



## Lies Jane Austen Told Me

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Ever since Emma read *Pride and Prejudice*, she's been in love with Mr. Darcy and has regarded Jane Austen as the expert on all things romantic. So naturally when Emma falls for Blake Hampton and he invites her home to meet his parents, she is positive an engagement is in her future. After all, Blake is a single man in possession of a good fortune, and thus must be in want of a wife.

But when it turns out that what Blake actually wants is more of a hook-up than a honeymoon, Emma is hurt, betrayed, and furious. She throws herself deeper into her work as CMO of Kinetics, the fastest growing gym franchise in the nation. She loves her work, and she's good at it, which is why she bristles when her boss brings in a consultant to help her spearhead the new facilities on the East Coast. Her frustration turns to shock when that consultant turns out to be Blake's younger brother, Lucas.

Emma is determined not to fall for Lucas, but as she gets to know him, she realizes that Lucas is nothing like his brother. He is kind and attentive and spends his time and money caring for the less fortunate.

What she can't understand is why Lucas continues to try to push her back into Blake's arms when he so clearly has fallen as hard for her as she has fallen for him. It isn't until Lucas reveals to Emma that he was adopted into the Hampton family that she begins to understand his loyalty to Blake as well as his devotion to the child April—she is Lucas's biological niece.

Emma opens up to Lucas about the feelings of abandonment she has harbored ever since she was a child and her mother left the family. As she helps Lucas deal with his past demons, she is able to exorcise some of her own.

Realizing that her love life is as complicated as anything Jane Austen could have dreamed up, Emma must find a way to let Blake know that it's time for him to let her go and to let Lucas know it's time for him to love her back.

## Lies Jane Austen Told Me Details

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Author : Julie Wright

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## From Reader Review Lies Jane Austen Told Me for online ebook

### Jacob Proffitt says

This turned out to be a really engaging romance though the second half is a lot stronger than the first. I'm glad I got past the overly-expansive cover copy and the exasperating early conflict to get to the good bits.

I actually had two problems with the story. The first is more present because it makes up way too long of the beginning. Mainly, Emma makes an assumption that colors her read on Lucas and then clings to it rather tenaciously. For something to be so present in her ruminations, her inaction in confirming or disproving the assumption seems both uncharacteristic or even author-manipulated. She even tells herself that she doesn't *know*, but she never moves on to find out. And it's not like it'd be hard. The situation even comes up in conversation enough that there were natural spots to simply ask "hey, what's the deal with . . .?" This put a distance between me and Emma when I really wanted to engage more fully with her.

I eventually came to appreciate Lucas's reaction to learning of her judgey assumption about him. It took me a while because I had to remind myself that I'd had a similar reaction early in our marriage where I couldn't believe Melissa thought something mistaken about me. I don't even remember what it was about, just the lesson learned that she isn't actually inside my head and that loving me doesn't automatically lead to assuming the very best (because I'm as human as anyone else and don't actually deserve that as an unthinking or uncritical instinct in every case).

The second problem is that I never could figure out Blake's motivation. Why does he want Emma now when he doesn't appear to have wanted her in the scene instigating the big blow-out between them? Wright papers over it a little bit by (view spoiler). Anyway, while that part never did make sense, I really liked where Emma's interactions with him went by the end. And I particularly liked the fusion of Emma's and Lucas's perception of him that I got as a reader by the end.

The final relationship resolution with Lucas was outstanding, and that includes the extremely strong portrayal of April. Wright really shines when depicting family dynamics and the Hampton family was a great feature of the story. I wish Wright had pulled them in earlier both because we'd have had more time with them and because the first half of the book could have used such great characters to distract from Emma's weak avoidance issues.

Anyway, this ends up a strong four stars. I just wish more of its strengths had been evident earlier in the story.

**A note about Chaste:** There's some kissing but nothing more than that.

**A note about publisher pricing:** Shadow Mountain seems to be worse even than Covenant for their ebook pricing. They do have some overlapping markets so I wonder if this is a case of competitors adopting each others' worst practices? I hate to see good books buried under such prohibitive pricing.

**A note about Missing Faith:** The main story doesn't have much problem with them not having sex since most of the falling in love happens while Emma and Lucas are separated by prohibitions that mostly work. Emma's (former) relationship with Blake is mainly background, but there's a passage where Blake offers to "make up a room for her to stay the night" that felt very odd. They were alone in the house (as far as Blake was admitting). They've been dating for months. Exclusively. And Emma is expecting a proposal she intends

to accept. Him offering to make up a separate room from his own made me wonder what the crap he was trying to say with that. In contemporary U.S. culture that'd mean he was hiding something or brushing her off. Their relationship should already have been physically intimate and him planning to spend the night apart was suspicious if not outright sinister.

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### **Kathy says**

This has a great start but then the middle lags a little. About half way through I wasn't feeling this one quite as much as I hoped for. Thankfully I kept reading and was rewarded with a fabulous ending that left me satisfied and happy with this how this played out. Great book for those who love Jane Austen.

Content: Clean

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### **Lexxie (un)Conventional Bookworms says**

#### **This review was originally posted on (un)Conventional Bookviews**

Lies Jane Austen Told Me kind of blew me away. I didn't know what to expect when I started reading, but whatever it was, I got much more!

#### **Story:**

Lies Jane Austen Told Me is Emma's story. How she kept her rose colored glasses firmly in place looking for her happily ever after. Possibly she looked for this in the wrong places, though, and suddenly, she wanted to distance herself from everything and anything that had to do with her former heroine. Especially after she showed up at her boyfriend's place to surprise him. And found him having dinner with another woman.

One of the themes in Lies Jane Austen Told Me is to find oneself. But it's also about finding love, daring to believe in it, and grabbing hold of it with both hands and everything else we got. After Emma left Blake, she met Lucas, Blake's brother, and that made things very complicated for all of them.

Lies Jane Austen Told Me was a complex contemporary romance that also dealt with other subjects, as Emma was working hard to help the company she worked for succeed. When Lucas showed up as a consultant she didn't know whether she should laugh or cry. On the one hand, she wanted to get to know him better. On the other hand, she was sure she could manage on her own.

#### **Characters:**

Emma appeared a bit flighty at first, she really believed in love with a capital L, but once she thought she was proven wrong, she did a complete 180 turn. At least for a while.

Blake wasn't a player, but he also wasn't the right person for Emma. They were together more because of habit than because they loved each other dearly.

Lucas was great. Not only was he a knight in shining armor, he was smart, funny, and fiercely loyal, too.

#### **Writing Style:**

First person point of view from Emma's perspective, past tense.

#### **Feels:**

I felt lightness and love while reading *Lies Jane Austen Told Me!* There was humor, friendship, loyalty and courage.

*Jane never had the happily ever after she made us believe we can have. Experience from my collegiate years taught me that it was far better to take advice from people who had walked the walk instead of just talked the talk.*

*We awkwardly stood at our doors, our demeanors suddenly stiff and uncomfortable as we nodded and parted ways to our individual rooms. It was probable that the discomfort existed only on my side, so much of what we did felt like dating.*

*Then came the self-admonition. You can't be mad at someone for being mad at you. It doesn't make sense. But I was mad at him. Sense be hanged.*

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### **Katie W says**

I'm a big Jane Austen fan and a complete romantic at heart. I love the way that Julie Wright brings such a beloved classic to a contemporary light and gives this age-old story a slightly new twist. By doing so, my heart was happy because I could feel the comfort of an old familiar favorite but the exhilarating freshness was something new.

Have you ever taken someone's words as law and then been disappointed when it turns out they weren't as magical as you thought they were? That's kind of what happens to Emma. She is a great character, let me just say. On one hand, she's very competent and strong, but on the other hand, she only needs to be loved and when her boyfriend, Blake, disillusioned her with his fishy ways, she goes as far as to renounce Jane Austen. \*gasp!\* The cast of characters is pleasurable and I loved getting to know Lucas, Blake's brother, better, especially as he's thrown together with Emma through their jobs. In fact, I daresay that Lucas's vague persistence nearly made me swoon a few times.

This story really resonated with me and I adored it all. The middle portion was slightly slower, but I honestly couldn't read it quickly enough. I especially loved the quotes at the beginning of each chapter. Sometimes hard things happen to great people and I love how both Emma and Lucas are able to triumph over their pasts. This is a great read for any Austen lover.

Content: mild romance

\*I received a copy, which had no influence on my thoughts and opinions.\*

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### **Meredith (Austenesque Reviews) says**

#### **Giving Up On Jane Austen and Mr. Darcy!**

TYPE OF AUSTENESQUE NOVEL: Contemporary Romance, Austen-Inspired

SETTING: Present-day California

MAIN CHARACTERS:

- Emma Pierce: A savvy and intelligent CMO who has decided to renounce Jane Austen after years of waiting for a Mr. Darcy or Mr. Knightley to cross her path and being disappointed.
- Blake Hampton: Emma's wealthy and handsome boyfriend who she catches entertaining one of his female work colleagues at his family home.
- Lucas Hampton: Blake's younger brother who Emma meets minutes after breaking up with Blake, and then again later, when he is hired as a consultant by Emma's boss to work closely with her on their expansion to the East Coast.

WHY I WANTED TO READ THIS:

The title immediately drew me in – I do love anything and everything Jane Austen related! One of my all-time favorite Regency Romances, *Edenbrooke*, was published by Shadow Mountain Publishing – I was eager to read more from this company!

WHAT I LOVED:

- Our Modern-Day Heroine: I found a lot to like about Emma Pierce, she is a Jane Austen fan (so already we know she is awesome!), but beyond that I admired how she is professional, strong, super competent at her job, and kind-hearted towards everyone she meets. I appreciated the fact that Emma was a romantic who wishes for an Austen-like romantic HEA, and yet at the same time she is turning pragmatical in her view of love and romance because of the dearth of Austen-like heroes that have crossed her path.
- A Tangled and Tricky Love Triangle: After a break-up with one brother it is a serious no-no to fall for the other brother...no matter how much you feel a strong connection with him!! Add to the fact that this other brother is extremely honorable, loyal to a fault, and constantly trying to convince Emma of how great her ex is. The delicateness and seemingly impossibility of this situation had me completely engaged in this story. Is Emma just on the rebound from Blake or are her feelings for Lucas genuine? Even if Emma was available to date would Lucas keep his distance out of respect for his brother?
- A Good Balance: I appreciated how this story touched upon some more serious and challenging situations such as child abandonment, homelessness, and drug use. I liked that these characters faced some adversity in their lives and how they overcame their tragic and difficult pasts. And I liked how Ms. Wright balanced these sad situations and childhoods with the worthy and supportive Hampton family. Mrs. Hampton is amazing!
- A Very Worthy Hero: With his abundance of admirable qualities – compassion, generous spirit, steadfast loyalty, selflessness, and amiable charm – Lucas Hampton is a hero I easily fell in love with. I loved his devotion to his family and his gallant manner towards Emma. He isn't the embodiment of any one Jane Austen hero, but readers will recognize some qualities he shares with Mr. Knightley and Colonel Brandon, in my opinion.

WHAT I WASN'T TOO FOND OF:

- Relationship with Jane Austen: I must admit I am a bit disappointed with Emma's relationship with Jane Austen. She says she is renouncing Jane Austen even before she breaks-up with Blake and finds out about his lady guest. Why renounce Jane Austen if she has a boyfriend she loves and is expecting a marriage

proposal from? And I'm afraid I didn't agree with Emma's logic that she could "break-up with Jane" and still read and watch *Pride and Prejudice*. How is that a break up? You would think with such a provocative title, Emma's issues with Jane Austen would be rather centric, but they really only made an occasional appearance. Lastly, I'm not usually one to comment on spelling, but it irked me to see Bennet spelled with two T's so many times in this story. Grrr.

#### CONCLUSION:

*Lies Jane Austen Told Me* combines a lot of elements I enjoy from Jane Austen's novels – engaging and worthy characters, misunderstandings and mistaken judgements, and a heroine who undergoes an emotional journey of self-discovery. This sensitive, sweet, and entertaining story will be sure to delight fans of contemporary romances!

Austenesque Reviews

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#### **Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says**

Such a fun story! I loved how Austen was brought into the contemporary world, influencing Emma (even after the "renouncement") and showing why her classics are so well-loved and still relevant. I'm not generally a fan of love triangles, but since I knew from the synopsis that Lucas and Emma are meant to be together, I was able to view the rest as providing conflict and obstacles to their relationship. I loved the friendship they shared and couldn't wait for them to figure things out and get together! While there is plenty of fun banter and snarky thoughts, there are also deeper themes that are explored and I finished the book with a happy sigh :)

(I received a complimentary copy of the book; all opinions in this review are my own)

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#### **~\*\*Anna\*\*~ A Romance Reader says**

The title of this book intrigued me from the start. I love Jane Austen so I tend to gravitate towards books that have her name on the cover or that are retellings from her books. I have to be honest and say this book was good but not great. I didn't fully connect with Emma and I found some of the interactions between the characters to be a little childish. Sylvia, Emma's best friend on the other hand was amazing and I loved her!

This book was clean, which I really don't mind but I know some people like their books to have some spice.

Overall this was an entertaining read but I was expecting a little more.

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#### **Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says**

I picked up this cute, clean contemporary romance on a 99c Kindle special (still available at that price at the time I'm writing this review). Definitely worth the price for fans of the genre!

So for starters, whoever wrote the Goodreads blurb made it way too detailed and included a couple of key spoilers from later in the book ... so don't read the blurb if you're interested in the book. Here's the short version: Emma (a big Jane Austen fan) is a bit of a workaholic as a marketing executive with a gym franchise company. So she turns down her boyfriend Blake's invite to visit his parents' home, but changes her mind. Because probably Blake wants to introduce her to his parents and propose! ... Unfortunately, not so much. When she shows up, Blake's parents aren't there, but another woman is.

On her way out, Emma is snagged by Blake's brother Lucas, who tries to defend his brother. Fast forward to the next Monday, when Emma finds out that Lucas is the new consultant for her company. After a rocky start, they start to hit it off ... but Blake is still in the background, asking for another chance. And Lucas is pushing Emma to give Blake that second chance.

For a story that could have turned into an eye-rolling love triangle, this one threads the needle pretty well. There were a few times that I thought the main characters were acting out of character, just because the author wanted the story to go in a particular direction, but otherwise this was written quite well, with interesting characters, backstories and situations.

This story is much more thoughtful than most romance novels, and is spiced up with just the right amount of Jane Austen references. Good times!

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### **Sherwood Smith says**

I tend to be skeptical about books with Jane Austen in the title--there are too many now that read like cash cows, without the wit, insight, or (in period) the feel of Austen.

But this one was not set in the past, and the heroine was a firm fan of Austen, so I went for it.

I loved the beginning--Emma, a marketing executive, has loved Austen for years, and wants a guy to match Mr. Darcy. Who doesn't? At first it seems that Blake Hampton is her Mr. Darcy; she turns him down for a weekend at his parents', then encouraged by her office team, takes the train down to surprise him.

She gets surprised--ends up with a ride from his scarcely mentioned brother, with a side trip to a squalid part of town, and when she thinks she's done with the entire family, she's not. The brother ends up as her partner for a huge company project, and sparks fly.

I had some misgivings during those early chapters, in spite of liking Emma, and loving how she thinks of Austen. But the book starts out with a Big Misunderstanding, which is not a trope I care for unless it's *very* well done, especially when the obvious question that should be first thing out of her mouth isn't asked for unconvincing reasons until nearly halfway through the book.

After it's asked, though, I was totally on board with the storyline, and the pacing zooms to the most satisfactory ending.

Things I liked:

Emma's job reads like a real job. I have never been interested in marketing, but Wright intrigued me with Emma's enthusiasm and with the realistic-feeling details.

I liked Emma's reading taste, but most of all (one of the highlights of the book) is a lovely bit of dialogue from Mrs. Hampton on Austen.

I liked Lucas a lot. He is a terrific character, and watching the two figure out how to get together made the journey fun.

Things I didn't like:

The seemingly long misunderstanding before Emma asked the obvious question.

Blake's personality changes. (view spoiler)

The very end, there is a short climactic scene that I think robbed the emotional climax a tad, and was unconvincing. (view spoiler)

Those glitches are simply that--Emma, the Austen connection, Lucas, and the voice of the novel were so engaging that I finished with a smile.

Copy provided by NetGalley

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## Anna says

Julie Wright's *Lies Jane Austen Told Me* is a contemporary romance told from the first person point of view of Emma Pierce, a California-based marketing executive for a growing gym/lifestyle company, who is looking for love but mostly married to her work. When a weekend at her boyfriend Blake's family home ends in disaster before it even begins, Emma is forced to rely on the kindness of her now-ex's brother, Lucas, to make her way back home. A stop in a shady neighborhood on the way to the train station so Lucas can take care of some business has her believing the worst about him and churns up sad memories of her childhood.

When Emma's company unexpectedly hires Lucas as a consultant, she is forced to travel to the East Coast with him to scope out new locations, and it's not long before they grow close. Their similar upbringings and their fierce determination help them forge a bond, but Emma can't reconcile this side of Lucas with the man she first met — and she can't understand why he keeps trying to get her to forgive his brother and give their relationship another try. It's almost as if her life is a modern-day Austen novel, but Emma can't forgive Jane for making her believe heroes like Mr. Darcy really exist when such lofty expectations have always left her brokenhearted.

*Lies Jane Austen Told Me* is a cute book that touches on some tough topics like abandonment, homelessness, and addiction, but there is more than enough romance and humor to keep it from feeling too heavy. I liked getting to know Emma through the first person narrative, watching her make mistakes and later learn from them, and I felt as much in suspense as she was to see how it all played out. It was easy to see Austen's influence on the plot and characters, from the strong main characters to their misunderstandings to the friendship between Emma and Silvia, who serves as Emma's sounding board throughout much of the novel. There was a place toward the end where it felt like the drama between Emma and the brothers was a little dragged out, but the pace soon picked up again and the ending more than made up for it. I enjoyed watching Emma figure things out and find her way back to Jane.

## Susan K says

4.5 for me as a reader, clean romance.

This was such an interesting read. It was definitely romantic, but there were some subtleties in the characters and in their interactions that made me wonder why I haven't read more by this author? I don't often re-read light stories, but this will definitely be put on my to-read again shelf to enjoy the subtleties again. Emma's fall out and her relationship with Blake come in sharp contrast to the connection she feels with Lucas, his brother. She relaxes, she laughs, she savors, and learns about herself and what she really wants out of a relationship. Her future, while shaped by her past, is her choice as she navigates the relationship and work issues that come forward in this lovely, charming, and heart-wrenching novel that examines family, values, character, and the choices that Emma makes to find her HEA.

Highly recommend!

I received a copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. I am definitely looking to read more of J.W. fiction work!

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## Scrill says

*I received a copy from Netgalley for a fair review. More reviews can be found at:*

***"This was all her fault. If I hadn't spent half my life wanting to be Elizabeth Bennet, I wouldn't have held my own prejudices so dear. I wouldn't have taken pride in my own clever snap judgements to like and dislike at a whim."***

Emma has broken up with Jane Austen. Despite all the happiness her novels and movie adaptations have brought into her life, she has decided that Jane essentially was a fraud – being that she had ended up an old spinster in the end and not happily married to her own love of her life. Except Emma can't just rid herself of Jane, and her personality that has been derived from constant interaction with the novels can't just go away – her pride, prejudices, assumptions, and expectations all get in the way of her life and quite possibly, her happily ever after. Emma is caught between Blake, who she thought was going to propose, and his brother Lucas who is doing his best to reunite the two all the while confusing Emma when she feels a connection to him.

**The Story**-I blew through this book in one day, and by the end all I wanted to do was pick up my Pride and Prejudice and devour that next. With inspirations from Jane Austen's novels (and a quote, seemingly a lie Jane has told us all, to start each chapter) we are given a well-rounded novel that not only emanates the type of story Jane would give us, but also something modern and fresh. For me there wasn't really much in wanting for this book, it delivered exactly what I expected – a story of a girl who had had enough of Jane Austen ideals, but still ends up having her own Austen style romance, full of misunderstandings and missed chances. Really, this was such a subtle combination of a lot of the best aspects of Jane Austen Novels.

**The Characters**- I am only going to talk about two of the characters (Emma & Lucas) despite the fact that Blake and her best friend are also great characters and the perfect amount of interaction to actually help the

plot without taking away from the obvious main characters.

**Emma**-First of all, she loves Jane Austen, so she gets 100 points there. She exudes a strong character that still has wants and needs. She's a successful and beautiful woman, but can still be a swoony romantic. So yes, you can be strong but still be incredibly vulnerable with your heart. I loved that she could be sure of herself, but at the same time question her own heart.

**Lucas**-To me, he was so much like Edward Ferrars (Sense and Sensibility) – always doing right by his promises and for his brother. But then again, he just isn't Edward either. I loved that everything we want to hate him for putting Emma through is nothing that we can really actually hate him for. He was noble without overdoing it. Which of course does nothing but make us expect men to be so valiant in our own lives, but who cares, that's why we read this stuff.

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### **Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says**

This book! Where do I even start?

I'm a Jane Austen fan but perhaps not so big a fan as Emma is. That may be a gross understatement but I am enough of a fan to greatly appreciate the Austen references and all the quotes at the beginning of the chapters. I found great humor in Emma and her love/hate relationship with her Austen ideals. Especially when she throws her book in the garbage only to dig it out a bit later, feeling ever so guilty. Ha.

Yes, I had plenty of smiling, giggling moments with this book. It was amusing and entertaining. There were also plenty of moments of depth and challenge. The characters deal with real life issues and struggles. They are both weak and strong. It's a fantastic balance and felt very true to life. I loved the whole cast of characters and how everything changed, circled and evolved from beginning to end. Speaking of the ending, I LOVED it. It was like my heart let out such a big, happy and contented sigh. "Finally", it said.

This will probably go on the list for one of my favorite books this year. I really loved it.

Content: some references to drug abuse, clean

- I received a copy of this book from the publisher. All opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Crystal (Books Are Sanity!!!) says**

I LOVE all things Austen, so I was beyond excited to get my hands on a copy of this book! I had no idea what to expect, I mean, the title alone could send an Austen fan into a fit of vapors! However, Wright was definitely up to tackling Austen, because this contemporary novel was amazing! Emma was a complete Austenesque character from her name right on down to her love life. And the Hampton brothers! Both were successful and handsome but come on folks, no one could hold a candle to Lucas in my mind! This twisted love story is delightful and I found myself wishing for more time so I could just sit and read it to the very end! From Emma's best friend Silvia, to dreamy hot Lucas and even his mom Caroline, and cute little

April...each and every character played an important part in this wonderful book! I believe any fan of Austen's will be a sure fan of Lies Jane Austen Told Me! I received a copy of this book from the publisher, all thoughts and opinions are my own.

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### **Amy says**

OK. Lets get real. Jane Austen. Those of us who love a good regency, are probably all besotted with anything Jane. How did she reach this status, in which all Austen fans feel this kinship to her characters and the author herself? I'm not quite sure. Each one of us feels like her stories are our own personal best friends. So, with that said, you put Jane Austen in a title of a book and I'm a sucker for picking it up. No questions asked, I didn't even read the description. If this had been a paperback on a bookstore shelf, I would have put it into the basket. Its that simple.

Thankfully Julie Wright left me with no regrets. This contemporary take on one person's love affair with all thing Austen novels, and the comparison to her life is amusing and enticing. I could not put this book down. Not only has she written a compelling story about one girl and her fight or flight relationship with two brothers, she has interwoven it with small quotes and instances from the books in just the right places.

Emma, is a successful Marketing Director and has what appears to be the perfect life. Perfect boyfriend who is about to drop the perfect proposal. Blake & Lucas are two brothers, who are different in almost everyway possible. Surprised at the situation she finds herself at the Hampton estate, and then thrown into even bigger revelations by Lucas, Emma swears off Jane Austen completely. She's done. Done with all she has hoped, believed and wanted, and she blames Jane for all of it.

This book has everything I love in a good book. Love. Betrayal. Travel. Surprises. Well thought out characters with depth. I am not usually a fan of a 1st person retelling either, from only one perspective. However, this really worked for me. Not knowing the inner thoughts from Lucas or Blake for that matter, left an element of surprise. This is one book that I will be purchasing upon its release.

Thanks to Netgalley & Shadow Mountain for the complimentary copy. This is my honest review.

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