

IN WANT OF A WIFE

A feature screenplay

by **Dean Conrad**

www.inwantofawife.com

***Pride & Prejudice* from the men's perspectives An English classic with an American twist**

England, 1811/12. King George is mad; Napoleon rampages across Europe; America declares war on Britain; the British government is corrupt; the Prime Minister is assassinated.

Meanwhile, back in Meryton...

Concept

A witty look beyond Jane Austen's original plot

What are the men of *Pride & Prejudice* doing during the long periods that they're not on Jane Austen's page? *IN WANT OF A WIFE* answers this question with Dean Conrad's sideways look at the classic novel:

- ~ What do Darcy and Bingley do when they're not pursuing Bennet sisters?
- ~ What brings the men to Meryton in the first place?
- ~ Is there another woman for Darcy?
- ~ What is Darcy's estranged American sister doing in London?
- ~ And just how will Lady Catherine be silenced for good?

Screenplay

IN WANT OF A WIFE is a fun, wry drama with an original plot that intersects *Pride & Prejudice* at key points in Jane Austen's narrative. It is designed to work as a stand-alone story for those not familiar with the novel, but laced with witty references for those who are. Dean Conrad's screenplay introduces new characters and develops familiar ones. It looks at favourite scenes from fresh perspectives, illuminates unwritten moments from the novel, and imagines Darcy's dramatic confrontations with the likes of George Wickham, Lady Catherine – and his feisty, American half-sister, Josephine Adams, in her own plot.

Synopsis

When Darcy's American half-sister, Josephine Adams, arrives in England with important news, the proud, stoical Englishman wants nothing to do with her. But war with the newly independent United States is looming, placing the joint Darcy/Adams family estates in jeopardy. Darcy is now forced to work with his sister to save his country seat of Pemberley from American mercenaries. Darcy's cousin, Col. Fitzwilliam, heads up the hunt for the Pemberley deeds, while his friend Bingley rents a safe-house, Netherfield, in Hertfordshire – where he soon falls for the local beauty, Jane. Meanwhile, Darcy's old nemesis, George Wickham, has acquired the Pemberley papers and threatens to strike a deal with the Americans. Darcy's task now is simple: find Wikham, recover the deeds, save Pemberley, negotiate with the Prime Minister, resist killing his own sister, and rescue his Bingley from the perils of matrimony! But things become complicated when Darcy himself begins to fall for a woman. The Englishman tries to resist, but surely a single man in possession of a good fortune must be *IN WANT OF A WIFE*...?

Script Coverage

The Black List, independent script evaluation, www.blcklst.com
“...exceptionally well written... This script does a fantastic job of delving into the world created by Jane Austen in *Pride and Prejudice* and giving it new life. The writer stays true to the overarching narrative and incorporates lines from the original text in a natural and fun way. The protagonist [Darcy] is given new life in this rendition, and his character is very artfully portrayed. He is given more depth and feels fully developed, a trait which was lacking in the original text. The writing is fantastic overall. The writer's voice is prevalent from start to finish and gives the script additional depth with its added color and flair. The dialogue is true to the times and setting of the story and feels natural, given the context. The narrative moves along at a satisfying clip that feels comparable to that of its companion text. Additionally, the writing manages to hit each key high-point with textbook precision...”

Contact

dean@deanconrad.com / 07762 925053