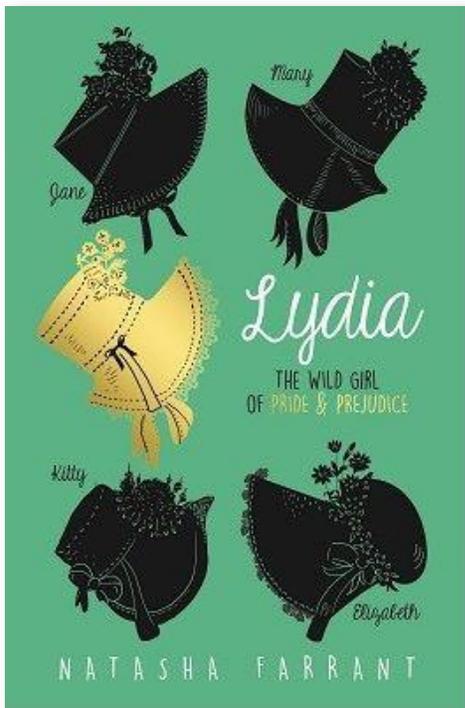


Helping you choose the best books for children

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Lydia** **The Wild Girl** **of *Pride & Prejudice*** by Natasha Farrant

Chicken
House

Below are the complete reviews, written by the LoveReading4kids members.



Jenny Duffy

A very readable and thoughtful book, which brings a welcome feminist slant to Austen's work and takes a fresh look at one of *Pride & Prejudice*'s less likeable characters.

Fifteen year old Lydia Bennet thinks a journal is an awfully dull birthday present. She lives in 'the Depths of the English countryside where nothing EVER happens.' However, Lydia's world is soon to become a lot more exciting with the arrival of the militia in Meryton, and a handsome nobleman courting her eldest sister. When she is given the chance to go to Brighton, at last Lydia has the chance to show her

family that she isn't the flighty, stupid creature they think she is. She will show them what Lydia Bennet is made of.

Natasha Farrant brings Lydia Bennet to exuberant, energetic life. She makes her quite a modern young lady – one who resents the limitations put on women of her time. Her love of dancing and dramatics remains, but we also see Lydia as someone who longs to be taken seriously, and not be a mere source of amusement (or embarrassment). With Lydia's trip to Brighton, Farrant introduces an original subplot with memorable and exotic characters. Her attention to detail in terms of clothing and customs is impressive (I enjoyed the scenes with the bathing machines) and she creates a book that is both respectful

of Austen and an entertaining read in its own right. The diary format is very effective, Lydia's voice is earnest and lively. A very readable and thoughtful book, which brings a welcome feminist slant to Austen's work and takes a fresh look at one of Pride & Prejudice's less likeable characters.

<http://thebookstheartandme.wordpress.com>

Cara Mcilroy, age 14

A fantastic story - I couldn't put down.

This story follows the plot of Pride and Prejudice. To begin with it seems very repetitive but it gets interesting when Lydia leaves for Brighton. Here the author uses letters and diary entries to tell us what happened to Lydia Bennett when she embarked on her adventure. We get little insights into Mr Darcy when he appears but we get to see another side of the relationship between Mr Wickham and Lydia. If you have read Pride and Prejudice you will know the ending to this story but what I loved is that this story casts a different light on it. I absolutely loved it as it showed Lydia in a completely different light in her efforts to be as independent as a young lady could be in that era.

Minion115

Sophia Ufton

This was a really interesting story. I wasn't going to read this book but I'm so glad I did.

Lydia is the youngest Bennett sister and she's fed up of where she lives in the country. She wants fun and adventure. When a male stranger turns up Lydia's life turns upside down. This man shows her everything she ever wanted but is it what she truly wants and how will she decide?

Hannah Maxwell

This is a great book, giving you Lydia's side of Jane Austen's classic book. It is a brilliant take on Pride and Prejudice and I would love to see more books from this author.

Kyra, age 17

An utterly delightful read filled with vivacious characters, dashing suitors and daring escapades. It's a charming, whimsical novel that NEEDS to be on your summer reading list!

Lydia: The Wild Girl of Pride and Prejudice is a book that captivated me from the first page! This vibrant, fanciful retelling of the youngest Bennett sister will enrapture Jane Austen fans old and new as well as intrigue those who haven't yet read her works. An honest, humorous and heartwarming tale that I fell in love with.

<http://www.blogofabookaholic.blogspot.co.uk/>

Maisie Sadler, age 15

I loved this book. It was gripping and a very well written spin-off from Pride and Prejudice!

Lydia is one of 4 sister to Elizabeth Bennet, this book focuses on Lydia taking us, the reader, on Lydia's adventures through diary entry's where she expresses her thoughts and feeling. I thought it was a fun, interesting read and would recommend it to anyone who's interested or has read *Pride and Prejudice*!

Edel Waugh

Being a big fan of *Pride and Prejudice* I was so excited to get to read this book about the boldest member of the Bennett family. Lydia's story takes place at the same time as the original *Pride and Prejudice* so it's easy to jump into the story if you are already familiar with the plot. Mary gives Lydia a journal for her to keep in the hope it will improve her sister, so begins a look into this outgoing Bennett sisters life in diary form. Seeing the story from Lydia's perspective is an eye opening experience and she is just as outspoken as you would expect her to be. Reading about her adventures while away from her family and on holiday is an eye opening experience, she has a need to show off at every available opportunity and in her letters home to her family she does this as often as possible. **This was a delightful story and it would make a great read for any fan of *Pride and Prejudice*.**

Celeste Phelan, age 14

A novel that teleports the reader back in time to the 19th century giving a taste of a completely different era.

Lydia Bennet is 15 years old lives in a rural house in Longbourn, Hertfordshire along with her mamma, papa and her 4 sisters. However, the days go by with little adventure or excitement, both things that Lydia craves. That is until an army regiment visits their town. Suddenly, Lydia is swept up in adventure that she has always dreamed. Falling in and out of love, moving to Brighton and meeting a count and countess. What more could a girl wish for??

Lydia is a head strong, determined and has a fighting spirit. Overcoming obstacles of all standards Lydia desperately wants to prove her family and the rest of her world that she can handle herself in every situation.

My favourite part was when Wickham and Lydia first meet in the streets of Longbourn and is the first insight in their relationship to come.

Lydia is a fantastic continuation of the Pride and Prejudice story and has really encouraged me to read this classic novel. I recommend this novel to children 9+ as it is a relaxing read and it also includes the issue that during the 19th century women were considered inferior to men and could not survive in the real world without the help of a man.

Destiny Maraj, age 14

*I really liked how this novel was set in the olden days with the characters having old fashioned, traditional values. It had a creative and original story line with an interesting plot, **I found this novel taught me more about how women were treated in the olden days and the unfairness of it all. Overall I loved Lydia.***

Humaira, age 18

Lydia is not only such a delightful book but also such a gem of a character and I'm sure she has captured the hearts of many who read what she has to say.

I am willing to read (and watch) anything that has to do with Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice and this book sure was a treat. It was a lovely read and a fantastic opportunity for the younger generation to discover the world of Pride and Prejudice!

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