

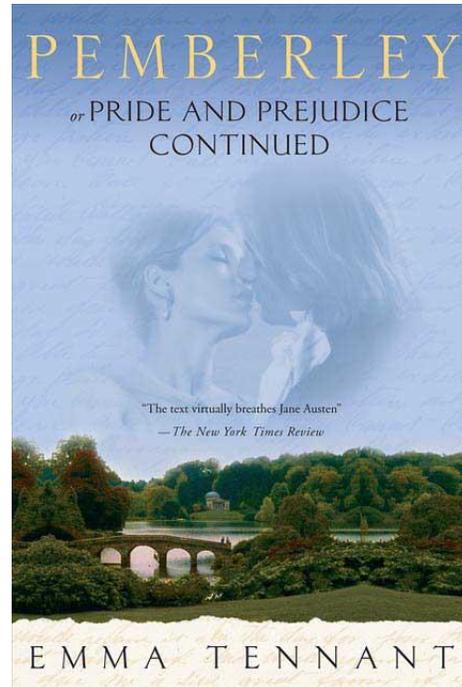
READING GROUP GUIDE

Pemberley

By *Emma Tennant*

ISBN 13: 978-0-312-36179-2

ISBN 10: 0-312-36179-3



About this Guide

The following author biography and list of questions about *Pemberley* are intended as resources to aid individual readers and book groups who would like to learn more about the author and this book. We hope that this guide will provide you a starting place for discussion, and suggest a variety of perspectives from which you might approach *Pemberley*.

About the Book

As Jane Austen's beloved novel *Pride and Prejudice* comes to a close, Elizabeth Bennet proudly announces her engagement to Mr. Darcy, boasting, "We are to be the happiest couple in the world." But after the nuptials, can a marriage between two people as strong-willed as Elizabeth and Darcy survive? With all the wit and style of Jane Austen, Emma Tennant brilliantly imagines both the perils and pleasure of such a marriage.

It's now a year after the wedding, and the time has come for Elizabeth and Darcy to invite their families to visit Pemberley—but not without trepidation, for any gathering that includes both Mrs. Bennet and Lady Catherine de Bourgh must occasion gaffes and hurt feelings. And when Darcy becomes increasingly distant and Elizabeth falls prey to vicious gossip, the forces of pride and prejudice are at work once again in this "eminently enjoyable" continuation of *Pride and Prejudice* (*Los Angeles Times*).



READING GROUP GUIDE

About the Author

Emma Tennant, who grew up in England and Scotland hearing about her family's connection to Jane Austen (her elder half-brother was descended from Jane Austen's brother Edward Knight), is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the author of numerous distinguished novels.

Discussion Questions

1. *Pemberley* opens with the married life—and worries—of Elizabeth Bennet, now Mrs. Darcy. Do you sympathize when Lizzy feels daunted by her new responsibilities, or should she be counting her blessings at having caught Mr. Darcy?
2. How do you view Mrs. Bennet? Is she a mother-in-law gone too far, or do you secretly feel sorry for an elderly woman trying to keep her head up in a sea of snobbery?
3. *Pride and Prejudice* is built on misunderstandings and then clarification. Do you feel that Lizzy should trust her husband more, now that he has given her romance and security?
4. How do you think the desire and need for a child to cement a union has—or hasn't—changed since Jane Austen's day?
5. Do you find Master Roper, who will inherit Pemberley if Lizzy does not give birth to a son, as ridiculous and unappealing as she does? Or is he also a victim in this hierarchical society?
6. Jane is the eldest sister, but Lizzy has overtaken her. Do you recognize any sibling jealousy in Jane? How would the story be different if told through her eyes?
7. In *Pride and Prejudice*, Darcy is described as having fallen “violently in love” with Elizabeth Bennet. How does that translate into his married life in *Pemberley*?
8. The most antagonistic character in the book is Lady Catherine de Bourgh. What do you think of the way that Lizzy deals with Darcy's aunt? Is theirs a “healthy” family relationship?
9. Where do you think the comedy belongs in this story—in finding social embarrassment in the lives of the rich and famous, such as the Darcys, or in recognizing the common humanity of the characters?
10. To what extent does Lizzy's pregnancy supply a satisfactory ending to the story? What do you think might happen next?

For more reading group suggestions, visit

www.readinggroupgold.com

