

**Molly:** Have you ever had an acne breakout come at the worst possible time? I know I have. Literally right now, I have so many pimples on my chin from wearing a mask all the time and I had to go to a bridal shower this weekend. It was honestly so embarrassing. We've all had struggles with our skin and that's why we're excited to partner with Apostrophe, the sponsor of this episode. Apostrophe is a prescription skincare company that offers science backed oral and topical medications that are clinically proven to help clear acne. At Apostrophe, an expert dermatology team will create a personalized treatment plan that is perfectly tailored to your unique skin. Simply, fill out Apostrophe's online quiz about your skin goals and medical history, then, snap a few selfies and a board-certified dermatologist will create your initial customized treatment plan.

Apostrophe treats all types of acne. From hormonal acne to facial acne, and even chesne, bacne, and buttne. They treat breakouts from head to toe. Filling out the quiz was super easy and quick and I didn't even have to make an appointment to see a real dermatologist. I've **[00:01:00]** just sent in my pictures and the dermatologist tailored my treatment plan to me. We have a special deal for our audience. Save \$15 off your first visit with an Apostrophe provider at [apostrophe.com/whomst](https://apostrophe.com/whomst), when you use our code WHOMST. This code is only available to our listeners. To get started, just go to [apostrophe.com/whomst](https://apostrophe.com/whomst) and click, begin, visit. Then use our code, WHOMST at sign up and you'll get your first visit for only \$5. That's APOSTROPHE dot com slash whomst and use that code, WHOMST to get your first dermatologist crafted treatment plan for \$5. And we thank Apostrophe for sponsoring the podcast.

Before we begin today, we want to thank our newest patrons, Danny, Sarah, Ashley, and Anna. Welcome to the team. If you want to be like them and get access to bonus content, like our notes and silly videos of us making Jane Austen themed drinks, head on over to **[00:02:00]** [patreon.com/podandprejudice](https://patreon.com/podandprejudice). And now, enjoy this week's episode covering *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies* with our guest, Mike Schubert. I think that you and I are matching tops right now, Mike.

**Mike:** Oh, yeah. As we planned telepathically this morning. Come on.

**Molly:** Yeah, exactly. Becca, you did not get the memo?

**Becca:** I mean, it is blue and floral and it's a dress.

**Molly:** All right, there you go.

**Becca:** Does that count-ish?

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Mike:** Nailed it. We're all ready to go.

**Molly:** Totally. As is perfect for *Pride and Prejudice And Zombies*, totally blue floral aesthetics.

**Becca:** Well, I dribbled a little bit of cornstarch blood down my back to really go into the moon.

**Mike:** Ooh.

**Becca:** You just can't see it. So, I'm on theme. It's just a little hidden.

**Molly:** Perfect.

**Mike:** Wonderful. Love to see it.

**[Pod and Prejudice theme]**

**Becca:** This is Becca.

**Molly:** This is Molly.

**Becca:** We are here to talk about Jane Austen-ish.

**Molly:** Yeah, we're here to talk about Jane Austen adjacent things, Jane Austen related things. We are joined with our **[00:03:00]** returning guest who all of you seem to love. We are joined again by Mike Schubert. How is it going, Mike?

**Mike:** Well, it's good. Now that I've been told everyone listening loves me or you seems, too.

[laughter]

**Mike:** So, no, it's great to be back. It's very fun to be here and I was glad to be given the opportunity to finally check these two versions of *Pride & Prejudice* off my list of, "Oh, yeah, I've been meaning to read that and oh, yeah, I've been meaning to watch that." And what better way than to talk about it with you, too.

**Becca:** Oh, we're so flattered. So, in case any of our listeners who might love you, but don't know anything about you or listening, do you want to give us a quick rundown of what you do in the whole podcasting world?

**Mike:** Sure. So, I'm a full-time podcaster. I make a bunch of shows. The one that started it all was Potterless, where I never read the *Harry Potter* books as a kid who was me reading them for the first time as an adult. Did that for five years, and then I ran out of stuff, and then JK was very publicly transphobic. So, I was like, "All right, I'm out of here." And now, I'm doing a similar structure, but with the *Percy Jackson* books **[00:04:00]** on a podcast called The Newest Olympian. But I also have some other podcasts called Meddling Adults, which is a game show for charity, where people compete to solve children's mysteries or horse, which is a comedic basketball podcast, and *Mighty Muckrakers*, which is a spoof of an investigative journalism show, where we answer very serious and important questions, like, is the budget of East High from *High School Musical* realistic or a public school in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We interview highly overqualified people and that's it. That's the stuff I do, whole bunch of podcasts, and it's a fun time.

**Becca:** On the note of whether or not the East High budget was realistic, there was a large joke in my school that for some reason, the drama department had a crazy amount more money than all of the other departments, because we did and no one knew why, except for the very seedy fact that my theater teacher was the ex-wife of the principal, and I think there was some guilt there. [laughs]

**Mike:** Oh, interesting.

**Becca:** This is all speculation. I cannot confirm [00:05:00] any of this. This was just rumors that went around my high school, but there was certainly a lot of mystery as to whether or not, there was a legitimate reason our budget was so huge.

**Mike:** Okay, interesting. Yeah, definitely the highest portion of these highest budget was the theater department. When you get into *High School Musical* or at least, when you get into *High School Musical 3*, at that point, you're basically running a full Broadway production in a public school in Albuquerque, New Mexico, even though they filmed it in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Molly:** [chuckles]

**Becca:** And it's wild stuff.

**Molly:** I have to say I am a big *High School Musical* fan, but I only saw *High School Musical 3* once in the theaters. I was too old to be going to see it in the theaters, but I went with all my friends and I sat by myself, because they weren't taking it seriously enough.

**Mike:** Good.

**Molly:** Then, [chuckles] in retrospect, I listened to your episode on the budget of East High, because big fan of *High School Musical*. And then, I started dating someone with a sound bar and to test her sound bar what she [00:06:00] does is she plays, *Can I have this dance* from *High School Musical*. We watched it on the TV and I couldn't stop thinking about how your expert said that wouldn't hold up that roof. [chuckles] So, thank you for that.

**Mike:** Yeah, I'm glad that I could provide some interesting contextual things. Yeah, we talked to the guy who does literal building construction about how the roof would not make any sense. But yeah, if you're going to hear that it's a fun episode of *Mighty Muckrakers*. I'm very biased, but I think it's very good.

**Becca:** Fantastic.

**Molly:** Amazing. Well, this is a Jane Austen Podcast and not a High School Musical Podcast, surprisingly.

**Mike:** Don't worry, I'm going to derail this whole thing, baby. We're talking-- [crosstalk]

**Molly:** Amazing.

[laughter]

**Molly:** Usually, listeners, we ask our guests questions about their relationship to Jane Austen at the top of every episode. But this time, we thought we would put a fun spin on it, because we're doing-- [crosstalk]

**Becca:** Because what are we covering, again?

**Molly:** Oh, my gosh, I didn't even tell them. We're covering *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*.

**Becca:** By Seth Grahame-Smith and we are also covering the 2016 movie adaptation of the book.

**Molly:** Yes.

**Becca:** Spunky.

**Molly:** [00:07:00] Yeah. We thought we would ask Mike about his relationship to zombies. So, Mike, to start it off, what is your overarching relationship to zombies?

**Mike:** I think zombie movies and zombie video games and stuff are very fun. I think they got a little overplayed in the early 2010s-ish era, where it felt everything coming out was that. But I still think it's very fun. I always enjoy seeing different spins on how it works or how, what the rules are, how the plague started, etc. I feel the pinnacle of it is *Shaun of the Dead*. It's just truly perfect, because I feel the only time zombie movies are not fun or when they take themselves too seriously about the zombie thing are was like, "Clearly, there's science behind this." It's like, "All right, guys, cool." It's a zombie movie, maybe don't. I'll get into how I feel about the movie's portrayal, because I think they take it very seriously.

**Molly:** So seriously.

**Mike:** Sometimes, so much, so that it's not fun. I think zombie stuff is very fun. I definitely [00:08:00] enjoy it. I skewed towards liking the sillier versions of them like that and then warm bodies. That stuff is more fun. I didn't necessarily love *The Walking Dead*, the TV show. I did really enjoy *The Walking Dead* Telltale Game, where you get to choose your own adventure stuff. That was very fun. I like zombie stuff. I've definitely consumed a fair share of it, movies wise and video game wise. So, it was fun to see the twist that they brought to the Jane Austen cinematic universe.

**Becca:** I definitely agree on the idea that zombies must be absurd to be fun. I think you've already answered the second question, but to reiterate, what is your favorite zombie content?

**Mike:** Yeah, I would definitely say, I really enjoy *Shaun of the Dead*. I think in terms of movies that are little more serious, I did really enjoy *I Am Legend* when it came out, but I was also 14 when it came out. I feel I was the target demographic.

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** And videogame [00:09:00] wise, *Left 4 Dead* is really fun as well, which is a good one. And then, the Telltale Game I thought was very fun as well, because I think some of the interesting stuff with zombies is having to make tough decisions and that's basically exactly what the *Walking Dead* Telltale Game was. I'm still crushed, because I played it in college, and I think I was halfway through the second game, and then my laptop crashed, and we had a tech thing at school where they could fix your broken laptops. And basically, they were like, "We were able to restore everything except for this one portion of your C drive." That folder contained all my Steam game saves. So, I never got to finish it. [laughs]

**Molly:** That is tragic.

**Becca:** Oh, no, that actually happened with my best friend and Skyrim. I think they logged like 300 hours over the years on Skyrim, and then it crashed, and lost all of her gameplay, and I'd never seen her more upset about anything in the 10 years we've been friends.

**Mike:** Oh, [00:10:00] devastated.

**Molly:** That's really tragic. I have a follow-up question. I could google this, but *Shaun of the Dead*, is that about a sheep?

**Mike:** No.

**Molly:** Oh.

**Mike:** Not at all.

**Becca:** You are mixing *Shaun the Sheep*.

**Molly:** Oh, okay.

**Mike:** *Shaun of the Dead*, it's by the guys, Simon Pegg and I forget the other guy's name, who do *Hot Fuzz* and some like *End of the Universe* one, but they definitely do *Hot Fuzz* and *Shaun of the Dead*. *Shaun of the Dead* was their first one they did together and it's just a very British comedic zombie movie. They hit right the perfect intersection of being fun and funny, which is what I think *Pride and Prejudice And Zombies* the movie tried to do and they did not hit it at all.

**Molly:** I think that's what the book did perfectly.

**Mike:** Yes.

**Becca:** Yeah.

**Mike:** I think the book nails it. I think the movie.

**Becca:** Molly, should we share our favorite zombie content?

**Molly:** Yes.

**Becca:** My favorite zombie content is actually the movie, *Little Monsters*, which came out recently starring Lupita Nyong'o and it is-- Have you seen this movie?

**Mike:** I haven't. The [00:11:00] only reason I know of it is because one of my friends tweeted something about *Little Monsters* and I was like, "Oh, my God, I didn't think anybody else watched that Fred Savage movie from 1996."

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Mike:** It turned out that, yeah, that's true, because it's just a different movie of the same name. But *Little Monsters* is this early 90s terrible Fred Savage movie about getting sucked into the world. It's like the precursor to *Monsters, Inc* gets sucked into the world of the monsters that live under his bed and it's horrible. It's truly horrendous.

**Becca:** Oh, that's sad, because that sounds fun. But the *Little Monsters*, it's a zombie movie about a kindergarten class at a petting zoo on a field trip that turns into a zombie apocalypse.

**Mike:** Okay.

**Becca:** It's so good, it's so stupid. Josh Gad, isn't it playing a children's celebrity and it is his finest work?

**Molly:** Wow, I'll have to check that out. I don't know that I have a favorite zombie content. [00:12:00] I'm not a big zombie person. So, this was new for me, actually.

**Becca:** That does bring us to our next question. Which zombie do most relate to?

**Mike:** I feel if I'm picking a zombie, I would probably be the one mumbling brains, because I am a very hungry boy often and when I do get hungry, I get very one-track mind. I need to figure out when I'm getting food, how we're getting food, et cetera. I will shut down into autopilot mode if I'm hungry and it doesn't seem food is immediately on the horizon. So, I feel that would be me, the zombie that just really wants to get some brains in the stomach to satisfy the desire and the hunger.

**Becca:** Very fair pick. I think for me, it would probably be the one of the ever-encroaching zombies, the ones that move really slowly in a mask, because I enjoy a walk with my friends very much. It's my favorite form of exercise. So, I feel that's me. On a general basis, it is just ever-encroaching and walking leisurely [00:13:00] through the countryside.

**Molly:** Mm-hmm. I think I would maybe be one of the zombies that's eating up pig's blood spoiler alert for the movie, because I'm vegan. So, it's like the zombie equivalent of that.

**Mike:** Right. Pigs, famously or plants?

**Becca:** It's like the twilight of vampires.

**Molly:** Yeah, exactly.

**Becca:** Everyone familiar with the film franchise in the book franchise, *Twilight*, by Stephenie Meyer.

**Molly:** Yes, the very classic literature.

**Becca:** *Twilight*. I think we have two more questions. What is your hottest zombie take?

**Mike:** I guess, the hottest steak in terms of the one trick that I've had that people have ever gotten upset with me is that *The Walking Dead* got bad in Season 2 and I'm pretty sure it's in season 654 now.

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Becca:** But Season 2 was horrible. It was really bad. It was genuinely garbage. I know a lot of people eventually trailed off later seasons and stuff, but I got a [00:14:00] couple of episodes into Season 2, I was like, "This is awful" and I got out. I think it was partially skewed, because I want to say my friend was ahead of me either in Season 3 or Season 4. He was actively complaining about it. I feel it was losing steam, and then I saw the writing on the wall, and I bounced. I could very much tell and this is, I guess, I'm Nostradamus. But the way Season 1 worked, I was like, "Okay, this show was just going to go to the point where at the end of every season, it seems it's going well. And then if they get renewed things will go poorly. And they're going to do this until they stop making money." It's going to be *Grey's Anatomy*, or *How I Met Your Mother*, or whatever, where they sabotage the show in order to keep it going. I got burned by *How I Met Your Mother*.

**Becca:** Oh, me too.

**Mike:** Clearly, they got renewed for three more seasons in Season 5 and Ted Mosby was like, "What if I just dated people that made no sense at all?" I was like, "This is awful, I hate this. This is so bad. You've ruined the premise of the show." I saw that happening with the *The* [00:15:00] *Walking Dead* and I just got out in Season 2.

**Becca:** Fair impression. My boyfriend, Mike is going to be so heartbroken. He does love that show, but I think he also now watches it the way that people who still watch *Anatomy*, which is like, "Why is this still on?"

**Mike:** Yep.

**Becca:** I can't stop now because I've put this much time in, but I hate it.

**Mike:** That's where my wife was at-- I don't think she still watches it, but I want to say, she was begrudgingly watching Seasons 8 and 9, and actively that kind of sentiment. I just remember telling her like, "There's so many other things you can do, Kelly." And she doesn't even scary stuff that much.

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Mike:** It was actively stressful for her to watch a thing that she was angry about where the pot was. I was like, "Kelly, there's so many other things you can do. Just leave. It's okay. Sunk-cost fallacy. Just get out."

[laughter]

**Becca:** Yeah, this is my message to Mike. Get out. You don't have to keep watching *Walking Dead*.

**Mike:** Get out and watch. Get out. A better thriller movie.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Mike:** [laughs]

**Becca:** That is a [00:16:00] great thriller. No zombies and then I was like, "There's this zombiesque applied."

**Mike:** Yeah. If us counter zombie movies, that would be in my top. But I don't know if us truly counts as zombies, though it's quite zombiesque.

**Molly:** Yes. When I watched *Us*, that movie was so good, but one that I simply can never watch again, because I was so disturbed. I woke up in the middle of the night like, I thought it was going to throw up. I was just dry heaving, because I couldn't stop thinking about the movie.

**Mike:** It's so good, it's so good.

**Molly:** Oh, good cinema, good cinema. Makes you vomit in the middle of the night.

**Mike:** That's how you know it's good. [laughs]

**Molly:** So, for our last zombie question, what would your role be in the *Zombie Apocalypse*?

**Mike:** Okay. I would like to try to plan out find the safest place and then just fend off zombies until the end of time, because I feel the big mistake is always trying to move around.

**Molly:** Mm-hmm.

**Mike:** Find some safe place, where you can barricade it properly. And then in terms of weaponry, I've always enjoyed a baseball [00:17:00] bat that has a bunch of nails poked through it as a zombie weapon, because I grew up playing a bunch of baseball. Baseball swing is very natural to me. Then having the spiky element to it is good. I know in a later season of *The Walking Dead*, there was a guy who had a baseball bat with barbed wire wrapped around it, which looks cool, but I feel it's going to get stuck in anything that you hit, whereas I feel a nail, you'll get the pokiness, but it's not going to get lodged in a zombie. So, that would be my weapon of choice.

Then, yeah, roll wise, I would be very much trying to strategize, so that we can stay safe, because I feel lack of planning is usually the group's downfall. You got to really try to get together and utilizing everyone's strengths. I think teamwork makes the dream work. In *Zombie Apocalypse*, you got to try to find out who's good at what role and make sure everybody's working in a nice cohesive manner.

**Molly:** I just had an idea while you were talking for a franchise based on what we were talking about earlier and based on your weapon of choice, [00:18:00] and also teamwork making the dreamwork. Hear me out. *High School Musical* and zombies-

**Mike:** Let's go.



**Molly:** -in which I don't dance, they're playing baseball, but with nails stuck through their baseball bats and just whacking off zombies together.

**Mike:** I'd love it.

**Becca:** Except we'll call it, I don't kill zombies, because that song is inherently about doing something and saying you're not doing it. [chuckles]

**Molly:** So true.

**Mike:** That's good. I think *High School Musical* and zombies would be very good. I feel you can make it happen for sure. It would fit in flawlessly.

**Becca:** Speaking of heartwarming romcom classics with zombies, today, our discussion of *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies* is very exciting to us as some of our first content outside of the strict Jane Austen canon. Just a couple of fun facts about *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies*. For those of you who are not aware, it is a book written by Seth Grahame-Smith that came out in 2009, and it was a huge success, and then there was a movie made in 2016, [00:19:00] and we'll go into it. It was less of a success.

Basically, the premise of the book is that it is *Pride & Prejudice* as you, and I, and Molly have now read. But the entire time, there's a zombie apocalypse going on amongst the cording. It's delightfully silly, but if you haven't read it and you want to read it, we are going to issue a spoiler warning right now. It is the same plot as *Pride & Prejudice*. So, you are familiar with that part of the plot. However, we are going to talk about where the zombies get into the plot and where they intersect with the plot. If that is not something you want spoiled for yourself, I encourage you to go read the book, read a Wikipedia page about the movie, and then come back.

**Molly:** [laughs] So, watch the movie,

**Becca:** And then come back, and hang out, and listen to our podcast.

**Molly:** Some more fun facts about *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies*. The movie which was directed by our pal, Burr Steers was produced by Natalie Portman and team.

**Mike:** What?

**Molly:** Yeah, [00:20:00] she was one of the producers.

**Mike:** Woah.

**Becca:** Did we double fact check that, too? Because we saw her name in the credits.

**Molly:** Yes. Well, I went on the Wikipedia page, because to be completely honest, I watched the movie last night and was so confused that I did go and read a full synopsis on Wikipedia this morning, and it did say, produced by Natalie Portman. So, thank you, Natalie, for this art.

**Mike:** Thanks, Nat.

**Molly:** Additionally, in the book, I read the foreword by the author, Seth Grahame-Smith and I thought it was really interesting the way that he wrote this book, which was he straight up copied and pasted the text of *Pride & Prejudice* into a Word document, and then changed his font to red, and made sure that he added something in red on each page, and that was pretty much it.

**Mike:** Yeah, it feels exactly like that. Yeah, I was going to say, we should clarify. This is not a book written by Seth Grahame-Smith.

**Molly:** Right.

**Mike:** It's a book written by Jane Austen and Seth did some stuff, too.

**Molly:** Yes. [laughs]

**Mike:** While reading the book, I was actively wondering, how much money did he make off of this? I know that it is fair [00:21:00] use because of public domain, because it's so old. But it feels he shouldn't make a dollar off of it.

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Mike:** Because it's a great concept, but he barely did anything. [laughs] I don't know. I guess, you can make money if you just republished *Pride & Prejudice*, which is basically what he did, which is very fun. It does feel he is aware of how little he really did for the book, because on the front of the book, it says by Jane Austen and Seth Grahame-Smith. And then even on the back, when it shouts out the writers, it says, Jane Austen is the legendary author of *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride & Prejudice*, blah, blah, blah. Seth took an English class once.

[laughter]

**Mike:** That makes a lot more sense. But yeah, that description of Wikipedia page and every now and then put some stuff in. While reading it, that is exactly what I felt like he did. It's one of those ideas that's so good. You're mad, you didn't do it yourself, because honestly, a super easy way to make a living. [laughs] [00:22:00]

**Molly:** Totally, because this book won accolades. It was very well received and it's so dumb. [chuckles] I'm just shocked, but it's because everyone was like, "This hasn't been done before."

**Mike:** Yeah, it's such a good idea. I read the Wikipedia page about the book just to learn more about like, how it got made. It was someone who worked at cork books, the people that publish it thought of the idea just because of the title, and then came to Seth with the idea. What a gift to be dropped at your feet of, "Hello, I have an idea for something that no one's ever done. It will also be pretty easy." [laughs]

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** I would say, there is a split in the Jane Austen community as to how people feel about *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies*. This is captured in the afterword of the book, where Jane Austen scholar talks about how some Jane Austen academics are not a fan of this book and believe it's shocking and bastardizing of the original text. [00:23:00] Whereas, many others think it is so delightfully fun and that it is a great opportunity to take Jane Austen's words a little less seriously and then Jane herself did not take her words super seriously.

I tend to fall on the fact it's a joy to read this book in any form and I find it to be joyful to read a book that is just so absurd and so stupid in such a fun way. So, I think in whole Seth Grahame-Smith has given us a gift of repackaging Jane Austen with another hint that it is a comedy and something very fun that you can poke at as much as you want.

**Mike:** Yeah, I think it's very fun. I do think definitely for the book, if you don't already like *Pride & Prejudice*, you will not like the book, because it is 85% just *Pride & Prejudice*. And then, every now and then, some stuff either gets tweaked or sentences added that are about zombies. I feel [00:24:00] for the movie, they very much were like, we should try to appeal to everybody. Everybody likes zombies, right? Then they lost all of the *Pride & Prejudice* fun out of it. I feel it's one of those things, where it's okay if it doesn't appeal to everybody and I personally enjoyed it as someone who likes *Pride & Prejudice* and hadn't reread it in a while. I also don't enjoy rereading books that much, because to me, it's just I've already read it, why would I read this one again as opposed to reading a new one or something? So, it was a fun way for me to basically reread *Pride & Prejudice* but with a slightly different lens on it. I really appreciated it, but I also think *Pride & Prejudice* fucking slaps.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Mike:** [laughs] While reading it, I was like, "If someone didn't like this, if they thought this was going to be their gateway into it, maybe not." But at the same time, I feel you could give this to high school kids and this could get them over the hump of enjoying *Pride & Prejudice*. I think it's great that this exists. I think the book is phenomenal.

**Becca:** Yeah, absolutely. My boyfriend, Mike [00:25:00] did not read *Pride & Prejudice*, but when he started dating me and knew I had a podcast about Jane Austen did read this book and was like, "I've read *Pride & Prejudice* now. Just have zombies in it." [chuckles]

**Mike:** Honestly, yes.

**Molly:** Totally. That is a really good segue into a very brief synopsis of both the book and the movie. The book synopsis is a little shorter, because first of all, I was going to say was that it is *Pride & Prejudice* and there are zombies.

**Mike:** Yeah.

**Molly:** To clarify, there's a zombie apocalypse going on, the Bennet sisters are highly trained in the martial arts, they are overall badassess, basically, there's a zombie in every scene, and they kill said zombies. The largest deferring plot point being that Charlotte goes to Mary Collins, because she has been stricken with the, what is it called the strange plague.

**Mike:** Mysterious plague.

**Becca:** Yeah.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** She's going to be a manky dreadful as it's in the books. We should say a little bit about the logic of the zombies-

**Molly:** Sure.

**Becca:** -in [00:26:00] this, because I think zombies differ from content to content and how they operate. The *Pride & Prejudice* zombies are an illness that I believe gets passed on through the zombie bite and it seems to have come over from the continent onto Great Britain. In this universe, the zombies don't seem to move very quickly, but they move in great hordes and they do not have thoughts of their own necessarily. They just seek brains. And so, the terror of zombies is not as much if you are someone trained in the martial arts as they are, if you're just a general Regency era person. There's also a giant fortress around London protecting it from the zombies. Most of the characters train in either Japan or China and would note to our listeners that it is not the most delicately phrased throughout the entire book, how they talk about Japan or China. So, just a warning from that [00:27:00] perspective. I don't think any of us enjoyed that.

**Molly:** No.

**Mike:** No. It just felt wholly unnecessary. I feel they played it up even more in the movie, which was I feel grosser. I get that they were trying to throw, "Oh, it's not only zombies, but also samurai stuff." But it felt like it could have been handled more delicately. It felt very much last minute like, "Yeah, what if they were samurais?" That's about it.

**Molly:** Yeah, it was a lot of ninja references and all sorts of things. The book overall, despite it being delightful in plot, there was a lot of racism and a lot of ableism, which are both things that I did not love, because the other main difference is that instead of paying Wickham off after he in this abduct Lydia, Darcy paralyzes him from the waist down, and he's just carried around in a bed. The rest of the book and it's like, that's his punishment, which I found pretty ableist and gross. So, those [00:28:00] things we did not like listeners.

**Mike:** Mm-hmm. No, there were definitely times reading the zombie portions, where it felt very much like a 2009 edgy, humor kind of thing. Unfortunately, sometimes, not so great elements of that comedic time era came through and maybe feel a little gross.

**Becca:** Absolutely.

**Molly:** Yeah. What's weird is, I read the re-issued version. I don't know what year it came out, but he was like, "I've added even more zombies to this one." I was like, "You could have changed some other stuff, too, if you wanted to in the public domain."

**Mike:** Yeah.

**Molly:** And you wrote the original. But we'll get more into what we liked and didn't like about this after we talk briefly about the movie synopsis, because a lot of what I liked and didn't like is in relation to the movie as well. I've done my best to write a very brief synopsis of the movie, which the first half is pretty much the same and the second half just completely goes off the rails.

**Mike:** Yep.

**Molly:** I'll just tell you all about **[00:29:00]** that. As I said, the first half is pretty much the same as the book and the same as *Pride & Prejudice*, England is under zombie siege. We see this as the characters have to be inspected on their way into new places. In the first scene, Darcy is being inspected for bites, felt very similar to like, "Hmm, having to take a COVID test before going somewhere."

**Mike:** [laughs]

**Molly:** But we won't go into that. After Lizzie meets Wickham, so, it's about halfway through, Wickham brings Lizzie to a church full of zombies and tells her that the zombies are civilized because they eat pig brains. He wants to show the crown that humans and zombies can coexist. He thinks this is the only way to end this plague. Lizzie then brings him to Lady Catherine, who is the best character ever. She is a certified badass. She wears an eyepatch and she just eats people's hearts for fun. Lady Catherine just laughs in his face basically.

Then, later **[00:30:00]** on, Darcy proposes to Lizzie and she absolutely just beats his ass in the most epic proposal get in ever. Then later, he writes her a letter explaining that actually, Wickham potentially murdered his father by turning him into a zombie somehow and Lizzie is horrified. Then she arrives home and she finds out that Wickham has abducted Lydia and brought her to the zombie church. Then Darcy goes on to save Lydia, and he learns that Wickham is using these civilized zombies to create a zombie army, which is over on London based on Wickham's plan to rule the country. Darcy stops him by giving zombies human brains, which I was very confused by when we watched the movie, but I guess this was to make them less civilized, so that they couldn't organize. So, Darcy is anti-union.

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** Then there's an epic battle in which Darcy stabs Wickham and learns that he's literally the Antichrist and has been undead all along. Then the bridge that they're standing on **[00:31:00]** is blown up and Darcy is knocked the fuck out. Lizzie then confesses her love to his unconscious body, and he hears her, which gives him hope, so, then he later proposes to her, and there's a beautiful double wedding where Collins marries the two of them, and then Bingley and Jane. After the wedding, we see Wickham leaning a horde of zombies to attack them, and it's left up to interpretation as to whether they survive.

**Becca:** There's also briefly for some reason that the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse just in every couple of scenes in the movie and it's never really explained.

**Molly:** Yeah, the coming of the end. Basically, this movie is not hopeful for the survival of humankind.

**Becca:** Whereas the book goes along the plotline of just *Pride & Prejudice* and there are still zombies. The Bennet sisters are married, but they have love and fight zombies at the same time. It's a happily ever after in a zombie apocalypse.

**Molly:** Totally. That's the synopsis of [00:32:00] the movie. I wanted to talk a bit about what changed in the adaptation from book to movie and what got lost in translation there. One of my favorite things that was just completely missing is Charlotte slowly becoming a zombie and no one noticing.

**Mike:** Yeah, I was very sad that it felt some of the most fun stuff from the book didn't find his way into the movie. The Charlotte Lucas thing was one. One of the coolest action scenes early on is when they blow up the lantern cart or whatever and they had that in the movie, but it was just one zombie, and then they just shoot her in the head, and then that's it. I didn't understand how some of the more fun zombie elements didn't find its way into the movie. Because even when I was reading the book, part of me at times, because the zombie stuff is fine. You can very much tell when not Jane Austen is writing not only in [00:33:00] terms of it being about zombies, but it's a huge step down in quality. It's like, "Oh, wow, Jane Austen was very good at writing this guy's not that great."

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Mike:** It was funny, because while I was reading at times, I was like, "Oh, should I just be reading *Pride & Prejudice* instead? Are these zombies doing anything?" Then part of me was like, "Ah, maybe there should be more zombies, maybe I'm only annoyed because there's such a small percentage of this is the zombies." And then I watching the movie, I realize, "Okay, more zombies was not the answer."

**Becca:** [chuckles]

**Mike:** Because the book is *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies*. I feel the movie is, zombies in the style of *Pride & Prejudice*.

**Molly:** Yes.

**Mike:** It completely loses the plot of *Pride & Prejudice* halfway through just like you said. Even the intro is completely different. I feel what makes *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies* the book and just the concept fun is that it is just *Pride & Prejudice*, oh, yeah, and zombies are here, too. And so minimally, there that sometimes you almost forget they're there that it's fun. I think the most [00:34:00] fun I had reading the book was getting so engrossed in the *Pride & Prejudice* part and then there would be a sentence about a zombie thing happening and I remember, "Oh, right. There's also zombies here." That's what makes it really fun is that *Pride & Prejudice* is still a good story and now, we have a slightly different twist on it. The movie was like, "What if we made a zombie movie, but everyone was wearing old school clothes, and dancing, and was concerned about getting married?" It just didn't feel enough like *Pride & Prejudice* to be called *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies*.

**Molly:** Right. The main plot points of *Pride & Prejudice* are, Darcy being an asshole, but being in love with Lizzie, and Wickham being how he is men, Jane and Bingley. All of those plot points in the movie were secondary to the zombies, which was annoying because well, it was fun. There was one moment in the beginning where Darcy at first, he says the thing about Lizzie or Liz in this movie. They kept calling her Liz, which I found very jarring.

**Mike:** Didn't like it, didn't like it.

**Molly:** Didn't like [00:35:00] it. But Darcy says the thing about Liz being tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt him, and she gets really pissed and she walks away and accidentally breaks a glass, and then she like runs outside, and that's when she's faced with a zombie version of Miss Featherstone, and Darcy comes in saves her, which is very annoying because she can totally take care of herself. But then she goes in and fights with her sisters against all the zombies that have overrun the ball, and Darcy's watching her, and there's this battle going on, and he just turns to Bingley and he's like, "She's really hot."

**Mike:** Yes.

**Molly:** He goes on about it and he's like, "Wait a minute, when she fights, I'm in love with her." So, that was funny. Yeah, the whole first half I found funny and pretty true to the book, until they decided that Wickham was literally the Antichrist. I cannot stress enough how many times I said, Wickham is literally the Antichrist in this movie. It's so weird.

**Mike:** It's very weird.

**Becca:** Yeah, I totally agree. I think going back to Mike's point about the book and it [00:36:00] may be not having enough zombies, I thought what was fun about the book and didn't always work but mostly worked for me was the fact that it was just so casual. One of the things that's so funny about it is that Jane Austen writes in such a proper, sharp, humorous manner, and Seth Grahame-Smith writes in a pretty gruesome manner. I believe, I read one more of his books, *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*-

**Mike:** Great film.

**Becca:** -which is also delightful.

**Mike:** Quality film.

**Becca:** That one was adapted better. There will just be these prim and proper meals or etiquette things, and then there will be a mention of someone shitting themselves or Lizzie disemboweling someone. Mrs. Bennet getting all upset about Lydia being gone is accompanied by the fact that she carries a bucket around and is just perpetually vomiting. It's disgusting. I think it's so funny to pair the proper language of Jane Austen with really disgusting imagery. I think with the zombies, they didn't exactly serve a plot point at [00:37:00] all in the books.

They literally could just be taken out and it would be the same story as if they were just popped in to a fully complete story. I think there could have been a bit more of a circling the completing the circle on the zombie plot in the book. It didn't bother me too much, because it's mostly, the joke of hearing someone talk about the pustules of a zombie while they're at tea with Lady Catherine de Bourgh or whatever. But I do think that served a little bit of a problem and the movie trying to solve that problem didn't work. [laughs]

**Mike:** Yeah, I honestly feel I enjoyed that. In the book, the zombies were so relevant to the plot, because then it keeps the story about just *Pride & Prejudice*. What you've signed up for by reading this book is *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies*.

**Molly:** Right.

**Mike:** I really enjoyed that. They were basically just an afterthought in the book. I think the biggest problem with the movie, even beyond them trying to make a nice circle like you were saying trying to have some [00:38:00] way to make them irrelevant. I think the biggest problem is that for a lot of the characters, instead of the reason why they are either loved, or hated, or I guess, both in the case of Darcy in *Pride & Prejudice*, they decided to make that zombie related. Darcy is an annoying and frustrating to Lizzie in the movie, because he's Mr. Darcy and he's just keeps everything inside, he doesn't communicate all the reasons that he's a frustrating complex character in the book. Instead, in the movie, it's because he's so afraid of the plague spreading and he takes the zombies too seriously, and he doesn't trust anyone, they make him all about zombies, and all the frustrations around Darcy point to zombies.

And then Molly, like you were saying with Wickham, they turn him into the Antichrist, and he's leading the zombie army, and all this stuff, instead of just being a shady piece of shit like he is in the book. I was just so mad because you have these rich characters with [00:39:00] these very well written already established ways of why we either love, or hate them, or whatever. And instead of keeping it to the reasons why we didn't, why we felt about them the way we did in the books, both *Pride & Prejudice* and then *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies*, instead, they were like, "Well, everything has to point back to zombies." And then they changed a lot of the characters, and it just made it so frustrating, and it just makes things not work. Lizzie's relationship with Darcy feel it doesn't make sense. Immediately, she's in love with him, which is not how it is and *Pride & Prejudice*.

Then even the way it works where she leaves the ball and comes back and fights, that was different than in *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies*, where it's just like they were at the ball, and then zombies came, and then all the girls just fought them in a fun like five star formation where they were still putting their hands behind their backs or whatever, and doing it all prim and proper. I don't know, it just felt like the movie tried so hard to make everything had to go back to the zombies. I feel what made the book so much fun [00:40:00] is that the zombies basically don't matter. I think that's what makes it so much fun, because you would expect it to matter. It's such a side thought that is still constantly there, but just not important. I think that's what makes it the most fun and I think the movie just completely fumbled the bag.

**Becca:** Well, speaking of the movie, fumbling the bag, one last fact about the movie that we did not get to share is that we looked at the box office returns on this movie. It grossed approximately \$16.4 million worldwide and it cost over \$28 million to make.

**Mike:** I'm not surprised.

**Molly:** Yeah. It's weird, though, because if I had not read *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies* and if I wasn't expecting-- well, I guess I would be expecting *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies* because of the title, but I didn't hate the film. However, it didn't make a ton of sense to me. They didn't really define the rules of the world very well. I had to turn to Becca and Mike and say like, "Did he [00:41:00] overtake



London, did I miss that, how is he overtaking London, why is Darcy feeding human brains to the civilized zombies? I don't understand." So many things didn't make sense to me. But I had fun. But I don't think that people go necessarily to have fun \$28 million times over.

**Mike:** [laughs]

**Molly:** That makes sense to me that it definitely last over less than half its budget, but almost half its budget.

**Becca:** I also had fun watching this film. I think it was really fun to talk about some of the deficiencies, but it's never not fun to watch people in dresses fight zombies.

**Molly:** Yes.

**Becca:** It's really difficult to make that hard to watch. It was a thankfully short movie, because I think if it had gone on longer, it just would-- It got old towards the end, but I certainly really enjoyed the first hour. And particularly, I have to shout the one performance that made my entire life which would be Matt Smith playing Mr. Collins.

**Mike:** He was so good.

**Molly:** The best Mr. Collins ever.

**Mike:** Easily [00:42:00] highlighted the film. He was undoubtedly the best part.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** We were watching this film and at some point, we paused it and Mike was like, "Why is the best Mr. Collins in this film?"

**Molly and Mike:** Yeah.

**Molly:** He was, honestly, the most accurate to the book, Mr. Collins that I've seen. He captured so perfectly the sliminess, but the almost unintentional sliminess that we want from Mr. Collins, so that he's not the worst, but he's also the worst at the same time. He was the perfect blend of the 1995. Mr. Collins, and the 2005 Mr. Collins who's so sweet and innocent, and then the 1995, who's so grody and disgusting. He was the perfect blend. He had all the best line deliveries. We're going to talk about our favorite line deliveries from the movie and he had all of them.

**Becca:** They're all Mr. Collins.

**Molly:** They're all Mr. Collins. Oh, and that goes to show, he was not involved at all in the zombie hunting or anything having to do with zombies.

**Becca:** He was the closest to his [00:43:00] book counterpart in the original *Pride & Prejudice* of all the characters.

**Mike:** Yeah, and that's what made it the most fun is when it's close to *Pride & Prejudice*. And yeah, I started a fun time, I definitely had a significantly less fun time once they decided to not make it *Pride & Prejudice* anymore.

**Molly:** Mm-hmm.

**Mike:** But even when they changed some of the stuff early on, I think what I respect about Seth Grahame-Smith is that he recognized, "I should not change the major plot writings of Jane Austen, because who am I to do this?" Whereas the movie, when they would change things, he was like, "Who making this movie?" He was like, "I have an idea better than Jane Austen." You don't.

**Molly:** You don't.

**Mike:** You just don't. Whatever you are doing is you're not as good as Jane Austen. So, why are you changing things? I don't know. The audacity to do that is silly and it's also just the whole fun of it is when it's *Pride & Prejudice*. In the movie, they did a good job of it sometimes, like, when they're saying actual quotes from [00:44:00] *Pride & Prejudice* while fighting each other and stuff.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Mike:** That's the most fun. It's the most fun part of the book was fun part of the movie and those parts were great. When they add in other stuff, or they change other things, or whatever. It's not fun. You shouldn't be trying to make a good standalone zombie movie. You should be making *Pride & Prejudice* that also has zombies in it. *Pride & Prejudice*, a story that is so beloved, it gets remade in some shape or form every 10 years. It just happens. 10 years go by, it's like, "All right, we got to make another one" and everyone goes, "Yes, please" and they watch it no matter what it is. If it's a movie, if it's a miniseries, whatever, people consume it. So, if it ain't broke, don't fix it, why would you adjust it?

I knew I was in for a bad ride when during the movies, little opening credits thing, they did the animated popup book thing, which the art was very cool. But when they spend five minutes explaining how the zombies work [00:45:00] and going into the whole ploy in between and all this stuff, I was like, "Oh no, this is going to be really bad." This is such an exposition dump that I had to rewind twice, because they've just added so many rules and that's not fun. You don't need to justify zombies in the Jane Austen universe. Just say it and we'll go, "Cool." [laughs]

**Molly:** Right. We know what we're getting into. You've already told us the title.

**Mike:** Right.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Mike:** We know what we've signed up for.

**Becca:** There was an era of film for a while where movie studios forgot that films can be fun and stupid sometimes.

**Mike:** Right.

**Becca:** So, every movie that came out was so morose and so serious. *Percy Jackson*, the movie adaptation is actually a perfect example of taking things too seriously. *The Golden Compass* adaptation, these movies, it's supposed to be dumb, it's supposed to be campy. If you lean away from that and into something like a little grimmer, you lose what's enjoyable about [00:46:00] it, because then it just feels stupid.

**Molly:** Yeah. I want to point to a few things that I love about the book that were also very jarring, but that I loved and that were more things that were lost in the film. The book was weirdly sexual. There was one moment, where Elizabeth had Darcy's musket bullet things and she hands them telling him this, your balls, Mr. Darcy, which I thought was hilarious. And then additionally, Mrs. Gardiner and all of those scenes is cheating on her husband with some Polish man, who she just goes and has sex with, and then returns, and her husband's totally aware of it, and I was like, "Why is this happening?" But I wish it happened in the movie, too.

And also, how intense the Bennet sisters all were. I think they toned down a lot in the movie, because especially, Elizabeth, she in the book, when she's upset or maybe it was Lydia. I don't remember who did this, because in my notes, I just wrote carving his name into her [00:47:00] midriff. I think it was Lydia, when she was obsessed with Wickham. But she's carves his name into her stomach, and Lizzie is taking people's hearts out of their chests and eating them, and these are all things that I think were lost, because they had to make them a little bit more demure in the movie, and I was upset about that.

**Mike:** Right. I think some of the most fun stuff with Lizzie is that she's already very independent and intense in *Pride & Prejudice*. What they've decided to do which I think is smart in the book is that they take that, and ramp it up, and then add. She's also an accomplished warrior. I think it was really funny in the book immediately when Darcy first makes her upset rather than her just be angry. In the book, in the original *Pride & Prejudice* like, "Oh, whatever, screw this guy." And then in *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies*, the book it turns into, "I'll murder this guy."

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Mike:** I think it's really funny.

**Becca:** Yeah.

**Mike:** I was so angry in the movie, when [00:48:00] that first thing happens. And she goes outside and cries.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Mike:** Fuck off. That is not what Lizzie Bennet would do at all. I don't know who this Liz is, but-

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Mike:** -regular Lizzie Bennet in *Pride & Prejudice* doesn't cry over Darcy. She just goes, "Fuck this dude." And then in *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies* book, she goes, "I'll murder this dude." Then in the movie that she cries, I was like, "This is whack."

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Mike:** I don't know if this person whoever is in charge of the changing didn't read the original *Pride & Prejudice*. What makes *Pride & Prejudice* fun is, Lizzie just being very independent, and strong, and not caring, and going against the norms. And then two, everybody just gossiping and talking shit all the time.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Mike:** And then they got rid of so much of the gossiping element and they just made everything zombies like the trash talk in *Pride & Prejudice* is the most fun part and that getting completely lost in the movies was sad. But that staying in the book was great and then some of the trash talk every now and then being zombie related was so [00:49:00] fun. That's the most fun stuff is, taking what's already fun about *Pride & Prejudice* and then adding zombies to be like, "Oh, that's funny, if you interpreted it a little differently." I think the movie just changed too much.

**Becca:** Yeah, and I think a perfect encapsulation of what was great about the book is actually, I'm going to shoutout one scene in particular that was my favorite scene. It's when, Lizzie is flirting with Colonel Fitzwilliam, and she wants to show her "finger strength," and so, she ties up her skirts to herself, and gets on the floor, and holds herself up by one finger. While she's doing this, she's just insulting Darcy, and telling him, he's full of shit. It actually goes perfectly hand in hand with a moment in the book, the original book, *Pride & Prejudice*, where Lizzie plays the piano and then says to Mr. Darcy like, "I could be better at playing the piano, if I practiced more." When he says, "Oh, I'm bad with people implying that. Yeah, it's your fault. You're bad with people. You should practice more."

**Mike:** Yes.

**Becca:** But instead, applying it to her finger strength [00:50:00] while she's got her dress tied to her ankles and it's just upside down holding her whole body weight on one finger is my favorite image I got from the books, I think.

**Molly:** Yeah, I was devastated that wasn't in the movie. I was devastated that Fitzwilliam wasn't in the movie. I'm always devastated when they cut Fitzwilliam down. He's the best character.

**Mike:** I was very confused by just the complete omission. I get that it was a short movie and you got to cut some stuff. But I don't know, maybe get rid of some of the-- There was a lot of Wickham. There was-

**Molly:** Too much.

**Mike:** -so much Wickham.

**Molly:** Too much Wickham.

**Mike:** Every time he came back and they kept adding more stuff to him, I was like, "Really, this much? For Wickham?"

**Molly:** Yeah. But again, he was literally the Antichrist.

**Mike:** I know. I get that, I guess, he's the most bad guy in *Pride & Prejudice*. But I don't know, part of me when I was watching this. I was like, "Was this written by a descendant of Wickham, where they're like, "He's got to really be important [crosstalk]." [laughs]

**Becca:** It's really funny. My main critique of 2005s version of *Pride & Prejudice* is that there's not enough Wickham. So, it [00:51:00] doesn't highlight the problems of the love triangle between Wickham and Darcy and Lizzy. But it's almost someone heard that critique of 2005 *Pride & Prejudice* and was like, "Oh, you want more Wickham" and wake up and just went, "On all the Wickham."

**Molly:** Yeah. Have a movie about him being the literal Antichrist.

**Mike:** So much.

**Becca:** It ends with a freeze frame of him leading an army of zombies to Lizzie and Darcy like one handed with, what is he even holding? I don't even know.

**Molly:** That's his arm. His new bionic arm.

**Mike:** mm-hmm.

**Becca:** Oh, I didn't even get that, that was a bionic arm.

**Molly:** I didn't until I read the Wikipedia page this morning, because again, I was so confused last night.

**Becca:** So, they don't have incandescent lighting, but they have bionic arms.

**Molly:** Yeah, I don't know. It was all very weird. Though, jumping back to what you were saying about that one scene when she's standing on her fingers being a perfect representation of the piano scene in the book, I loved in the movie, when she and Lady Catherine were fighting, and Lady Catherine-- Sorry, she and [00:52:00] Lady Catherine's stand in fighting man, were fighting, and Lady Catherine was like, "Are you afraid yet, Lizzie?" Lizzie was like, "My courage always rises at any attempt to intimidate me," which is a pull from the book, *Pride & Prejudice*, and I thought that was brilliant, because it fit in there so well. And also, it captures how Lizzie is like you were saying such a badass in the original book and that's the energy that we really needed from her in this. Lady Catherine. also, it should be said.

In the book. the classic Lady Catherine aside from being a zombie fighter. In the movie, she actually sees that she can-- They're all on the same team in the movie, which I liked. They're all against the zombies. The Lady Catherine ended up protecting the Bennet family, which was weird but cool, especially because this Lady Catherine was hot, like, young and hot, had an eyepatch.

**Becca:** Lena Headey.

**Molly:** Who's that?

**Becca:** Cersei Lannister.

**Mike:** I know that character exists in *Game of Thrones*, but I've watched none of it.

**Becca:** It's okay. I'm not actually—So, like, weird tangent story. [00:53:00] I read all the *Game of Thrones* books, and I have stopped watching the TV show, and have almost religiously avoided spoilers for the TV show, because it is not the books and I still hold out hope for George R. R. Martin to finish the book series, which is sort of waiting for [unintelligible [00:53:17], but it's fine. But that being said, Lena Headey plays Cersei Lannister, a viciously evil character in *Game of Thrones* and famously, extremely hot character in *Game of Thrones*. So, Lena Headey is a very hot, powerful woman playing Lady Catherine de Bourgh. Not to say Judi Dench is not also a hot and powerful woman.

**Molly:** Sure, totally.

**Mike:** [chuckles]

**Becca:** Just of a different vein.

**Molly:** Yes.

**Mike:** Yeah. I do think it was fun in the book when you would take a character and by you, I guess, I mean, Seth. When Seth would take a character that wasn't super integral to the plot and then change some stuff. I did find it interesting when Lady Catherine was someone that Lizzie [00:54:00] admired and was impressed by and aspired to be like. I thought that was a fun little twist. And then same thing with the Charlotte Lucas slowly becoming a zombie. I think it was fun for Seth to try to find characters that in the grand scheme of things from the main story don't necessarily impact it so much so that we can tweak some stuff. I thought finding those ways to change things was really fun.

I think, again, that's what makes the book the most fun is, knowing what happens in *Pride & Prejudice*, then reading *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies* and going, "Oh, they change that, oh, they change that." Honestly, I think it would be fun to have the version where all the additions were in a different font, or color, or whatever. I know that would ruin the-- Some of the most fun reading it is when you're halfway through a sentence, and then it's a part you remember from *Pride & Prejudice*, and then it changes into a zombie thing by the end of it, especially if it's a famous quote, and then there's just a clause added at the end, like, every now and then it would [00:55:00] have some quote about a woman's worth or whatever, and then it would be comma, and her ability to rip the hearts out of the undead or something, that stuff was super fun.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Mike:** But also, part of me wanted a-- I've would have loved a no fear Shakespeare type version, where a lot of times reading and I wanted to be like, "Oh, yeah, how exactly did that happen in the original?" I feel the most fun way to consume this would be reading it fresh off of consuming original *Pride & Prejudice* in some other form, so that it's super fresh in your mind, what exactly is different. Because I think that's the most fun stuff is when little tiny changes happen or little additions happen. I think that's what makes the book work is that it's all just tiny little minor adjustments as opposed to giant swerves out of the original.

**Becca:** I agree. I also think it's crazy that to the point of tweaking some of the minor characters, there were a couple tweaks to the plot that actually affected the characterizations of some of our main characters. I think for me, the biggest one [00:56:00] is Darcy, because in the original book, you have him keeping Bingley away from Jane, because Jane seems somewhat disinterested and her family is totally ridiculous. In this, he keeps her away from Bingley, because he thinks she is stricken by the zombie plague and that's actually a really sympathetic reason to do it to try to protect his friend. It feels much closer to something that is a genuine misunderstanding, where he really had his friend's best interests in heart and it's totally understandable why he would think that. Because in this version, Jane does still get sick on her walk, but after fighting a zombie.

**Mike:** Yeah.

**Becca:** It feels very reasonable for him to think she might actually have the zombie plague. I thought that actually made Darcy a more sympathetic character in the first instance than in the actual original book of *Pride & Prejudice*.

**Mike:** [laughs]

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Mike:** Yeah, honestly, yeah. One of the things that when I originally [00:57:00] read *Pride & Prejudice*, I was like, "Okay, maybe medicine was whack and terrible back in the day." But I did always find it weird that Jane gets caught in the rain and then is sick for a million years. [laughs] For that to be more of a zombie related concern, I felt made much more sense. It did work in the movie, too, because they've made Darcy hyper concerned about the zombies. So, that at least in the first half of the movie, which we all enjoyed. I think that made a whole lot of sense and I thought that that was fun. I think when the zombies could come in, you don't have to change that much. It's cool. I think that was a great justification. I think you're right. It weirdly made more sense than original Darcy.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** Original Darcy was a slightly bit more of an asshole and that's fine.

**Mike:** Yeah, true.

**Becca:** I think that it's fun to also make Elizabeth feel a little dumber in this, because if anything even more self-assured because she just slices through everyone with her Katana.

**Molly:** [00:58:00] Yes. Oh, I love that.

**Becca:** Ah, hot. Honestly.

**Molly:** I think it would be cool. I just thought of this because Mike, you were saying that you thought it was whack that Jane gets so sick. In *Sense and Sensibility*, our girl, Marianne gets very sick from hanging out in the rain too long as well and so sick that she almost dies. I think it would be cool. Maybe this already exists. I know that *Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters* exists, but what I want is *Sense*

*And Sensibility And Zombies* in the same style as *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies*, because I think that you wouldn't actually have to change very much at all.

**Mike:** Oh, yeah.

**Becca:** Absolutely. I will say this. Our girl, Marianne did not just get sick in the rain. She also had severe depression [crosstalk]

**Molly:** Yeah,. Fair.

**Becca:** [crosstalk] compromised her immune system.

**Molly:** Yeah, she almost died.

**Becca:** Yeah. [chuckles]

**Molly:** One thing that I wanted to shoutout was, I listened to the audiobook of this and I think that you did as well, Becca.

**Mike:** Oh.

**Molly:** Charlotte's slowly transforming into a zombie and no one noticing sounded like, it was the funniest thing ever, because Charlotte's lines were all [00:59:00] red, like, "Oh, Lizzie, [unintelligible [00:59:03] there for me." Nobody noticed that she was turning into a zombie except for Elizabeth. And then she later confronts Catherine about it and Lady Catherine's like, "You think I didn't notice. I've been feeding her this potion to keep her alive," which is another thing that they totally just cut out of the movie, but I just thought that was hilarious. So, shouts to the narrator of the audiobook. Katherine Kellgren, you did great.

**Mike:** Nice.

**Becca:** If you are someone who wants to read this book, but you don't necessarily want to sit down and open it up page by page, the audiobook on this-- I'm not usually a fan of novels in audiobook form, but it is excellent. I don't know, Mike, if you did any audiobook listening with this or you just went straight book?

**Mike:** No, I read it on the beach in the Dominican Republic and it was a joy.

**Molly:** Amazing.

**Becca:** Oh, that is the best way to read a book ever. I finished up two towers from *the Lord of the Rings* series that way and let me tell you, it was tricky. That is a tricky beach read.

**Molly:** [laughs] [01:00:00]

**Mike:** Yeah, I definitely, I love reading on the beach. It was something I didn't do until my honeymoon with my wife. We also went to the Dominican Republic. We were there recently, because our friend had



a destination wedding. But I was not a big relax on the beach guy. I grew up near the jersey shore and I would do beach watersports all the time. When my parents and other adults would just want to read on the beach, we're like, "If you're at the beach, you got to do fun stuff." And then having a whole last wedding, when you go on the honeymoon, all you want to do sit and do nothing.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** And that's when I learned the joys of reading on the beach. And man, it's so good. I've definitely done a lot of reading on the beach now, but all of the books I read are not beach reads. I've read two basketball books, like, basketball history books, one book about *A Tribe Called Quest*, the rap group written by a poet, and then *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies*. [laughs]

**Molly:** [chuckles]

**Mike:** Not the [01:01:00] normal like, "Oh, shopaholic" or "Oh, Jack Grisham or whatever the heck, a little thriller or whatever." I have a very different interpretation of beach read, but it's a great time. *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies* on the beach, it's lovely.

**Becca:** I actually was going to say of all those books, I feel *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies* is the best beach read of them all.

**Mike:** It is certainly the beachiest, because it's the silliest. But I had a great time reading my basketball history books, too. [laughs]

**Molly:** So, I think it's about time to talk about our favorite line deliveries. All of mine are Mr. Collins.

**Mike:** That's what I was going to-- I literally just wrote in my notes, Mr. Collins. I couldn't pick anything. I feel if we're going by written line deliveries in the book, I think the best stuff was from Lizzie and Darcy just because those were the quotes I recognize the most. In those quotes, either were tweaked or were about zombie stuff instead. That was the stuff I had the most fun with.

**Molly:** [01:02:00] Mm-hmm.

**Mike:** Anytime, Collins, he's so good and I agree with both of you. It's just like aside of any *Pride & Prejudice* adaptations that I've seen. He's the best Mr. Collins. It's wild. It is wild.

**Becca:** Yeah, exactly.

**Molly:** I have so much respect for Matt Smith. I know who he is. I don't think I've actually ever seen anything with him in it, but I know that he's *Doctor Who*.

**Mike:** Yes, Doctor.

**Becca:** Yeah, he was number 10.

**Mike:** He's the scarf one.

**Becca:** Is he the scarf one? Yeah, he's the scarf one.

**Mike:** I think he is the scarf one.

**Becca:** I thought he was the fez one.

**Mike:** No, I think he's-- Oh, maybe he's the fez one.

**Becca:** But he's an extremely talented actor, because he played *Doctor Who*, He also played a Prince Philip and the original seasons of *The Crown*, which is a very different role, and then he played Mr. Collins. So, he's not only just engaging to watch, he has a lot of range.

**Mike:** Yeah.

**Molly:** So much range. My favorite moment that he had was when he stood up at the table the day that he arrived and he asked for Jane's hand in marriage, and Mrs. Bennet's like, "Oh, no, no, she's already spoken for," and he said, "Oh, fuddle." [01:03:00] Then he stood there for a little bit, and then he went, "Is there absolutely no negotiating over Jane?"

**Mike:** [laughs]

**Molly:** I was like, "I'm done." He just killed me in metrics.

**Becca:** And now, you're a zombie.

**Molly:** Yeah, now, I'm a zombie. And then another moment that he had was, I don't remember what he did. Oh, he helped Lizzie carry her muskets and then he went, "Gallantry isn't dead."

**Becca:** He didn't even help her carry them. He helped her rearrange them and let her continue to carry them and went, "Gallantry isn't dead."

**Mike:** He also had a good quote around that scene when the person comes out of the knocked over carriage and is a zombie, but it's talking really well and at first is crying for help and then the surprise is that she's a zombie. I think he said something like, "Soon they'll be running for office, too." [laughs]

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Mike:** It was really good. But yeah, I had heard of Matt Smith being a good actor, but I just hadn't seen him in anything. I haven't watched *Doctor Who* and I know he's in some other stuff. When I clicked play on the movie, which thankfully was free with ads on Tubi. I was very happy when I got to watch it for \$0.

**Becca:** Oh, no, we paid \$3 on Amazon Prime.

**Mike:** See, I watched it for free on TV and my adblocking thing on my browser blocked all the [01:04:00] ads. [laughs] It was perfect. [laughs]

**Molly:** Amazing.

**Mike:** It was really good. But when I clicked it, the movie poster at first, I was like, "Oh, Lily James. Okay, I could see her being--" I think she does a good job as Elizabeth. I feel any mistake was a writing decision, like, not an acting decision.

**Molly:** Totally.

**Mike:** But when I stopped Matt Smith, I was like, "Matt Smith feels like a big get for Mr. Collins." A role that is usually just like whatever and he nailed it. It's so good. [laughs]

**Molly:** He stole the show.

**Mike:** Yeah, he was great. I also felt bad. Sally Phillips, I love Sally Phillips. I think she's so funny. For her to be Mrs. Bennet, I felt they could have done more with her, because I feel Mrs. Bennet is a very funny character and I feel they didn't play up her silliness enough. I guess, what makes Mrs. Bennet so funny is, her supreme dedication to getting the girls married. I feel that came through sometimes in the movie, but not as much as I think it does in the books, and I was a little disappointed that they really did [01:05:00] amp up Mrs. Bennet in the way where they turn Mr. Collins up to 35, way past 11.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Mike:** I think this gets back to something that both of you said, when we were talking about the movie, this movie tried too hard to not just be fun and I feel this type of movie just needs to amp up the fun. I remember when *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter* came out. It was perfect, because it was like, Yeah, this movie does what it says on the tin. It's Abraham Lincoln, but he's fighting vampires and we're not taking it too seriously. That movie should have been 100% on Rotten Tomatoes.

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Mike:** Anybody that goes in to a movie called *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*, I was like, "Well, the plot was a great." Like, "What the fuck did you sign up for? This is *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*."

**Molly:** Right.

**Mike:** Same thing when *Kong vs. Godzilla* came out. People were like, "I don't know. The plot felt convoluted." "Oh, in the giant lizard versus giant monkey movie, the plot felt a little heavy handed and it didn't make the most sense?" "Yeah, dude. That's what [01:06:00] you signed up for." I feel *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies* tried too hard to make the zombies make sense. It wasn't just goofy. Everybody should have been ramped up. I honestly didn't even mind Darcy's weird batman voice the whole time.

**Becca:** Yeah, thank you.

**Mike:** Because I was like, "You know what? Sure. It's Mr. Darcy, who's obnoxious already." And now, he's a zombie hunter. Sure, he talks like this all movie. Fine, chill.

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Mike:** And honestly, I think Bingley was done really well, too, because he was just impossibly nice. I feel every character should have been ramped up all the way. When they did it for certain characters, it was great and when they didn't do it for other characters, it wasn't great. I just don't understand how you have a movie called *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies* and you go, "What if there was some realism?"

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Molly:** It's like, we don't need to believe in it. We already bought into it the minute we came in.

**Becca:** Yeah. Two things on that. One, I'm so glad you said he had a Batman [01:07:00] voice, because my boyfriend is a huge *Batman* fan and was offended when I compared Darcy to Batman.

**Mike:** It's Christian Bale's *Batman*. It's *Dark Knight* Batman and it's fine. It's fine.

**Molly:** Right.

**Becca:** Number two, I was going to say that despite our criticisms of the movie here, I do think you are correct that the actors did a pretty good job in this movie.

**Mike:** Yes.

**Becca:** With a couple exceptions, I don't think any of the actors were to blame for any of the flaws in the movie. They really all were trying really hard and I think Lily James did a decent Lizzie Bennet for what she was given. I think the problems really stemmed from the writing and the directing, not the acting. That being said, Mr. Collins, hands down and I just wanted to shoutout one more moment. The first time you bring us up Lady Catherine de Bourgh and he goes, "This seemed patroness Lady Catherine de Bourgh," and then it just flashes to her holding the head of a zombie and screaming.

**Mike:** Yes, it was really good.

**Molly:** Yeah. One more really good line delivery that happened that was not Mr. Collins was during Darcy's proposal scene when Lizzie [01:08:00] starts beating his ass. He said that he thought that Jane didn't like her and she takes like-- I don't know what she throws at him, but she goes, "Indifferent? She's shy."

**Mike:** Yeah, that was good.

**Molly:** [crosstalk] at the moment something at him is so good.

**Mike:** Right. I think overall, as well, every line delivery that was delivered while fighting was fun and extra props to the fight choreography, where at certain emphatic moments in the quote, there would be a punch, or a block, or whatever. I think that was really fun to use fighting as a way to bold or italicize certain lines. When those ones were direct quotes from *Pride & Prejudice* were the most fun. It's so good.

**Molly:** Absolutely. So, I think that brings us to our final point, which is who wins this zombie franchise? Who wins *Pride And Prejudice And Zombies*?

**Becca:** Should we do book and movie or just one?

**Molly:** Sure, well, a book win and a movie win.

**Becca:** I think we can all agree movie win, when there's Matt Smith.

**Mike:** Yeah, Colin.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Mike:** I think that's about the Collins. We've all done a great [01:09:00] yes. Great check, boom. I feel book win and just entity win is Jane Austen, because I think it is, and I'm glad your podcast exists, and I hope that more people recognize this. But sometimes people will giggle. *Pride & Prejudice* slaps, and it's a timeless classic, and of all the books-- I remember reading so many books in high school and college, where it's like, "Is this book Good or were there just 10 books in 1900 or whatever?"

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Mike:** I don't think *The Great Gatsby* is good. Sorry, not *The Great Gatsby*. Maybe *The Great Gatsby*. I don't think that what's the fucking Holden Caulfield book?

**Becca:** Oh, *Catcher in the Rye*? Oh, I hate it that one.

**Mike:** *Catcher in the Rye*, *Catcher in the Rye* is not good.

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Mike:** It's not good. There were five books. But I feel *Pride & Prejudice*, it's genuinely incredible. I think it is a disservice to the world that it's one of those things like, "Oh, yeah, one of those books we all had to read in high school." No, you had the [01:10:00] privilege of reading *Pride & Prejudice* in high school. It's so good. Everyone should read it. It should be, I think that everybody reads. it's so funny. It is alarming how funny Jane Austen could be in 1786 or whatever. I didn't think they made *Funny People* back then.

**Becca:** [laughs]

**Mike:** It is wild. I don't think humor was invented [crosstalk]

**Becca:** This about this. We've been talking about how some 2009 humor has not aged perfectly. She wrote this book in the early 1800s and the humor is still good.

**Mike:** The book is so funny. It's so good. I think that the reason Jane Austen wins is that it proves that this book is super timeless and it just shows that you can do little different adaptations too, and it's so

fun. It's really good. Look at all the things we've said. The only times we get angry at the adaptations are when they're not that Jane Austeny. [laughs]

**Molly:** Yeah, totally.

**Mike:** I feel while reading it, I was especially reminded like, "Right, this book is so good. Jane Austen is so good. Everything [01:11:00] about this is so good." The most fun I had reading it is when it was just so *Pride & Prejudice*. I think she's the big winner is that it just shows that it's timeless, you can adapt it, and it works well when you just minorly do so as opposed to-- Using it as a launching point like the movie did, not great. When you just pay homage as much as you can to the original, perfect.

**Becca:** I don't think I can top that. [laughs]

**Molly:** Yeah, no, I just completely agree.

**Becca:** Not only was that a great answer, but it also just a great advertisement for why everyone should listen to our podcast and learn about Jane Austen. So, thank you.

**Mike:** Yeah. If there's a barrier to entry to reading prime prejudice, which I feel it's one of those things where-- I told the story when I was on the podcast. When I was in high school, I was just like, "Oh, it's going to be so boring and it's such an old book. It's going to be bad." Yeah, it's old school book, but it's weirdly an easy read. I remember reading other old books and being confused, especially like Shakespeare stuff. Reading it and then having to Wikipedia like, "What happened? [01:12:00] I don't know what just happened and what I just read." Having to actively read SparkNotes. It's an easy read, and it's a good read, and it's a fun read, and if there's anything that can get more people to appreciate *Pride & Prejudice*, I stand for it. And if your podcast gets more people to read and understand the books, I'm all for it. *Pride & Prejudice* is so fucking good. [laughs]

**Becca:** It is so good.

**Molly:** Well, that seems like a great way to end out this episode of *Pride & Prejudice*. You're literally the perfect guest, because you love *Pride & Prejudice* so much. So, it's just a joy to talk to you every time. So, thank you so much for coming on again. And do you want to tell our listeners where they can find the rest of your stuff?

**Mike:** Sure. First off, thank you so much for having me. This was a delight. was it's funny, because I was already picking what books I was going to read on my trip. Then when I had the DMs from you about, I was like, "Oh, perfect."

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Mike:** "Great." This is going to this is exactly what I need. Thank you again for having me. This is a blast. Always a delight. I would say, if folks want to listen to any of my shows, you can search for all of them wherever you get [01:13:00] podcasts. I also just have a website, which is just *schub.es*, SCHUB dot ES and it's got all of my podcasts, which is Potterless, The Newest Olympian, Meddling Adults, Modern Muckraker, and HORSE. So, I think you would enjoy those. If you enjoyed me talking about them, two of them are about books. If you're a book, podcast type person, I've got two book podcasts,

and really three with Meddling Adults, because you do a lot of encyclopedias [unintelligible [01:13:23]. If you're like, "This guy was good about talking about books and stuff," well, fine, great news for you.

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Mike:** And then I'm also on social media @schubes17 on Twitter and Instagram. If you like me yelling at Joe Biden to fucking do anything.

**Molly:** [laughs]

**Becca:** Come on, man. Or, posting pictures of me cooking food on Instagram, or me yelling about the New York Knicks being bad, or the New York Yankees being good. [laughs]

**Becca:** All right, listeners, that wraps up this episode of Pod and Prejudice. Until next time, stay proper.

**Molly:** And honestly, let's all just [01:14:00] go watch something that Matt Smith is in. Show that man some support.

**Mike:** Yes, correct.

**Molly:** Yeah.

**Becca:** Perfect, perfect.

**Molly:** Pod and Prejudice is edited by Molly Burdick and audio produced by Graham cook. Our show art is designed by Torrance Browne. Our show is transcribed by SpeechDocs Podcast transcription. For transcripts and to learn more about our team, check out our website at [podandprejudice.com](http://podandprejudice.com). To keep up with the show, you can follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook @podandprejudice. If you love what you hear, check out our [patreon@patreon.com/podandprejudice](https://patreon.com/podandprejudice) to see how you can support us or just drop us a rating and a review wherever you listen to podcasts. Thanks for listening.

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