



## The Pursuit of Mary Bennet: A Pride and Prejudice Novel

By Pamela Mingle

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A tale of love and marriage, society balls and courtship, class and a touch of scandal, Pamela Mingle's *The Pursuit of Mary Bennet* is a fresh take on one of the most beloved novels of all time, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Growing up with four extraordinary sisters—beautiful and confident Jane and Elizabeth, and flirtatious and lighthearted Lydia and Kitty—wasn't easy for an awkward bookworm like Mary Bennet. But with nearly all of her sisters married and gone from the household, the unrefined Mary has transformed into an attractive and eligible young woman in her own right.

When another scandal involving Lydia and Wickham threatens the Bennet house, Mary and Kitty are packed off to visit Jane and her husband, Charles Bingley, where they meet the dashing Henry Walsh. Eager and naïve, Mary is confused by Henry's attentions, even as she finds herself drawing closer to him. Could this really be love—or the notions of a foolish girl unschooled in the art of romance and flirtation?

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### Editorial Review

#### From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* In Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Mary Bennet is the socially awkward, bookish middle sister who is rarely mentioned. In her first adult novel, YA author Mingle (*Kissing Shakespeare*, 2012) plucks the character from obscurity and brings her to life in this delightful spin-off. Of the five Bennet sisters, Mary is the one viewed by everyone as least likely to wed. Twenty-two years old and still living at home with her younger sister Kitty, Mary resents her predicament and her parents' expectations. Her life takes a turn when her very pregnant and disgraced sister Lydia arrives home, and Mary and Kitty are shuttled off to live with their older, married sister, Jane. There, at High Tor, Mary meets the handsome and prosperous Henry Walsh. While Kitty vies for his attention, it's Mary who holds Henry's interest. But Mary is reluctant to open her heart to the love she longs to receive. *The Pursuit of Mary Bennet* is the story of a woman's search for acceptance and identity and a man's quest for her affections. Mingle makes no attempt to replicate Austen's voice. Rather, she lets Mary speak for herself in this romantic charmer that will leave the reader sighing with pleasure and remembering what it feels like to fall in love. --Diane Holcomb

#### Review

"This novel is hard to put down. As an emotionally deep story of one woman's re-invention of herself, it is a character piece that transcends genre....**Highly recommended.**"

*Elizabeth Knowles, Historical Novel Review Society*

Austenophiles rejoice! Here at last is the untold story of the forgotten Bennett sister. Pamela Mingle transports us to Regency England for a delicious tale of the triumph of love over awkwardness. (Susan Fales-Hill, author of *Imperfect Bliss*)

"Delightful...[a] romantic charmer that will leave the reader sighing with pleasure and remembering what it feels like to fall in love." (Booklist (starred review))

#### From the Back Cover

The enthralling story of *Pride and Prejudice*'s middle sister, Mary Bennet—an enchanting modern sequel to the beloved classic

For most of her life, Mary, the serious and unpolished third daughter of the Bennet family, has been overshadowed by her sisters—beautiful and confident Jane and Elizabeth, and flirtatious and lighthearted Lydia and Kitty. But with nearly all of her sisters married and gone from the household, awkward, unrefined Mary has blossomed into an attractive young woman with a quiet poise of her own.

When a very pregnant Lydia unexpectedly returns to the Bennet home and scandalously announces she's left Wickham, Mary and Kitty are packed off to visit Jane and her husband, Charles Bingley, in Derbyshire. Yearning for the solitude of home, Mary is dismayed to discover Bingley's handsome and eligible friend Henry Walsh everywhere she turns. Unschooled in the game of love, Mary finds Henry's warm attentions confounding. Is his interest genuine or does she foolishly mistake friendliness for something more? With her heart and her future at risk, Mary must throw caution to the wind to find the truth—a journey of discovery

that will teach her surprising lessons about herself and the desires of her heart.

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