



[Most Ardently: A Pride & Prejudice Remix](#) by Gabe Cole Novoa

Feiwel & Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2024

ISBN: 9781250869807 (Hardcover)

*Age Range: 13–18 (Suggested by Publisher)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A trans boy searches for a future—and a romance—in which he can live and love openly as himself in this heartwrenching YA reimagining of *Pride & Prejudice*, perfect for fans of *Bridgerton* and *Gwen and Art Are Not in Love*.

London, 1812. Oliver Bennet feels trapped. Not just by the endless corsets, petticoats and skirts he's forced to wear on a daily basis, but also by society's expectations. The world—and the vast majority of his family and friends—think Oliver is a girl named Elizabeth. He is therefore expected to mingle at balls wearing a pretty dress, entertain suitors regardless of his interest in them, and ultimately become someone's wife.

But Oliver can't bear the thought of such a fate. He finds solace in the few times he can sneak out of his family's home and explore the city rightfully dressed as a young gentleman. It's during one such excursion when Oliver becomes acquainted with Darcy, a sulky young man who had been rude to "Elizabeth" at a recent social function. But in the comfort of being out of the public eye, Oliver comes to find that Darcy is actually a sweet, intelligent boy with a warm heart. And not to mention incredibly attractive.

As Oliver is able to spend more time as his true self, often with Darcy, part of him dares begin to hope that his dream of love and life as a man could be possible. But suitors are growing bolder—and even threatening—and his mother is growing more desperate to see him settled into an engagement. Oliver will have to choose: Settle for safety, security, and a life of pretending to be something he's not, or risk it all for a slim chance at freedom, love, and a life that can be truly, honestly his own.

This bittersweet *Pride & Prejudice* remix follows a trans boy yearning for the freedom to live openly, centering queerness in a well-known story of longing and subverting society's patriarchal and cisheteronormative expectations.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Novoa's interpretation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is a testament to the power of queer spaces and community. . . . Brimming with wit and chemistry, this queer revision of a much-beloved source text is nothing short of masterful. A must-purchase." —[School Library Journal](#), **starred review**

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“The minute I finished, I knew this book had already replaced the original *Pride and Prejudice* in my heart. Gabe Cole Novoa has infused this timeless love story with so much care for its transgender protagonist, so much reverence for its queer love story, that I’d happily hand him my whole stack of classics to remix. A beautifully crafted novel, and a gift to those of us still looking for a home in literature’s most celebrated tomes.” —Tehlor Kay Mejia, bestselling author of *We Set the Dark on Fire*

“Hits all the highlights of Austen’s classic novel while adapting it to include queerness and reframing it for a teen audience.” —[NPR](#)

“This triumphant queer and trans retelling of *Pride and Prejudice* holds and cares for its readers, offering a gentle story during an especially difficult period in history for those outside the norm. The relationship between Darcy and Oliver is tender and rooted in mutual compassion. For every reader who fell in love with *Pride and Prejudice* but wished it was a little more queer.” —Booklist

“A beautiful blend of wit, romance, and self discovery, *Most Ardently* is a must read.” —Kels, bookseller at Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore (San Diego, CA)

“Fleshing out the familial and platonic love found in the original novel, *Most Ardently* is an ode to historical LGBTQ+ people and a hopeful queer future, providing a thoughtful exploration of solidarity and the rebellion of authenticity.” —Grace Enright, bookseller at The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn (Glen Ellyn, IL)

“At times heartbreaking and full of warmth, this retelling is everything it promises to be. It is a charming and wonderful read for anyone who enjoys classic literature, Regency romances, and LGBTQIA+ works. ... This book is certainly ‘sweep you off your feet’ worthy.” —[The Historical Novel Society](#)

“Entertaining and fast paced.” —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

“There is much this book does well, including the historical details of clothing being used to highlight both Oliver’s discomfort when wearing women’s attire and his euphoric freedom when wearing men’s outfits. . . . Queer people living full, happy lives have too often been erased from history, and this book is a fine attempt to paint them back into the picture.” —The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

“If you’re an Austenophile or simply someone who was forced to read her work in high school, you’ll enjoy *Most Ardently: A Pride & Prejudice Remix*. If you like queer stories, particularly about gay trans guys, you’ll like it. Are you a fan of both? Well, then, you’ll adore this lovely novel.” —[Geek Girl Authority](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- ALA Stonewall Book Award – Honor Book
- An NPR Best Book of the Year
- A *New York Times* Bestseller
- A Goodreads Choice Award nominee
- New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award nominee
- Kids’ Indie Next List Pick
- Cybils Awards Nominee, Young Adult Fiction

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MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Keats-Shelley Association of America author interview](#)
- [School Library Journal article on Austen adaptations](#)
- [LGBTQ Reads author interview](#)
- [Author video interview with the Ashland Public Library](#)
- [TeachingBooks resources](#)
- [Reactor Magazine article](#)
- [Eulalie Magazine author interview](#)

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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