

# BAD AUSTEN : THE WORST STORIES JANE NEVER WROTE PDF, EPUB, EBOOK



## **Bad Austen: The Worst Stories Jane Never Wrote by Peter Archer**

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matchmaking. If you think that sounds like bad Austen, you couldn't be more right. It is a truth universally acknowledged that an author as popular as Jane Austen should be imitated, expanded upon, and parodied. There are horrible variations with beloved Austen characters behaving decidedly out of character.

I have to single out my personal favorites, which all happen to use *Pride and Prejudice* as their basis. One is a silly ghostly mystery with a Scooby Doo-type of mashup. Another imagines Mrs. Darcy and Mrs. Bingley disgusted with their husbands, who seem to have developed a computer game addiction. Hermione finds Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy's love story wonderfully romantic and wants to witness them herself. Not so much. Darcy swallows a potion Ron intended to drink himself, and the results are pretty funny. Fortunately, the short length of these stories prevents any of them from being overly objectionable. Most are good for a few chuckles and the occasional laugh, while others won't elicit more than a groan or a "meh." Not having ever watched *The Jersey Shore*, for example, the humor in that one escapes me. Curiously, the book is filled with proper names and first words in sentences that are NOT capitalized.

This is true in every story. Grammar and punctuation otherwise are unobjectionable, or at least as unobjectionable as you might expect in a "Bad" writing contest. I suppose it's possible that the many capitalization errors are intentional, but they're certainly distracting. I was expecting this to be irreverent, and it is. Probably too outside the box for Austen purists. I'd hoped the parodies would be more amusing than most of them are. It's definitely change-of-pace, light reading that you can pick up and put down without worrying about losing the flow of a story, since each is short enough to read in just a few minutes. Oct 14, Dena rated it liked it.

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The organization of the entries was equally bad. Ostensibly, there were 3 parts: Scenes set in Austen's time, scenes set in the modern day, and scenes where Austen and more fantastical worlds collide. However, they put a Dr. Who based snippet in the "Austin's time" section and one based on the tv show House in the "fantastic" section. Now, I know House is also fiction, but aside from Dr.

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Sep 15, Sandra rated it did not like it Shelves: could-not-finish. Truly the worst written variations known to man So bad, I could not finish. Upon hearing the news, Miriam Cauldwell could scarcely believe that anyone could have mistaken Colonel Prickett for a pheasant. She could not think of two entities more dissimilar, and yet, someone within the hunting party had shot the Colonel dead upon his estate, Perfunctory Hall. The very idea that a man with so distinguished a military career could be killed by a neighbor who mistook him for a game bird was too abhorrent for words. And the boy to whom it is entailed? What of him? Miriam bemoaned the listing of Mr. Sudden ownership of Perfunctory Hall, however, made him the most handsome man in creation.

Unfortunately for Miriam, twenty years of age and still unmarried, Lavinia appeared to see Mr. Farthingale as her last great hope. Farthingale imports cloth? She could not believe it; Mr. Petticoat imported petticoats? Ring the bell for tea, dear, said Mrs. The first opportunity for society to see Mr. Farthingale was at the funeral. He was pronounced a dignified mourner, and all the more handsome for looking so well in black. He was polite, if a little distant, but that was to be expected after a loss in the family. Most everyone in the county believed he would be married by Christmas. When Epiphany passed without a whisper of engagement, necessary measures were taken. Hammerstone was an imposing estate littered with medieval fortifications and the ghosts that supposedly haunted them and was therefore impossible to make inviting from the exterior.

Upon entering, however, the foyer led to what everyone simply called the junction. It was a glorious ball, but Miriam was the only person truly enjoying the evening, for the most important guest had been delayed in London and would either be very late indeed, or not appear at all. Having at least temporarily escaped being paraded about like chattel, Miriam danced, and laughed, and was inadvertently quite charming. Lavinia looked upon it as a terrible waste; what was the point of being witty and gorgeous in front of married men and dour clergy?

In the course of the evening, it became apparent that Lavinia had taken several glasses beyond prudence, resulting in her telling the Right Reverend Cummings that, yes, absolutely, their Lord and Savior would greatly enjoy a good novel. One more child would follow Jane three and a half years later—a boy. Jane would then have six brothers and just one sister, the beloved Cassandra.

The rectory was also a working farm, with fields of crops, a dairy, and a poultry yard. Miriam had greatly enjoyed that conversation and felt no remorse for quietly prodding her great-aunt further into the discussion at the time, for the Reverend was always a good sport and had a quick wit himself. After, however, it became clear there was no reining her in now she was begun, and poor Mr. Farthingale had thought it polite to put in an appearance, regardless of the lateness. Oh, huzzah! He is come! Where are you, child? Lavinia did not wait and made straight for her unsuspecting guest. We were afraid you would not come!

How was London? Is your business complete? And in such a lovely vest! You are a handsome devil, Mr. Where is Miriam? You come with me, sir, we will find her! By then she had hold of his sleeve and dragged him across the ballroom. Miriam slipped behind the musicians and made for the foyer before her overly enthusiastic great-aunt could embarrass the young man any further, but Lavinia spotted her and shouted across the room for all to hear, Miriam! Stop at the junction! Come, sir, this way! Lavinia shouted as, sleeve in hand, she dragged him back across the ballroom. Elizabeth was quietly reading at the feet of her sister Jane, who was working on a dainty piece of embroidery. The sisters had been retired to the drawing room in companionable silence for most of the morning, each deep in thought, reflecting on the events of the previous evening at the ball in Meryton.

Jane was fondly thinking about the charming Mr. Their twin reverie was broken by the excited shouts of younger sisters Lydia and Kitty, who bounded into the room accompanied by chants of A visitor! We have a visitor! Jane, thinking that perhaps Mr. Bingley had come to call, quickly settled herself back on her settee in what she hoped was a beguiling pose. Bennet, roused from his study by his boisterous daughters, stalked into the room, trailed by his wife.

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Margaret Fiske Contributor. If you think that sounds like bad Austen, you couldn't be more right. It is a truth universally acknowledged that an author as popular as Jane Austen should be imitated, expanded upon, and parodied. Now, in the tradition of the Bad Hemingway and Bad Faulkner contests, comes a new collection of hilarious efforts to write the worst excerpt from the novel Jane Austen never wrote. Bad Austen : Because the only thing better than good Austen is bad Austen! Get A Copy. Paperback , pages. Published November 15th by Adams Media first published October 7th More Details Other Editions 5. Friend Reviews. To see what your friends thought of this book, please sign up. To ask other readers questions about Bad Austen , please sign up. Lists with This Book.

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