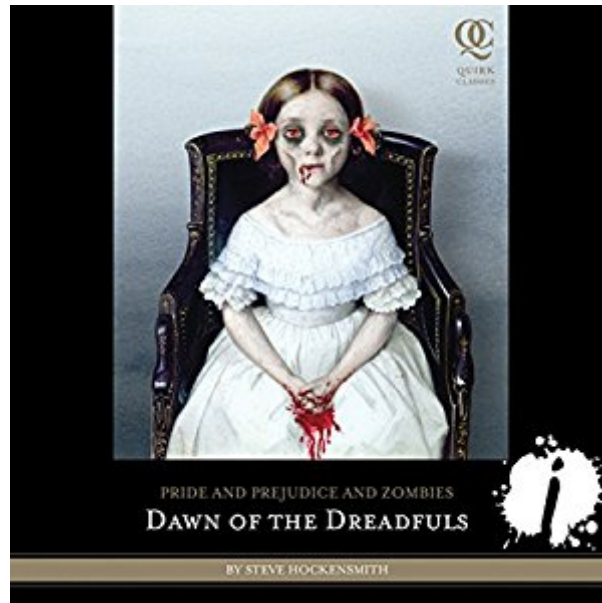


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Pride And Prejudice And Zombies: Dawn Of The Dreadfuls



Synopsis

Witness the birth of a heroine in Dawn of the Dreadfuls â” a thrilling prequel set four years before the horrific events of Pride and Prejudice and Zombies. As our story opens, the Bennet sisters are enjoying a peaceful life in the English countryside. They idle away the days reading, gardening, and daydreaming about future husbands â” until a funeral at the local parish goes strangely and horribly awry. Suddenly corpses are springing from the soft earth â” and only one family can stop them. As the bodies pile up, we watch Elizabeth Bennet evolve from a naive young teenager into a savage slayer of the undead. Along the way, two men vie for her affections: Master Hawksworth is the powerful warrior who trains her to kill, while thoughtful Dr. Keckilpenny seeks to conquer the walking dead using science instead of strength. Will either man win the prize of Elizabethâ™s heart? Or will their hearts be feasted upon by hordes of marauding zombies? Complete with romance, action, comedy, and an army of shambling corpses, Pride and Prejudice and Zombies: Dawn of the Dreadfuls will have Jane Austen rolling in her grave â” and just might inspire her to crawl out of it!

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When you remove the novelty from a novelty novel, you end up with something akin to "Dawn of the Dreadfuls." Mind you, there is nothing particularly wrong with Steve Hockensmith's prequel to the surprise hit of last year, "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies"--it just seems somewhat unnecessary. I will defend "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies" as an ingenious experiment, but its foremost success

was to meld actual Jane Austen text with a story of the undead. This is what made the experience unique and daring. Seth Grahame-Smith challenged modern readers, and horror readers at that, to revisit (or in many cases, visit for the first time) Austen's prose in an audacious new way. As a stand alone volume, "Dawn of the Dreadfuls" is a perfectly readable, enjoyable and pleasant little book. Charting the journey of the Bennet family in the years prior to "P&P&Z," we see the rise of the unmentionables within the sleepy little countryside and the call to arms of the Bennet daughters. From frivolous schoolgirls to lethal warriors, "Dreadfuls" plays as more of a family saga. Headstrong Elizabeth is still at the forefront, but all the characters get their due. Since "Dreadfuls" isn't tied to a particular format as "P&P&Z" was, the opportunity for more zombie mayhem and bloodshed presents itself. The spectacularly staged grand finale is even reminiscent of an upscale "Night of the Living Dead." Hockensmith does try for the tone of Austen, especially in the romantic dalliances, but not the language. Funny and irreverent as it may be (and that's a good thing), it just lacks the novelty and cleverness factor of its predecessor. In broad strokes, he stays true to the idea of the characters if not their specifics.

Let's start off with some reviewer honesty, here. I've never been fond of Zombie stories, or movies. C'mon, who could be afraid of something that walks with the efficiency of a two-toed sloth, while shedding body parts. More than once, I've shouted, 'don't scream---just run.' Now Vampires, my favorite creatures of the night, they're a different story. You can't run from them---and they can be so darn seductive, too. Not so with gooey, smelly, Zombies. Ugh! Now you know why I've avoided Seth Grahame-Smith's work, to which 'Dawn of the Dreadfuls' is the prequel. Then destiny unfolded and Hockensmith's work was a Vine offering. My curiosity was piqued by the brilliant cover art. I hesitantly made the selection with limited expectations. Zombie's aside, I wasn't quite sure how I'd feel about anyone messing with Ms. Austen's masterpiece, P&P. I was prepared to be the worst critic. I'm here to confess that, 'Dawn of the Dreadfuls,' was some of the most fun my free-child has had, in a long time. It was nothing like I expected. From the moment that dear Mr. Ford becomes an animated cadaver, at his own funeral, the action starts and there is scarcely a dull moment. All of the characters are well developed and delightful, but the Bennett girls steal the show, particularly Lizzy. The girls experience many of the societal ills witnessed in P&P---that of a patriarchal society with strict social and moral boundaries. As in P&P, the girls were content to spend countless hours primping, daydreaming and searching for the perfect suitor. Of course, Mrs. Bennett is in typical form, pushing them toward higher social status. Then suddenly, their lives change.

When I first saw the movie I thought Elizabeth played by Lily James was brilliant. So I headed to the bookstore and bought a copy of *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, determined to savor it page by page. It was really witty and had much more detail than the movie, which is what I was going for. When I read the line Elizabeth coldly said to her cousin Collins, not far into the book, I had to put the book down. I decided I had to read the prequel to understand who Elizabeth was at that moment and what had brought her to such cold sentiment. So I bought the Kindle version of *Dawn of the Dreadfuls* I was wondering if it was going to be as entertaining. It wasn't just that, it was awe inspiring. I understand now why the Bennets are considered the saviors of Hertfordshire and how they came to be that way. I understand her coldness came with her "coming out" ball, and the lessons she learned when her innocence died that night. Perhaps that's why, in the movie, her sisters had to persuade her to smile more. After what she's been through I'm amazed her character can pull it off when she meets Mr. Bingley. By the time we see her in *Zombies*, she is a full fledged warrior, as are her sisters. Before reading this prequel, I often felt I was missing so much of the picture. The appreciation for this book is that it fills in much of the missing universe in the Movie. Even before you read *Zombies* for the first time, I feel like everyone should read *Dawn of the Dreadfuls*. It makes Lizzy and Jane's marrying Darcy and Bingley all the more fulfilling. The book stops abruptly and really it should have ended with their father sending them off to China to train for real, but it ended on a good note.

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