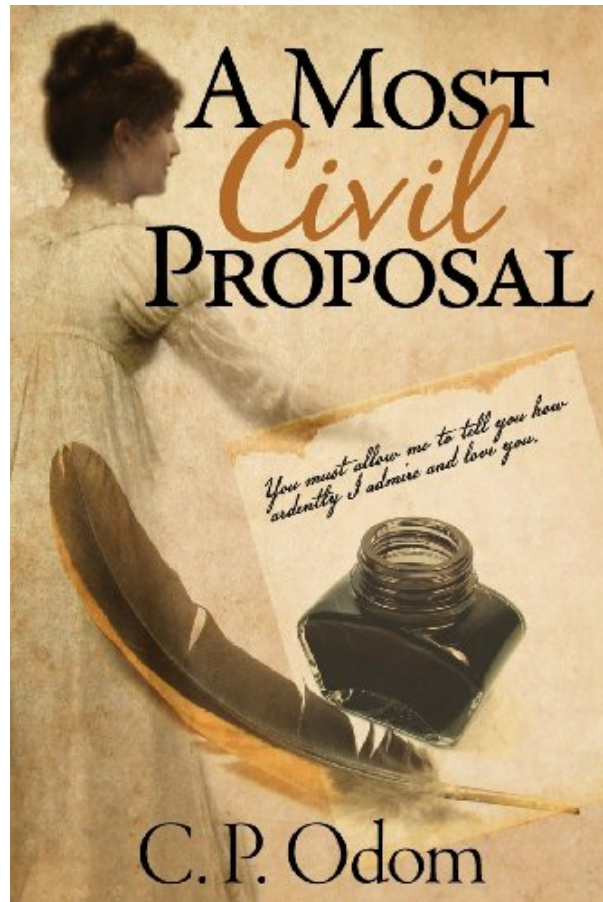
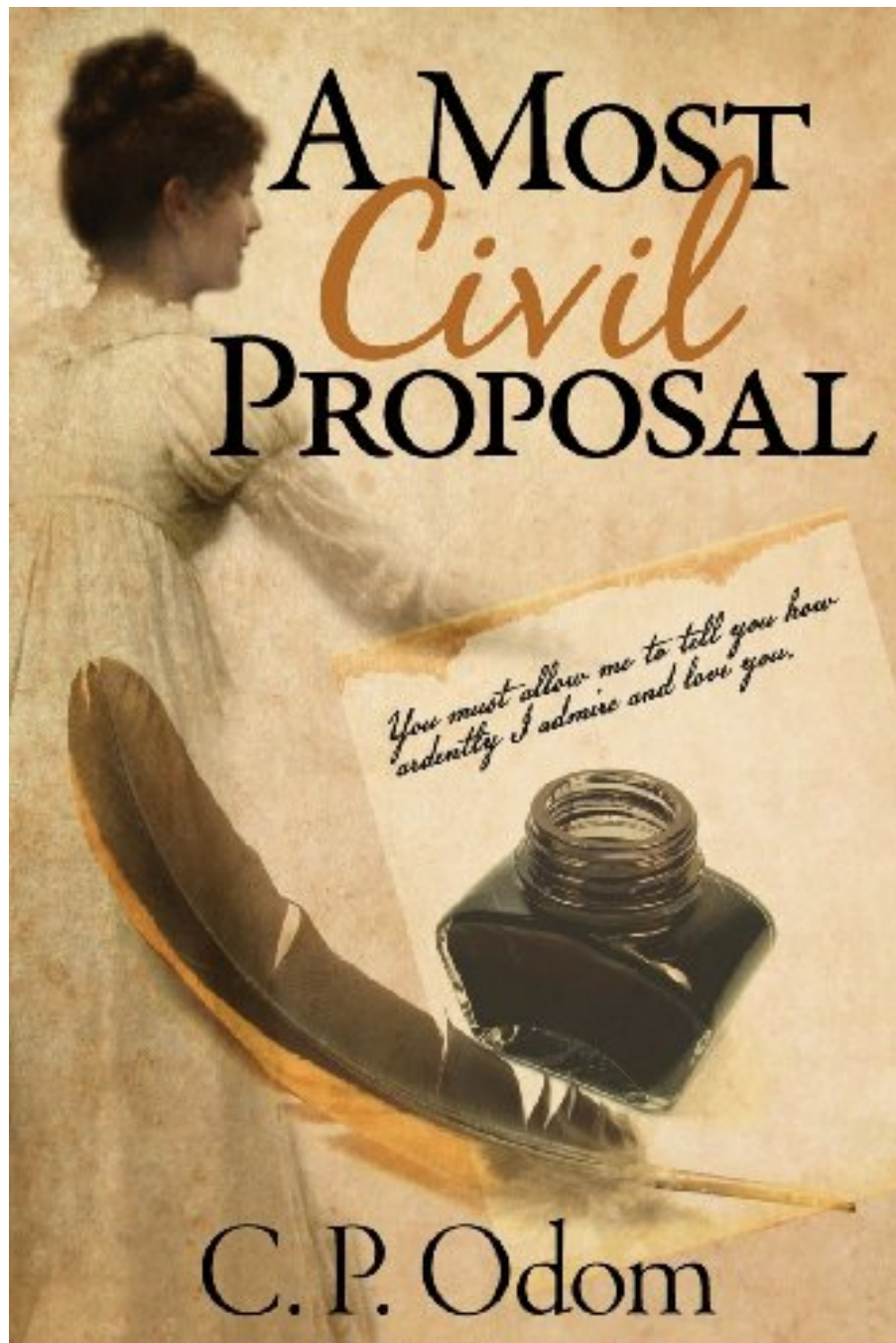


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## A MOST CIVIL PROPOSAL BY C. P. ODOM PDF

"You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you." When Fitzwilliam Darcy spoke these words to Elizabeth Bennet as part of his marriage proposal, they expressed his concealed feelings completely, but their meaning was at odds with the rest of his prideful and arrogant offer of marriage. It was therefore rather easy for Elizabeth to reject his offer in much the same manner. But what if Darcy, never one at ease when trying to speak of inner sentiments, had realized beforehand how his intended proposal would sound to the young woman he hoped to make his bride? What if he had attempted a much more civil and thoughtful proposal of marriage? Could Elizabeth Bennet have coldly and angrily rejected an offer made in such a manner? *A Most Civil Proposal*, a variation on Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice", examines and explores how the lives of the two main characters and their families and friends might have turned out differently had Darcy realized his error beforehand and thus avoided being so forcefully instructed and corrected by the love of his life.

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### Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

### Most helpful customer reviews

32 of 35 people found the following review helpful.

3 1/2 Stars - Much drama over very little

By LR

This is an enjoyable book, it reads quickly and keeps the readers interest. The dialogue is convincingly Austenian and the plot darts from conflict to conflict buoyantly. To answer the books premise - would *Pride and Prejudice* be changed if Darcy had given Elizabeth a 'civil' proposal instead of the one he did? - seems to be 'no.' But it is mostly entertaining nonetheless.

But this book did prove frustrating to me, in it's small way. Be forwarned, I intend to spoil at least parts of it below, although exactly how spoilable this book can be is different to everyone.

The characterizations of P&P's characters, while largely apt and appealing, occasionally veered off in a most distractedly way. With main characters like Elizabeth and Darcy, they would move in and out of it, but other side characters like Lady Catherine and Mr. Bennett felt entirely and fundamentally misunderstood or at least poorly interpreted.

A good example of this is one of the first hurdles after Darcy has given his first proposal, when Mr. Collins perceives Darcy's extended stay at their house (while we know he is proposing but no one else does) as an attempt on his part to force himself onto Lizzy, spreads this news about, and the servants catch wind and a scandal is implied. My first problem here is the idea that Mr. Collins, who knows nothing better than to drool upon those of higher classes, would subsequently never accuse Darcy of what he did and effectively blacklist him from his life the rest of the book. My second problem is the 'implied' nature of the scandal, in that we are told it is a big deal but never actually hear about it from anyone other than those angsty over its consequences.

And, more problematically, we have Mr. Bennett instantly hating Mr. Darcy, preferring Wickham and believing him even after Lizzy has written to him detailing his crimes, and refusing his blessing and likewise blacklisting Darcy and Elizabeth from his house. This interpretation of Bennett has no relation to the original, who would have been more amused by the whole thing that passionate and enraged. Bennett is marked by his indifference, and you really fail to understand why exactly he hates Darcy so much. He almost let Lizzy marry Mr. Collins, it doesn't make sense why he would behave so here with Darcy.

There are other odd or annoying character details as well, such as Lady Catherine being reduced to a shrill harpy who runs a poorly managed estate. Lady Catherine may be annoying and condescending but she isn't a fool nor would she breach propriety in the way she does in this book, and Darcy certainly wouldn't too. There is also something odd in the character of Fitzwilliam, though he is more amusing than perplexing.

Kitty and Mary are largely ignored, the latter more so, and Lydia does indeed try to make off with Wickham in the night. In another odd moment Lizzy slaps her twice in a way that is certainly what the reader wants but comes off strangely on the page. Also, in a pretty surprising and somewhat disturbing aside in the epilogue, it is implied that after released from jail Fitzwilliam took a mysterious sabbatical to basically track down and kill Wickham? Such a brutal end to someone who yes is quite regrettable but in no way deserves to be murdered.

Lizzy and Darcy's relationship has many an up and down, too much so to relate here. But they do get married and have lots of sex. This book is quite chaste for the first half, and while the sex scenes aren't incredibly graphic you do have a good sense of what's going on so it's not PG.

This book also, I think, suffers a bit from its neglect of certain side characters, such as Jane who as usual has nothing interesting to do in these sequels. Mr and Mrs Gardiner and upgraded and Kitty and Mary and Charlotte downgraded. Kitty and Caroline meet ultimately sad ends, and it seems like Mary and Anne never marry.

For me, this book is enjoyable enough to recommend, but not crafted well enough to love.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Mr. Darcy Endeavors at a Little Civility

By Meredith (Austenque Reviews)

What if Darcy, remembering the many conversational faux pas he's made in the past with Elizabeth Bennet, spent some time contemplating and carefully selecting the words he would use in his proposal to Elizabeth Bennet? What if Darcy went to Hunsford Parsonage (after spending the night writing himself helpful cue cards) with an eloquent, heartfelt, tender, and most civil proposal? What if Elizabeth still refused him?

The Result: An emotionally charged exchange that was as intense as it was turbulent! Even though Darcy made her a most gentlemanly and amorous proposal, Elizabeth still brought up her two strong points of

contention with him. And Darcy, instead of communicating his defenses and explanations to her accusations in writing, he said it all to her in person. Elizabeth was able to see the raw pain, suppressed anger, sincere honesty, and hopeless despair plainly written on Mr. Darcy's face; and Darcy was able to witness Elizabeth's reaction to all he disclosed, her fierce fury, uncertainty, agitation, and tears. Such an impassioned and powerful scene! (You might need your smelling salts near by...)

As you can imagine a scene like this would send the characters of *Pride and Prejudice* on a decidedly different course. And with Darcy's lengthy, unchaperoned interview with Elizabeth being remarked upon by the gossipy servants of Hunsford Parsonage and the witless Mr. Collins, it would seem that this course has accelerated in speed and direction.

Oh my! I am utterly in love with the premise and many scenes in this book! I loved how, during this intense proposal scene, the point-of-view switched back and forth between Darcy and Elizabeth, and that readers were able to witness their internal thoughts as well as observe their reactions and emotions. It was all extremely well-written! I melted into a puddle at Darcy's beautiful and sensitive proposal, and I was completely wrapped up in their heated debate and candid conversation. In addition, I loved the scene between Mr. Bennet and Mr. Darcy a few chapters later...whew! What a showdown that was!

POSSIBLE SPOILER ALERT! One quibble I have with this story is Elizabeth's path to self-discovery and love. I don't mind Lizzy being forced into a situation where she marries Darcy before falling in love with him, that kind of premise has appeared before in novels by Abigail Reynolds, Susan Mason-Milks, Karen Cox, and Jan Hahn. What I wasn't too fond of was the fact that Elizabeth took immense pleasure, initiated, and craved romantic intimacies with Mr. Darcy yet at the time was still undecided over whether or not she loved him. Why would it take Elizabeth several months to ascertain her true feelings when she already esteemed and admired him before they were married? In addition, I felt Elizabeth having such a strong sexual appetite and not feeling affection for her husband felt a little incongruous. Warning: This book has several romantic scenes and is recommend for Mature Audiences only.

Despite my issues with Elizabeth's feelings, I immensely enjoyed reading this debut release from C.P. Odom! Many Austenesque fans will delight in the inventive premise, incredibly emotive scenes, and an adorably eloquent Darcy! I recommend!

#### Austenesque Reviews

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Fun Read

By Indie Jane

A proposal is that crucial episode in a couple's relationship where one person makes their argument for why they want to spend the rest of their life with the other. The answer is usually based on how good of an argument the person makes in their proposal. But what if you have notoriously bad luck properly communicating with the person you want to marry? That gets you Mr. Darcy's infamously terrible first proposal. But what if Mr. Darcy had thought out his proposal, would it have changed the outcome?

That is the premise of C. P. Odom's book, *A Most Civil Proposal*. In this book, Mr. Darcy decides to write out his proposal beforehand and revise it until he has a proposal that effectively communicates his feelings. But, despite putting so much thought and effort into his proposal, he did not have a plan for a negative outcome. Because, why would anyone turn down such a love-filled proposal from Mr. Darcy?

In the process of the altered proposal, we get a better understanding of Mr. Darcy's feelings towards

Elizabeth and then the heartbreak when she still turns him down. He could not have foreseen that Lizzy would have reasons for turning him down besides his manner of proposing. The poor thing put all his love and hope for a beautiful new life together into his proposal and had his dreams crushed.

Lady Catherine de Bourgh plays a critical role in ensuring the marriage of these two individuals and in this alternate version, she does not lose that role which she must have cherished playing. Lady Catherine's servants end up, in their own way, destroying her dreams for a union between Darcy and his cousin Anne. Not a heartbreak for Anne, who admits to being physically unsuitable for the role as mistress of Pemberley. And this is something I liked about this book, the supreme irony between Lady Catherine's wishes, her actions, and the results she gets in the end.

My issue with the book was the difference in the relationship between Elizabeth and her father in this version. Due to the altered circumstances surrounding Mr. Darcy and Lizzy's engagement, Mr. Bennet does not get to see that they will be marrying for love. But the effect of his opinions on the marriage changes how he treats his once favorite daughter and soon to be son-in-law. I do not agree with this interpretation of how Mr. Bennet would have reacted because I do not believe that Mr. Bennet could have allowed a letter from Mr. Collins to estrange his relationship with his daughter to that extent. I feel that it goes against his character.

However, I found *A Most Civil Proposal* to be a fun read for those who love to read alternate versions of *Pride & Prejudice*. I personally love reading alternate versions because the possibilities are limitless.

I am excited to see what C. P. Odom's second book, *Consequences*, will bring.

Four out of five stars.

Reviewed by Patty for [...]

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