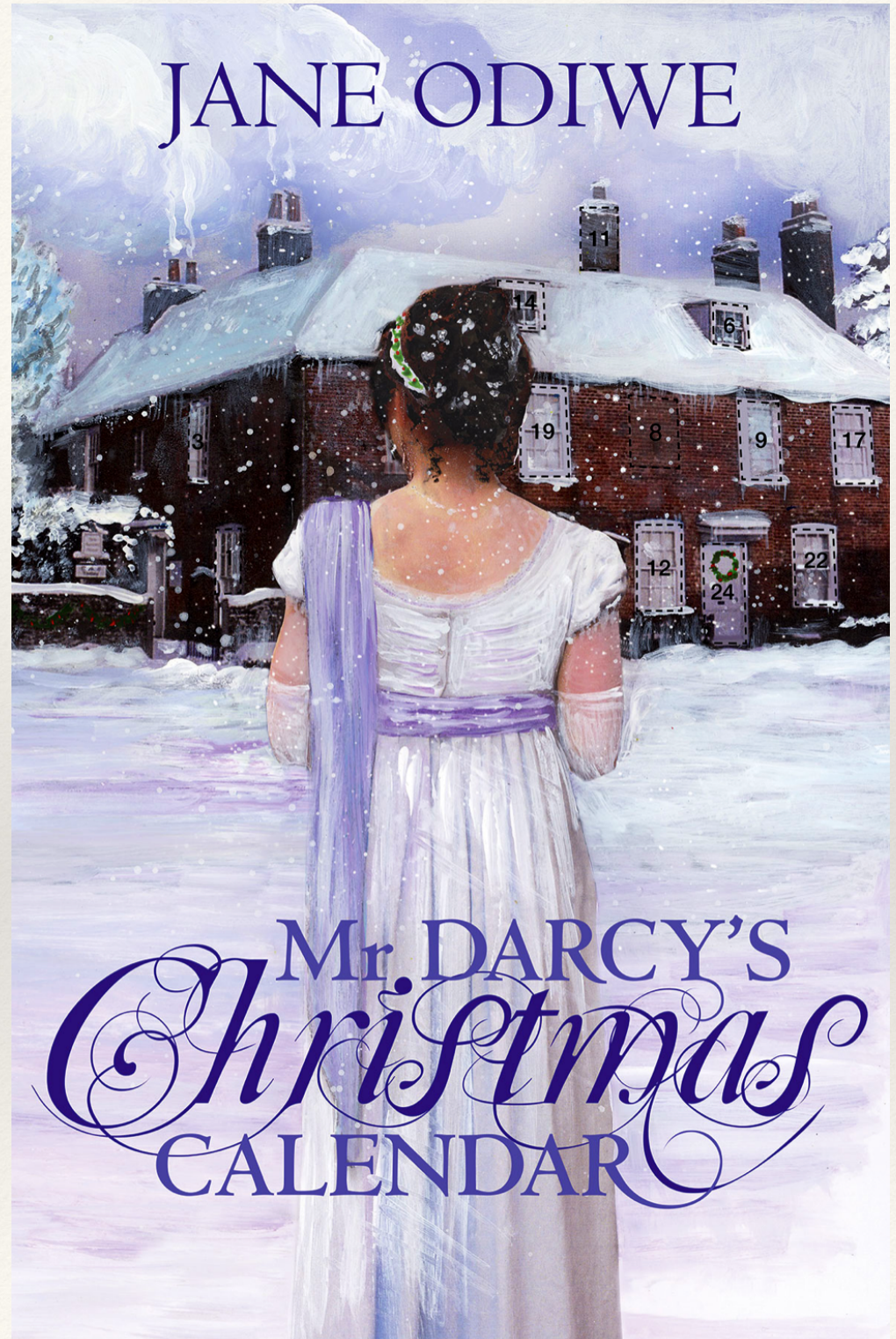
Mr. Darcy's
CHRISTMAS
A DARCY NOVELLA



ELIZABETH ASTON

“Great characters, great comic moments, great romance”

JANE ODIWE



Mr. DARCY'S
Christmas
CALENDAR

Christmas with Mr Darcy



'Romantic comedy gold'

Single Titles

Victoria Connelly

So what's up with the
vampires and zombies
then?

Sure, you already
know about this one



PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES

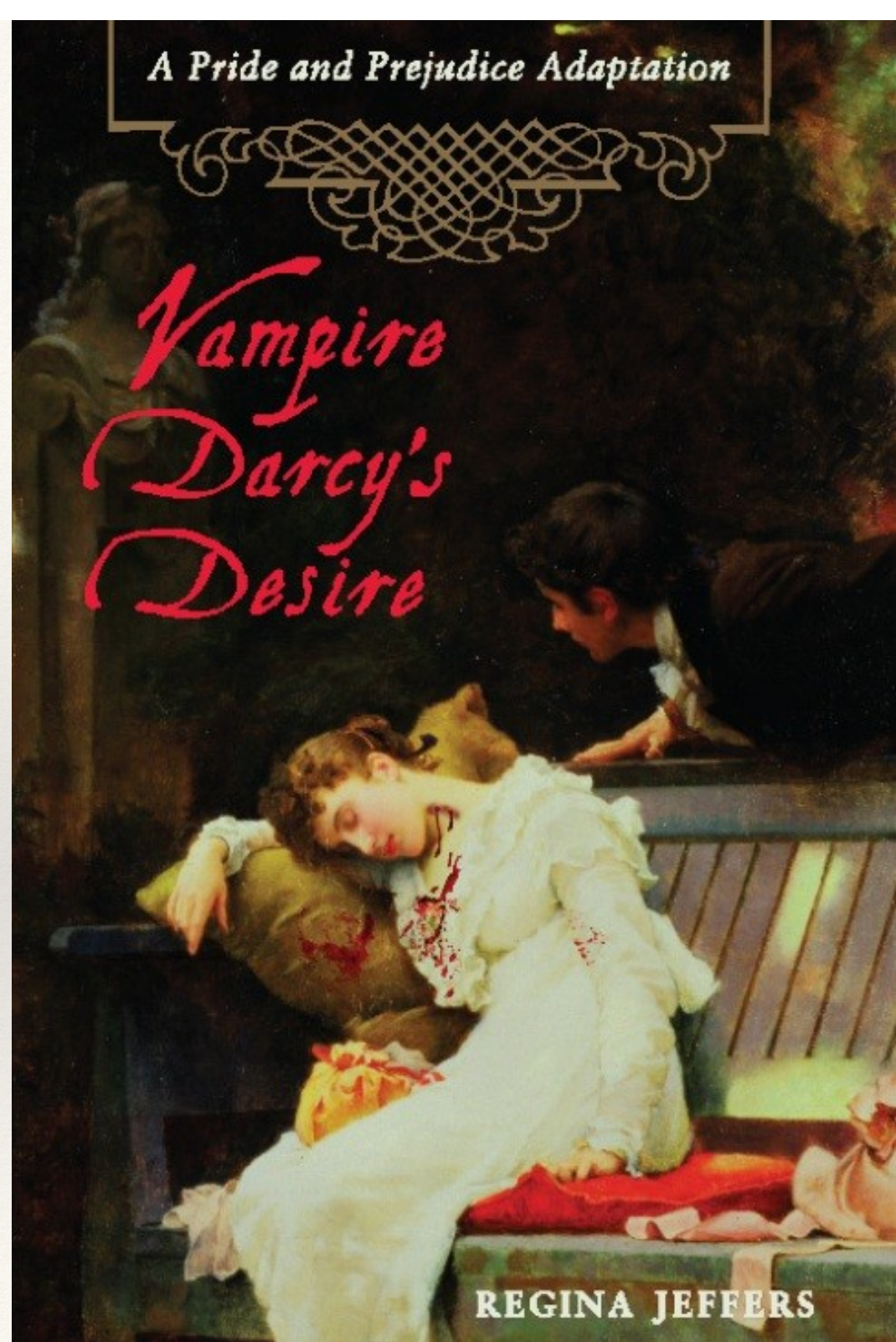
BY JANE AUSTEN AND SETH GRAHAME-SMITH

They re-did all of
Austen's novels this
way. Within *weeks*.

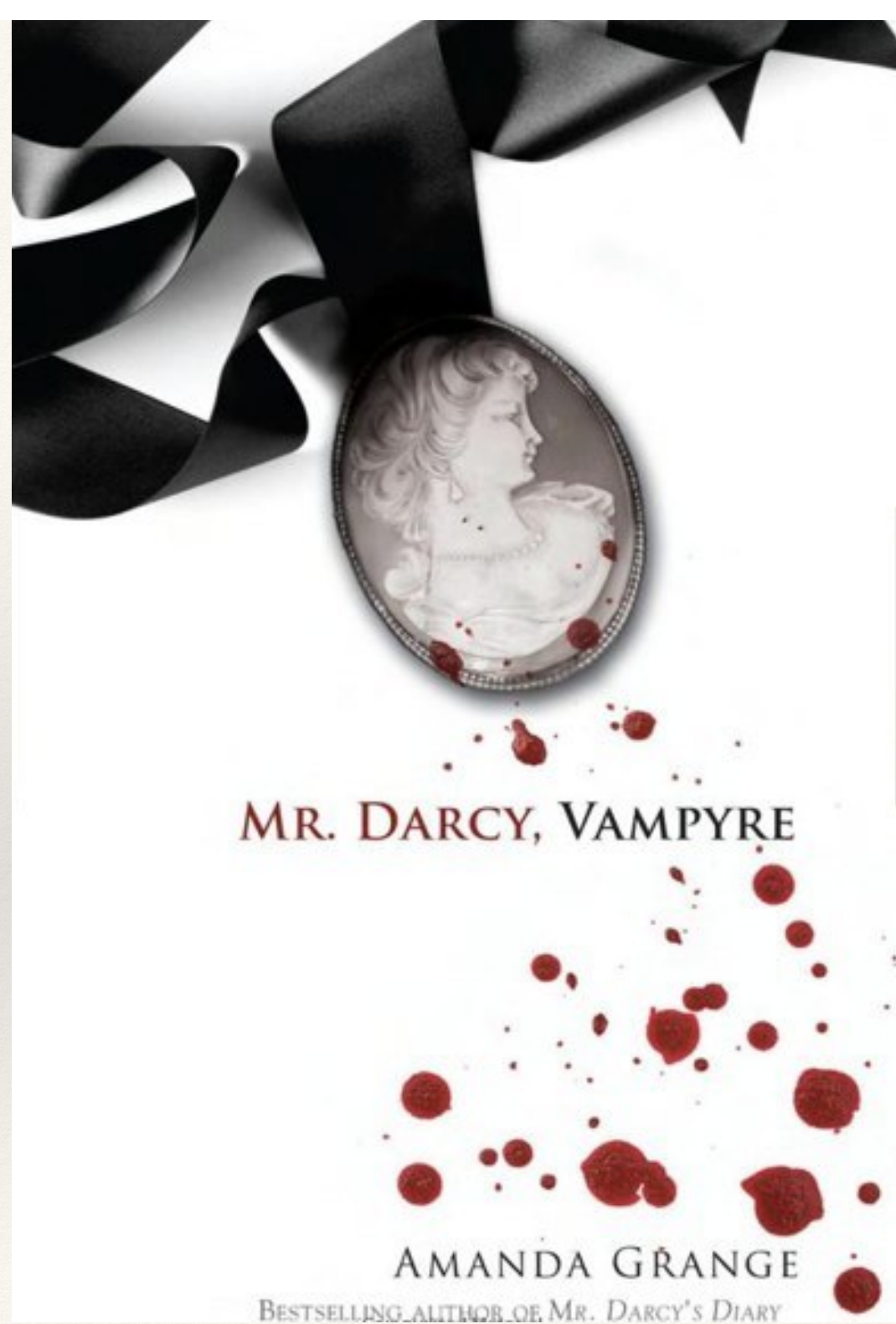
Except *Persuasion*, which is just
too sad



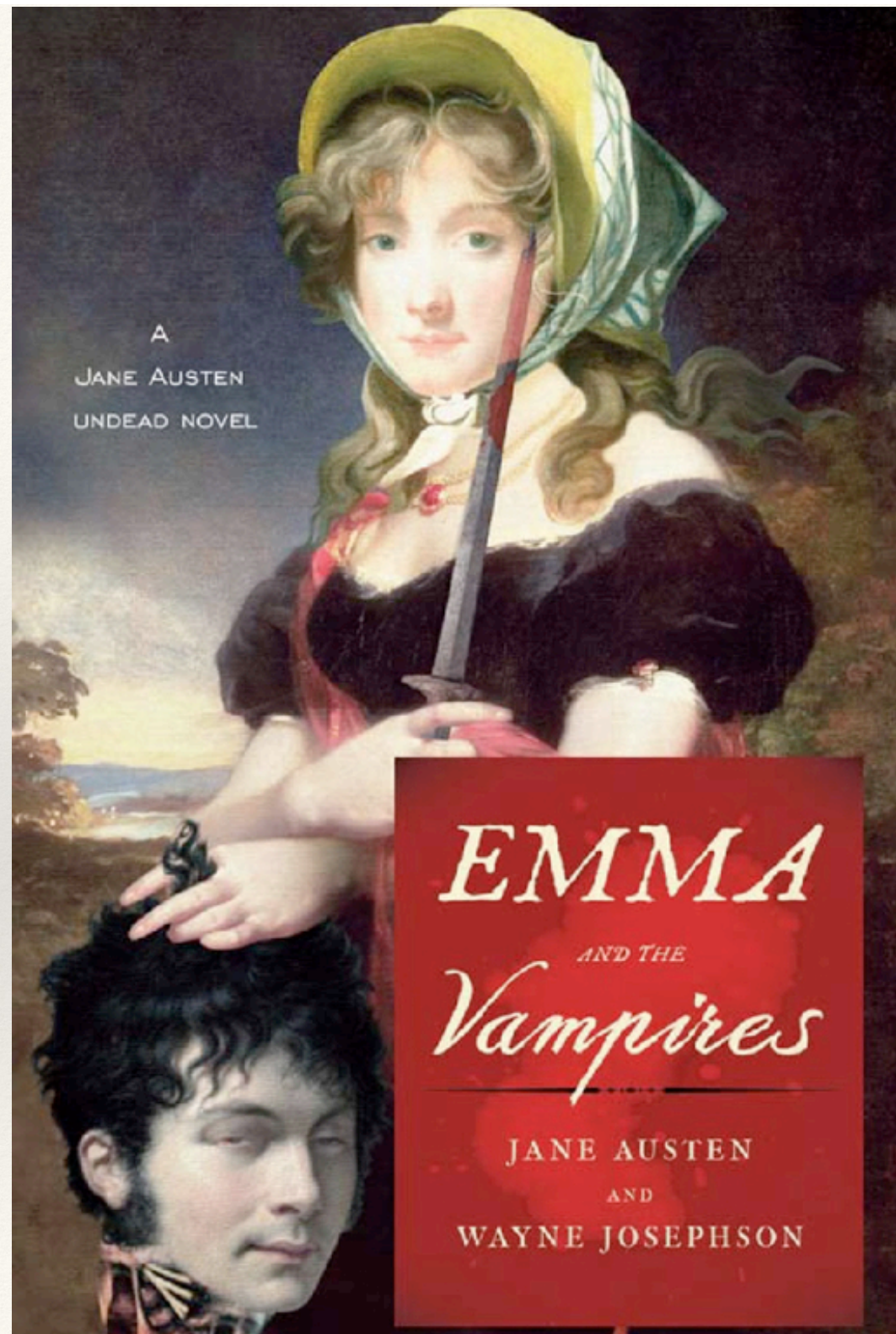
But there's more



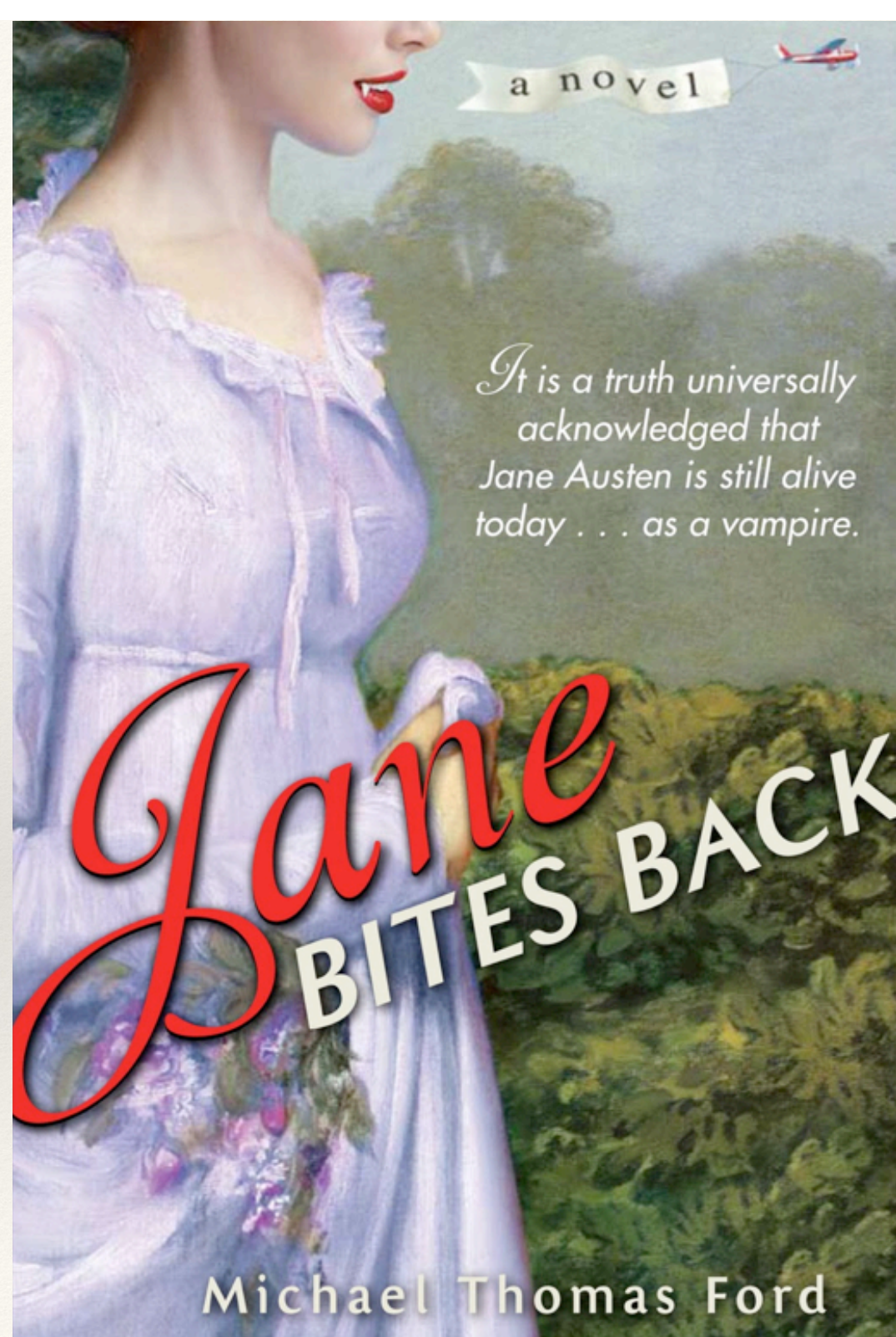
OMG



WTF?



FML

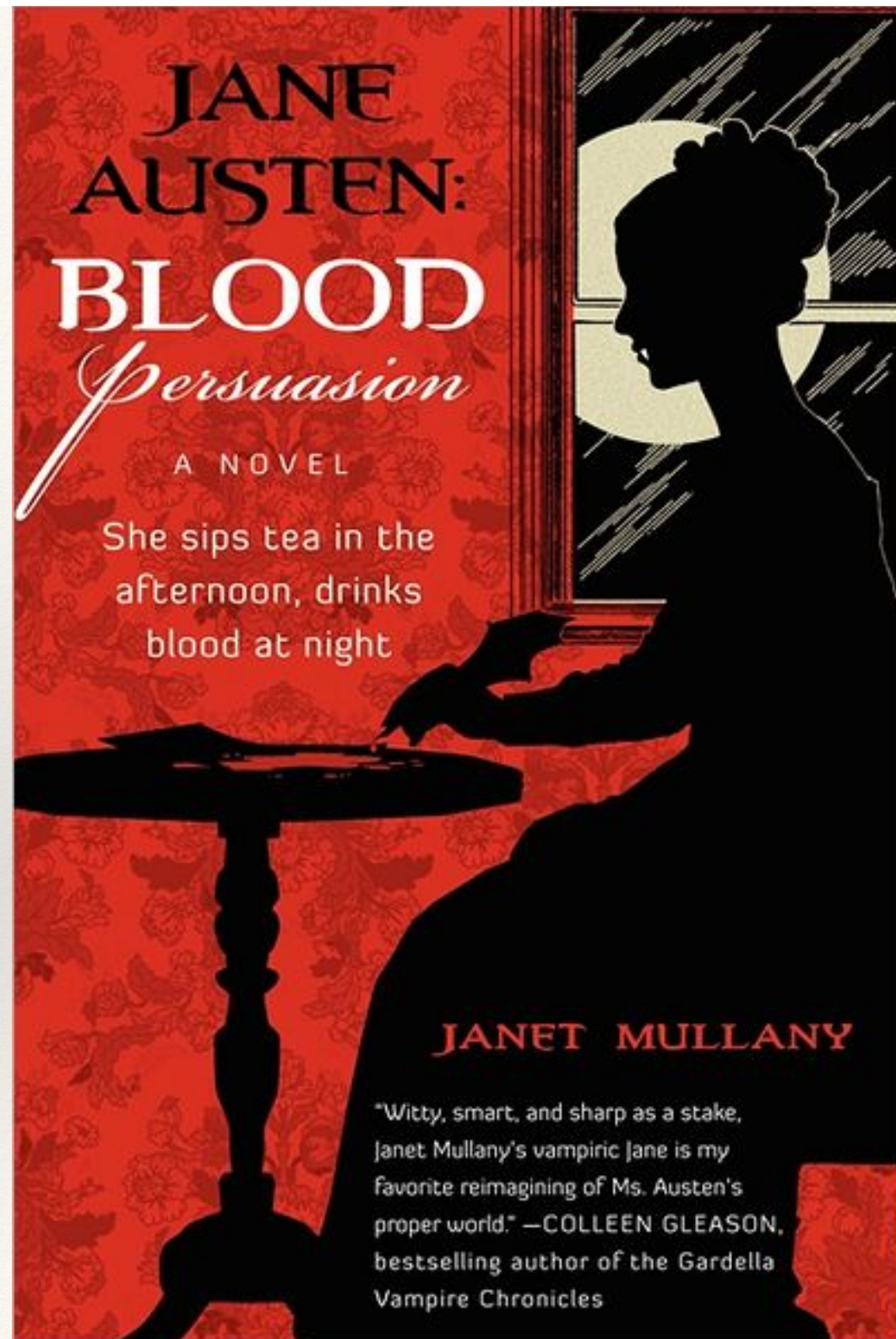


It is a truth universally acknowledged that Jane Austen is still alive today . . . as a vampire.

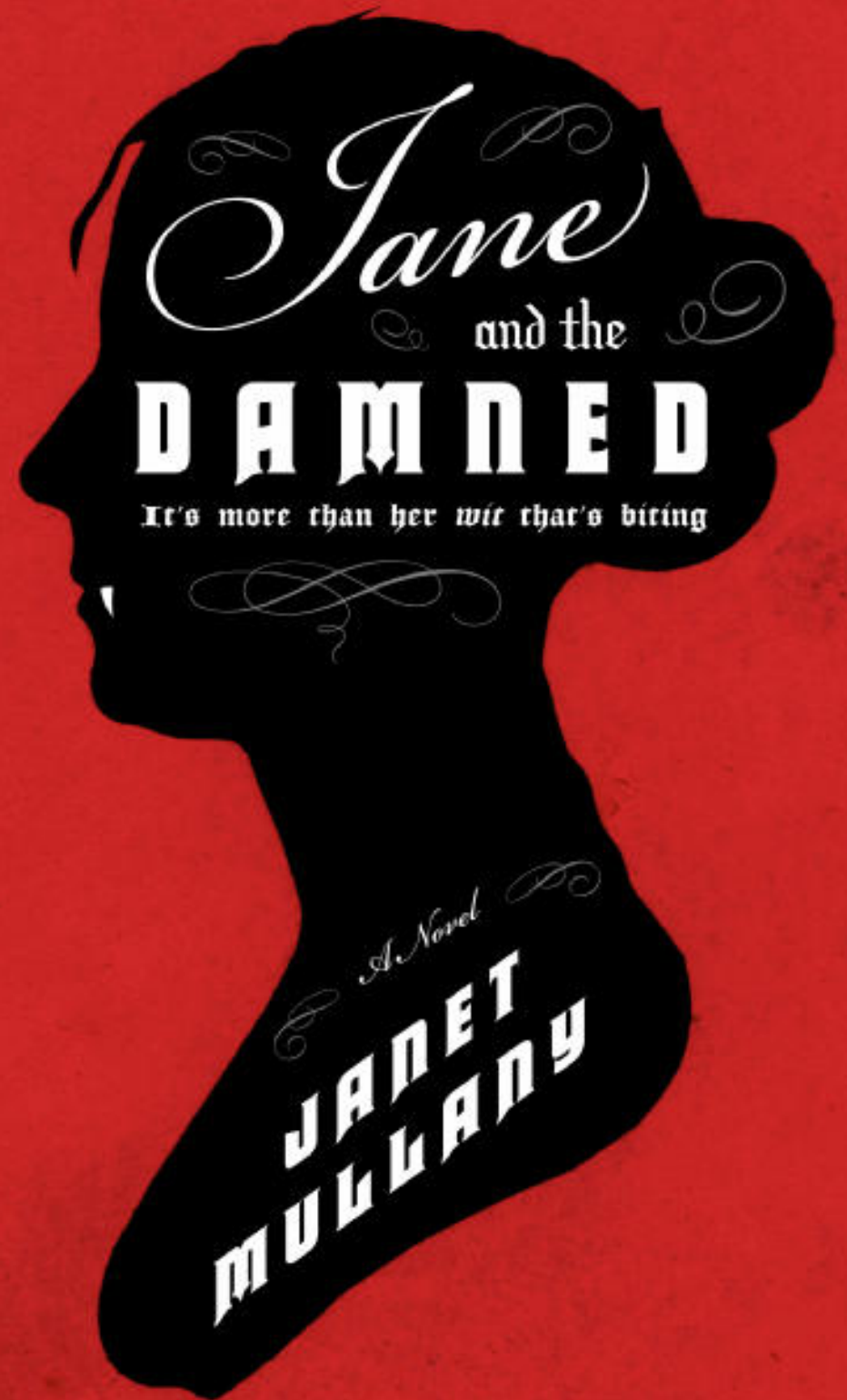
Jane BITES BACK

Michael Thomas Ford

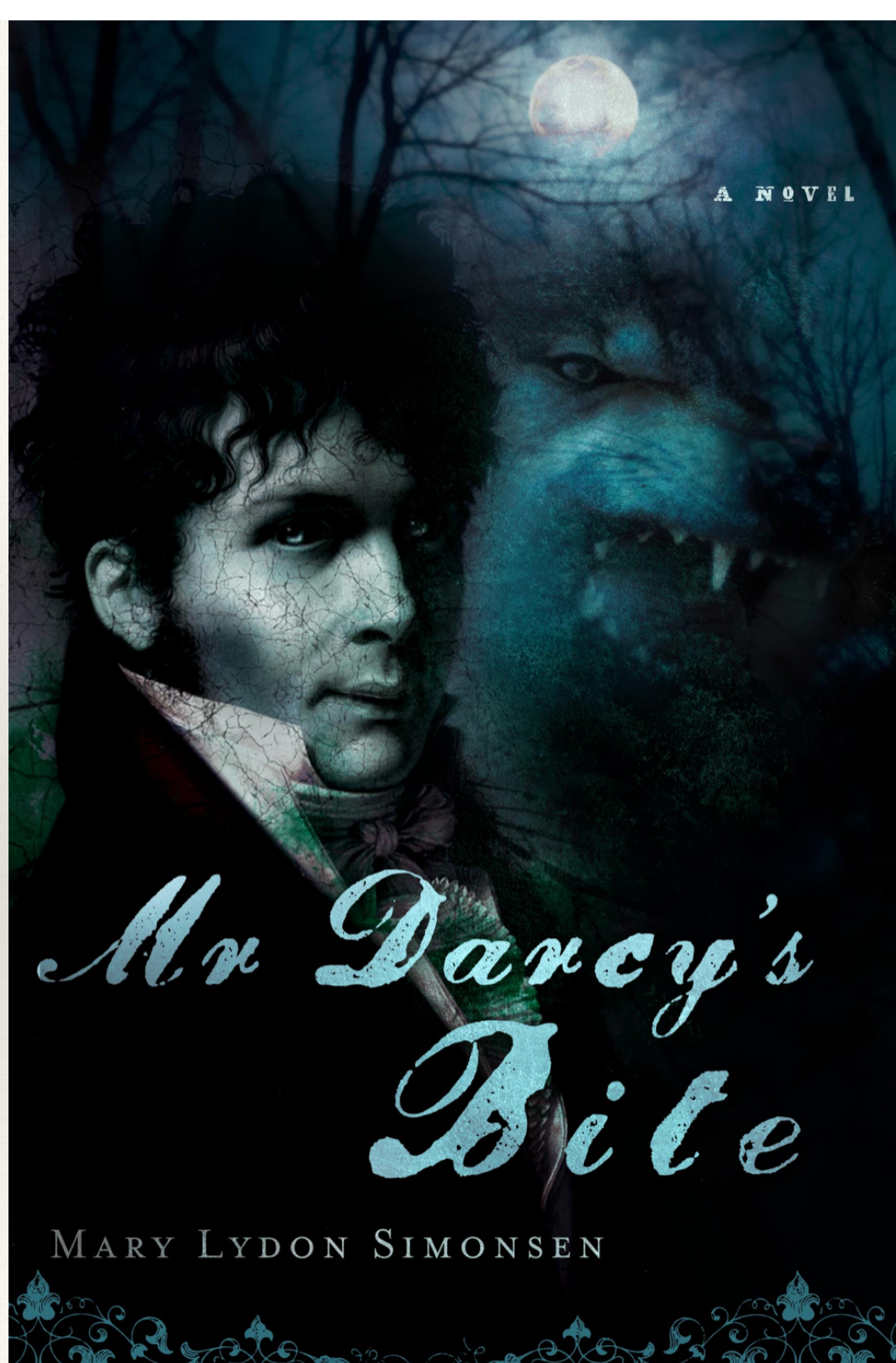
OMGWTFBBQ



Make it stop!



It will never stop



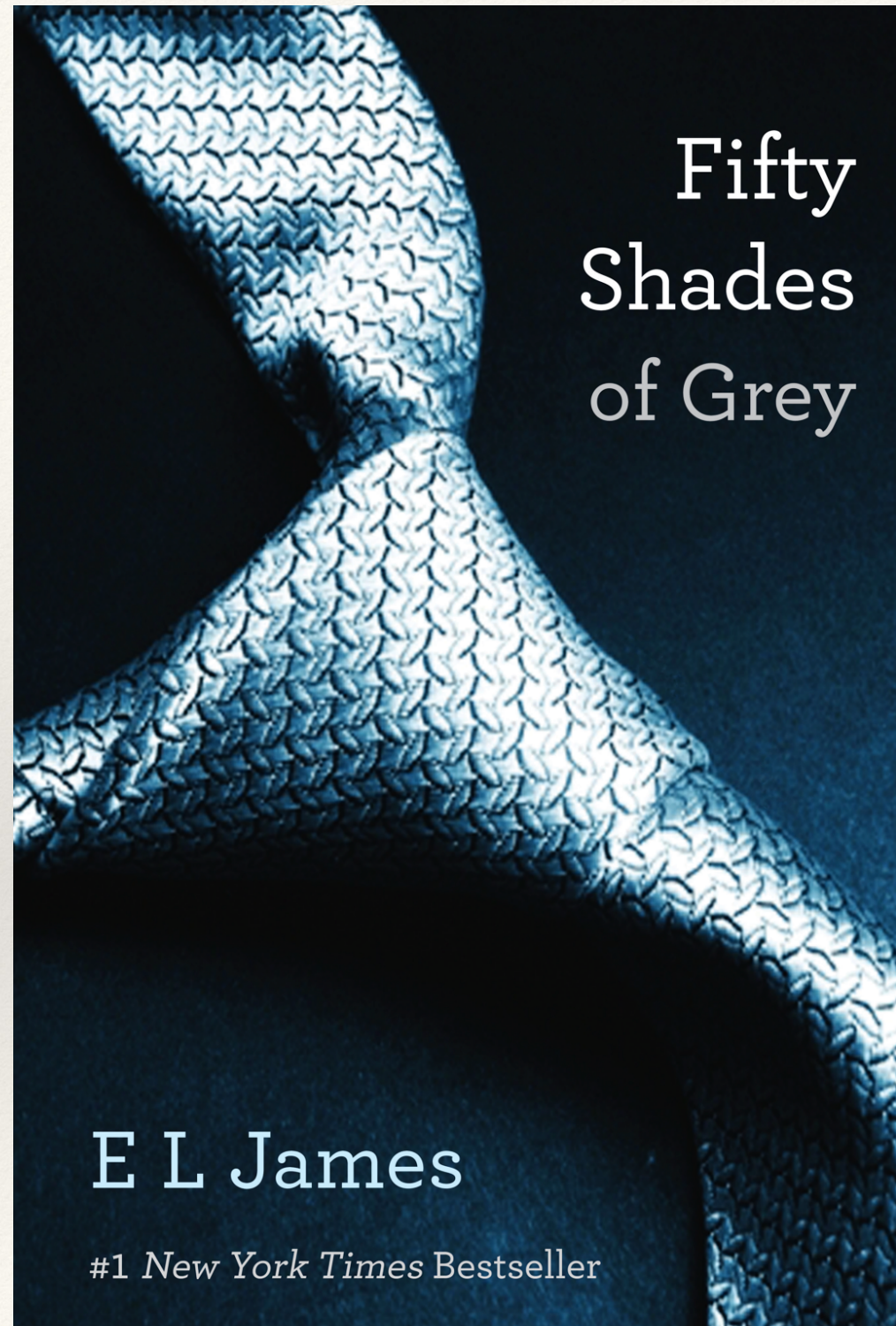
Twilight

- ❖ Why? Because Stephenie Meyer
 - ❖ Says in interviews that it is explicitly based on *P&P*. It's fan fiction, just really, really successful fan fiction
 - ❖ Bella mentions Austen in all 4 of the novels, makes explicit comparisons, often to Austen's detriment
 - ❖ Meyer's publicist also writes *Austeniana (Prom and Prejudice)*
- ❖ And here we come to why Austen's novel might have such powerful resonance with our contemporary world *and* the undead: it is about a population that is marginal, largely without power and whose existence is precarious: women and vampires.



50 Shades of Grey

- ❖ Originally written as fan fiction of *Twilight*, so Austen meta-fan fiction
- ❖ What is it that *50 Shades* understands correctly about Austen?
 - ❖ Young woman, financially precarious, depends on older, economically secure man
 - ❖ This scenario, while frightening, may also comport a certain degree of *pleasure* for the reader.
 - ❖ Such pleasure would, by definition, be sado-masochistic.
- ❖ In the case of *P&P*, *Twilight* and *50 Shades*, central fantasies seem to revolve around social and economic fragility of young women; most clear in *50 Shades*.



Let's reenact the fantasy scenes from 50 Shades of Grey; like the one where she gets a job straight out of college.



Austen & the Undead

- ❖ Vampires have always been a way of talking about the socio-economic margins; Austen, the precarious status of young women—these novels try to imagine a *future* for those who might not have a future
- ❖ Ford and Meyer both imagine a world where women can be productive (*and* reproductive)
- ❖ James and Meyer imagine one where women's sexual-economic dependence would also give them pleasure; is this also Austen's goal?

