

## Lively Tomes Meet Lovely Bones or The Wormhole Effect:

A 'wormhole' is a cosmological concept that allows for a hypothetical point to connect vast regions of space and time. Essentially a Point A connected by a tunnel of time or distance opening up at a Point B, and vice versa. [Are you 'Lost in Austen' yet?] With that in mind, what if Jane's Myth is just that, the starting point, or Point A [Austen], which, through the forceful beauty of her genius and its agents *Pride and Prejudice*/ Fitzwilliam Darcy, connected to our modern psyche in so significant a way, as to span over two hundred years, as if it were just stone's throw away? And what if Point B were 'Point BBC' circa 1995, the corresponding portal of time and taste, which revealed so stunningly to our collective contemporary consciousness, the timeless treasure of Jane's universal touch through the touchstone of Colin Firth's heroic performance of Fitzwilliam Darcy? And with the thematic 'worm' in play, also consider the effects of that revelation, in the 'cosmic' context of the 'Can-o-Worms', or the devouring of Jane Austen's lovely legacy and the conversion of it into a multi-million dollar brand industry. To convert it to an appropriate Regency riddle, if our 'Can-o-Worms' is a C-O-W and the multi-million dollars are \$, then place the latter before the former, and one has a veritable 'Cash Cow': the craze for everything Jane & P&P, so much so that now the worms are themselves taking a *starring* role! Enter exhibit A: the undead in *P&P&Z* or otherwise known as that monster mash-up hit, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. Here is our proof universal that today's **lively tomes** are truly feasting on Jane's **lovely bones**!

Did Jane really know what she had 'unearthed' at her Point A in the wormhole, and did she ever suspect what 'Can-o-Worms' she might be unleashing into the universe at a future time? Could she *ever* suspect what she disavowed as 'too light, too bright, too sparkling' would actually, through its brilliance, turn her into a bona fide *star*? And could she ever imagine that Darcy would himself beam like a beacon out into the heavens to guide all future 'olde world souls' back into her past, and without their ever feeling they had left the present?

Perhaps, with a little star-gazing, the starry-eyed might just, in the end, discover the answer to *that* riddle set in the Regency, and truly unveil the singular genius-gift of the 'universal' which *star*-ted it all\*!\*