

16 November, 2012 - B+ *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* – Jane Austen and Seth Grahame-Smith

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a zombie in possession of brains must be in want of more brains. You cannot argue with that statement! The book was pretty funny and there was an excellent essay at the end about why Jane Austen would approve.

There are discussion questions in *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* so I answered a few as my review.

Is Mr. Collins merely too fat and stupid to notice his wife's gradual transformation into a zombie, or could there be another explanation for his failure to acknowledge the problem? If so, what might that explanation be? How might his occupation (as a pastor) relate to his denial of the obvious, or his decision to hang himself?

I think Mr. Collins would have been just as stupid if he were not a pastor mainly cause he was a self absorbed twit and this is why he did not notice Charlotte slowly turning into a zombie. Charlotte similarly, could have turned into the Loch Ness monster or the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man and Mr. Collins would have been oblivious. Sadly Charlotte really wanted to be married before she died so she was forced to choose a very dumb man as her husband. This is the real tragedy of this saga. I am glad he hung himself as he bugged the shit out of me.

Some critics have suggested that the zombies represent the authors' views toward marriage—an endless curse that sucks the life out you and just won't die. Do you agree, or do you have another opinion about the symbolism of the unmentionables?

Oh totally. That pretty much sums it up.

Does Mrs. Bennet have a single redeeming quality?

At first I tried to be charitable towards her because Mrs Bennet did genuinely want her 5 daughters to marry well and be taken care of by their husbands. But by the time Lydia was married off to Wickham she just grated on my raw nerves like sandpaper, like some sort of 1810 celebrity mom, so no.

Due to her fierce independence, devotion to exercise, and penchant for boots, some critics have called Elizabeth Bennet "the first literary lesbian." Do you think the authors intended her to be gay? And if so, how would this Sapphic twist serve to explain her relationships with Darcy, Jane, Charlotte, Lady Catherine, and Wickham?

This would explain the big chick fight at the end with Elizabeth and Lady Catherine. I am sure Darcy, Bingley and Wickham would have preferred to have some mud thrown in to the mix too, but you can't have everything.

*Vomit plays an important role in *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. Mrs. Bennet frequently vomits when she's nervous, coachmen vomit in disgust when they witness zombies feasting on corpses, even the steady Elizabeth can't help but vomit at the sight of Charlotte lapping up her own bloody pus. Do the authors mean for this regurgitation to symbolize something greater, or is it a cheap device to get laughs?*

I think vomit plays an acceptable role in any serious literature. Drunks are always vomiting in taxi cabs and any book that is about an alcoholic facing their own mortality or coming to grips about stuff through vomiting usually wins some fancy award. So why not vomiting people in Georgian England? So my vote is that vomit makes for serious prose.