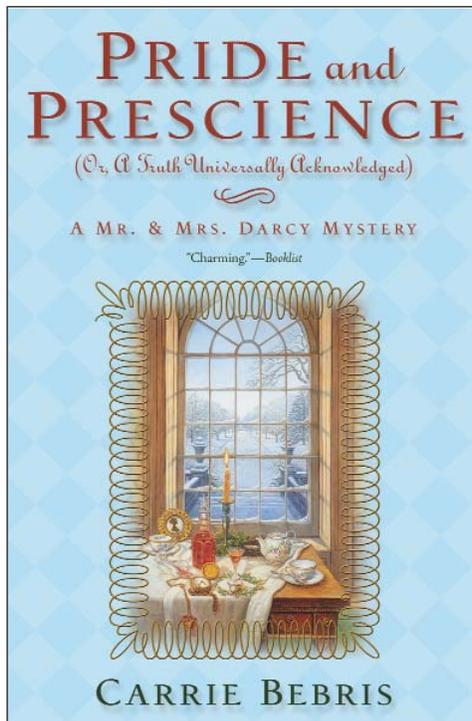


# Carrie Bebris

## Pride and Prescience



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“Engaging.... Bebris’s smooth style is evocative of Austen with many dry witticisms.”

—VOYA

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Carrie Bebris** began her career in publishing after previous roles as a newspaper reporter and college English teacher. She worked as an editor for fantasy publisher TSR, Inc., and wrote two fantasy novels before making her mystery debut in 2004 with *Pride and Prescience*.

Since then, she has written two more Mr. & Mrs. Darcy mysteries: *Suspense and Sensibility*, and *North by Northanger*.

Carrie holds a master’s degree in English literature with an emphasis on nineteenth-century authors, and studied Austen on the graduate level with one of the country’s most respected Austen scholars. She is a longtime member of the Jane Austen Society of North America and has taken research trips to England to enhance her understanding of Austen’s life and work.

Originally from Wisconsin, Carrie now lives in Ohio with her husband. When not writing, she enjoys time with her family, watching costume dramas on A&E, and indulging in her love of all things British. She is currently working on her next novel.

### ABOUT THE BOOK

When Caroline Bingley marries a rich, charismatic American, her future should be secure. But strange incidents soon follow: nocturnal wanderings, spooked horses, carriage accidents, and an apparent suicide attempt. Soon the whole Bingley family seems the target of a sinister plot, with only their friends the Darcys recognizing the danger. A jilted lover, an estranged business partner, a financially desperate in-law, an eccentric supernaturalist—who is behind these events? Perhaps it is Caroline herself, who appears to be slowly sinking into madness. . . .

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. The book's subtitle comes from the opening line of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*: "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." Bebris includes this line as an epigraph at the start of *Pride and Prescience*. What expectations did this quote and subtitle set up in you as a reader? How does it reflect the characters' expectations?
2. The word *prescience* means foresight, foreknowledge, or anticipation of events. Which characters in the novel display prescience, and in what ways?
3. Discuss the theme of appearance vs. reality in the novel. Are there characters besides Parrish who—unintentionally or deliberately, for good or bad—are not entirely what they seem?
4. To what extent is Caroline responsible for her own misfortune?
5. Describe the dynamic between Elizabeth and Darcy, in terms of both their marriage and their sleuthing. What strengths does each bring to the relationship? What weaknesses? How well do they complement each other?
6. Elizabeth and Darcy clash over the issue of reason vs. intuition. Which do you rely upon most strongly when making decisions?
7. Are the characters complicit in their own deception? To what degree does each allow him or herself to be deceived by Parrish and others?
8. Each chapter begins with a quote from *Pride and Prejudice*. Why do you think Bebris included them, and what, if anything, did they add to your experience of the novel? Did these quotes lend insight into the chapters? The characters?
9. Compare and contrast the marriages shown in the novel.
10. From the first chapter to the last, Elizabeth and Darcy long to reach Pemberley. Discuss this theme. What does Pemberley represent?
11. The novel has two primary physical settings—London and Netherfield—within the broader context of fashionable society during England's Regency period. How do time and place contribute to the story?
12. How familiar were you with Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* before reading *Pride and Prescience*, and with what expectations did you come to this book as a result?

13. If you are familiar with *Pride and Prejudice*, compare Bebris's representations of Austen's characters with the originals. Also, compare and contrast Mr. Parrish with Mr. Wickham.

14. Gothic novels were popular in Austen's time, and Austen herself read and enjoyed them. Although Austen parodied the supernatural elements of gothics in her novel *Northanger Abbey*, Bebris chose to make the paranormal threat real in *Pride and Prescience*. Were you surprised by this aspect of the novel's resolution?

15. In the end, did each character get what he or she deserved?

## PRAISE FOR *PRIDE AND PRESCIENCE*

"Bebris's charming mystery employs the beloved characters from Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice* in a bit of sleuthing.... Fans of Stephanie Barron's Jane Austen books will want to check out Bebris' series debut."

—BOOKLIST

"Austen fans will delight in this novel, which easily immerses readers into Regency England and the lives of the captivating Darcys. Bebris has done a very credible job capturing Austen's writing style and adds a twist of mystery to the mix." —ROMANTIC TIMES BOOKREVIEWS

"Well-crafted.... Bebris works her own brand of Austen magic, whetting the reader's appetite for a sequel."

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

"Mannered prose, Regency backdrops, moody country houses, and delightful characterization place this series high on the to-buy list." —LIBRARY JOURNAL