

10-16-2013

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies

Maggie Mason Smith

Clemson University, mason5@clemson.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib_pubs



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Mason Smith, Maggie, "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies" (2013). *Publications*. 71.

https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib_pubs/71

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact kokeefe@clemson.edu.

Austen, Jane and Seth Grahame-Smith. *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. San Francisco: Quirk Productions, 2009. Print.

“Miss Elizabeth Bennet!’ repeated Miss Bingley. ‘Defender of Longbourn? Heroine of Hertfordshire? I am all astonishment. You will be having a charming mother-in-law, indeed; and, of course, the two of you would fell many an unmentionable with your combined proficiencies in the deadly arts.’” – page 23

Popular Reading, PS3607.R33848 P75 2009

Elizabeth Bennet, a student of Shaolin, was trained as a warrior from an early age. Along with her four sisters, Miss Bennet studied musketry and swordsmanship, and in this way has dispatched a great many of England’s zombies, as she considers the protection of her country to be the most important of pursuits. However, when she is not defending the Hertfordshire countryside or her family estate of Longbourn, Miss Bennet participates in a diversion common to many other young women, her sisters included: she pays and receives social calls.

While thus socializing, Elizabeth is introduced to Mr. Bingley, to his associate Mr. Darcy, and eventually to Mr. Darcy’s acquaintance, Mr. Wickham, as well. All three men ultimately wield a powerful influence over the Bennet family, but each does so in a different way; Elizabeth is especially affected by Mr. Darcy and can scarcely determine her own feelings toward him at any given time, while to all appearances, Mr. Darcy suffers a similar situation with regards to Elizabeth. The range of emotion connecting the three men and the five Bennet sisters – and between Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy in particular – creates an array of misunderstandings that when combined with the social intricacies of the time and the occasional zombie attack, lead to a variety of complex, and often somewhat odd, results.

Using Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* as a foundation, Seth Grahame-Smith creates a new world in which Austen’s recurring themes of love, marriage, and social etiquette in Regency-era England are peppered with training in the dojo, sparring with ninjas, and general zombie mayhem. In addition to tension caused by their own personal traits – Miss Bennet must refrain from beheading Mr. Darcy while Mr. Darcy struggles to overlook Elizabeth’s inferior social connections, for example – in Grahame-Smith’s work, the two must also manage the ever-present threat of being eaten by a zombie, all while attempting to achieve personal growth and self-actualization. Grahame-Smith’s version of Austen’s classic is brilliant, but to truly enjoy the parallels and the deviations between *Pride and Prejudice* and *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, an examination of both Austen’s original work and Grahame-Smith’s parody are recommended.