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Move over Zombies, This Version of the Beloved Classic May be Even More Dangerous

“Thank God for Mitzi Szereto! Now the literary purists have someone new to go after with their pitchforks. Adding zombies to *Pride and Prejudice* was one thing, but SEX SEX SEX? It’s sacrilege! Raunchy, hilarious, subversive sacrilege...which is the best kind, of course.”—Steve Hockensmith, author of *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies: Dawn of the Dreadfuls*

Regency prose meets sexual mayhem meets historical parody in Mitzi Szereto’s unique retake of Jane Austen’s classic *Pride and Prejudice*. As of this writing, a hot controversy brews about PRIDE AND PREJUDICE: Hidden Lusts. Many shudder at the idea of a “sexed up” Jane Austen, including the *L.A. Times*: “Was it not enough that Austen has already endured the onslaught of zombie hordes? Now, poor ‘*Pride and Prejudice*’ stands to face something possibly more destructive to the author’s Austen-ness: plain old consummation.”

Others, including the literary arbiter *Library Journal* savor the idea of opening the bedroom door and ripping off the dashing Mr. Darcy’s shirt (and breeches), not to mention everyone else’s, pointing out that author Szereto added “enough romantic tension à la Austen is present to give the novel the extra gas needed to propel readers to the final denouement.” UK’s *Guardian* suggests, “Perhaps we all secretly want to know what happened behind closed doors between Darcy and Elizabeth. Martin Amis, for one, has even admitted as much. ‘I wouldn’t have minded a rather more detailed conclusion—say, a 20-page sex scene featuring the two principals.’”

—more—

Mitzi Szereto's PRIDE AND PREJUDICE: Hidden Lusts captures the voice and, we dare say, the sense and sensibility, wit and long awaited sensuality of Jane Austen, answering the question readers have always wanted to know: What *really* went on behind closed doors?

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About the Author

Mitzi Szereto is an author and anthology editor of erotic and multi-genre fiction and non-fiction. She has a blog "Errant Ramblings: Mitzi Szereto's Weblog" (mitzischereto.com/blog) and a Web TV channel "Mitzi TV" (mitzischereto.com/tv), which covers the "quirky" side of London. Her books include *In Sleeping Beauty's Bed: Erotic Fairy Tales*, *Getting Even: Revenge Stories*, *The New Black Lace Book of Women's Sexual Fantasies*, *Wicked: Sexy Tales of Legendary Lovers*, *Dying for It: Tales of Sex and Death*, and the *Erotic Travel Tales* anthologies. She has pioneered erotic writing workshops in the UK and Europe and lectured on creative writing at several British universities. Originally from the USA, she lives in Greater London.

Pride and Prejudice: Hidden Lusts

by Mitzi Szereto

\$15.95, trade paperback original

376 pages, 5" x 8"

ISBN: 978-1-57344-663-1

Publishing July 1, 2011

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Mitzi Szereto's PRIDE AND PREJUDICE: HIDDEN LUSTS Incites Media Controversy

On July 1, Cleis Press is publishing *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE: Hidden Lusts* by Mitzi Szereto, in which the celebrated erotica writer re-imagines the Austen classic with the entire cast of characters "going all the way."

The Guardian posted a review June 9th that opens with, "Perhaps we all secretly want to know what happened behind closed doors between Darcy and Elizabeth. Martin Amis, for one, has even admitted as much. 'I wouldn't have minded a rather more detailed conclusion—say, a 20-page sex scene featuring the two principals, with Mr Darcy, furthermore, acquitting himself uncommonly well,' he's written."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/booksblog/2011/jun/09/genre-hopping-jane-austen>

But not everyone agrees. *The LA Times* cracked open the controversy on June 8th with a reader poll asking, "Do You Want an XXX Jane Austen":

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/jacketcopy/2011/06/dirty-jane-austen-or-not-poll.html>

And *Entertainment Weekly* picked up the story on June 9th with the headline, "'Pride and Prejudice' Gets a Racy Rewrite" : <http://shelf-life.ew.com/2011/06/08/on-the-books-june-8-co-author-of-michael-vicks-autobiography-claims-the-quarterback-is-a-changed-man-pride-and-prejudice-gets-a-racy-rewrite-and-more/>

—more—

Bill Deresiewicz, author of *A Jane Austen Education*, joined the conversation on June 9th with a blog on *The Huffington Post* entitled: “Jane Austen Porn: We’re All Guilty” <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bill-deresiewicz/jane-austen-porn-were-all-b-874349.html>

Author Mitzi Szereto responds to the controversy, “Classic works of literature have inspired authors both past and present. Taking pre-existing works and creating something new from them is just another form of art, be it literary or visual. Many of history's greatest authors appropriated characters and themes from other literary works; I'm merely continuing the practice. As for the sexual content in my *Pride and Prejudice: Hidden Lusts*, I very much doubt Jane Austen was a shrinking violet!”

And Cleis Press publisher Felice Newman adds, “Should classics be re-imagined for our time? That’s why great literature lasts—because we want to imagine what that great work wants to say to us now. And for those of us who are fans of explicitly erotic literature, we want to allow those much loved characters to play out their romance the way we would have it now.”

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