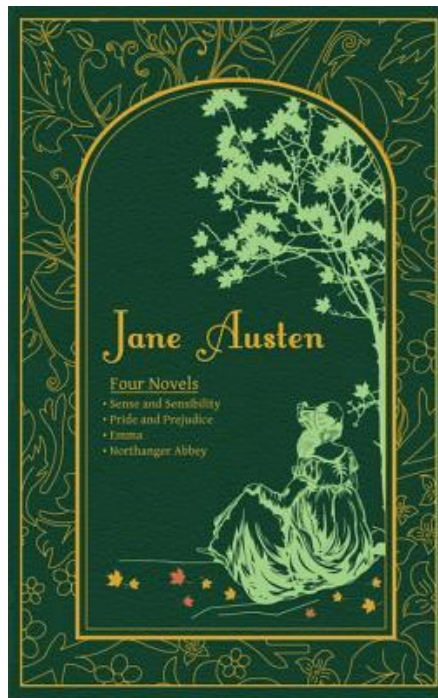




Jane Austen: Four Novels

Jane Austen , Andrew Taggart (Introduction)

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Just like Jane Austen's memorable characters, readers will fall in love--with this remarkable keepsake!

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From Reader Review Jane Austen: Four Novels for online ebook

Laura Luke says

Wasn't one of her best books but it was still enjoyable.

Caitlin says

This was my first Jane Austen novel and I am 24-years-old.

I feel that I deserve to be punished for that statement, but it is true nonetheless.

I went into *Pride and Prejudice* completely blind. Unlike most people, I'd never seen the movies or even read a summary of the book. I knew they existed, sure, and I'd heard of Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, but I didn't have any idea what to expect going into it.

The truth? It was very difficult to understand initially. The way they wrote and spoke in those times took a lot of getting used to and there were numerous paragraphs that required several rereads to comprehend what they were trying to say.

But, in the end, I loved it. I love Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy. I love Jane and Mr. Bingley. I couldn't put it down and I couldn't figure out how they were ever supposed to get together as obstacle after obstacle was thrown in their way, but I loved that, too! I understand why Jane Austen is a legend and why everyone loves her.

I'll be reading her other novels, too.

And, really, I think that's all there is to say on the matter.

Ea Solinas says

Jane Austen. Her name is practically synonymous with classic, understated romance, as well as comedies of manners with a subtle, sly sense of humor -- and the omnibus "Jane Austen - Four Novels" brings together four of her most enduring novels (although admittedly the overall list is rather small) -- filled with lovably flawed heroines, beautiful formal prose, and some rather unconventional love stories.

"Pride and Prejudice" become a problem when Elizabeth Bennett takes a dislike to the handsome, aloof Mr. Darcy -- and her prejudice against him builds after he sabotages her sister's love match, and the charming Wickham drops some shocking claims about Darcy's nastiness. But the facts are very different -- and when scandal hits the Bennett family, Darcy may be their only hope.

And "Sense and Sensibility" clash when the two very different Dashwood sisters, smart Elinor and romantic Marianne, both fall in love -- one with a man she can't have, and the other with a guy who may be horribly unsuitable. And "Northanger Abbey" is a fitting location for Austen's spoof on gothic romances, in which the hyperimaginative Catherine Moreland is taken under the wing of the Tilney family, and especially handsome

Henry -- and learns a lesson about the difference between fantasy and reality.

"Emma" is a frothy romantic comedy about a rich, somewhat spoiled young lady who tries to arrange the lives of people around her so that everyone is happy. The problem is, life isn't that simple -- and neither is love.

The omnibus collection displays the range and depth of Austen's writing skill beautifully; though each story is very unique they're laced together by common themes. Each story is a love story, tempered with some clever commentary on the society of Austen's day (example: entailment, which plays a part in several plots), and a biting, sharp-edged wit (the mockery of the toadying Mr. Collins and the foul Eltons).

And despite the formal stuffiness of the time, Austen painted her stories vividly --each one has powerful emotions and vivid splashes of prose ("The wind roared round the house, and the rain beat against the windows"), as well as deliciously witty dialogue ("I could easily forgive his pride, if he had not mortified mine"). But she also weaves in some intensely romantic moments as well.

Austen also had an interesting range of heroines -- quiet ones, melodramatic ones, intelligent ones, mildly spoiled ones who think they know best. But each one has a major character flaw that must be overcome before she can find true love and happiness. And she has an equally fascinating range of love interests: the quiet shy Colonel Brandon, the sexy and clever Henry Tilney, the blunt Mr. Knightley, and especially the smart, sexy Mr. Darcy (who has a flaw of his own to overcome alongside Lizzie).

"Jane Austen's - Four Novels" draws together her best round of novels, and let readers explore the mannered society and obstacle-filled love lives of her heroines.

JoAnne Styger says

Love Jane Austen, love the beautiful binding of this collection.

Alara Kuman says

This book changed me and my thoughts of love and life.

Michelle says

I usually rate bind-ups/omnibuses 5*; as a whole - in regards to the physicality of it - it's very nice. This edition includes *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, and *Northanger Abbey*.

Sense and Sensibility:

[3.5/5] This is my second Austen read, after *Pride and Prejudice*. It was all right; I thought it was quite forgettable, and the ending felt too rushed. You can clearly see the contrast between the two sisters, Elinor and Marianne, one thought to represent sense and the other sensibility. How they react to their respective problems reflects some of their qualities/characteristics.

Pride and Prejudice:

[4/5] This was my first Austen read going back a few years to when I was in high school. This was the book I chose to dip my toe into as an introduction to the classics genre. After reading it, I was less than impressed (though I didn't dislike it), especially since I knew this book was very beloved. I read it again a couple of years later in this edition and discovered more merit in it the second time around, though I still didn't love the book. Romances aren't my favorite, but this book has a lot more going for it than romantic elements. I learned to appreciate the characters more, as well as understand the social climate of that time period. I don't really need to praise this book more - millions of others have already done it. I want to briefly add that the more distance I get from it, the more I'm itching to reread it. The interaction between Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy is fascinating, as is the slow changing of their minds. Once again, one character embodies Pride, and the other Prejudice, but neither is wholly one or the other.

Emma:

[4.5/5] I stopped reading this halfway through the book and never came back to it till about a year and a half later (at which point I had forgotten too much to not start over from the beginning). I surprisingly really enjoyed this book, despite having put it down in the first place due to its slow pace and its lack of anything happening. I still find the second volume (out of three) to be the dullest, but the first volume and the last one are fantastic. I really like protagonist, Emma (duh!), and how she matures by the end of the book. This book contests *Pride and Prejudice* as being the best Austen novel (in my opinion, of course). Again, another great look into the social atmosphere of nineteenth century England.

Northanger Abbey:

[3/5] It was hard to get through, and not just because I had a lot of schoolwork in the way. I found myself drifting toward other books to read because I was so disinterested in the plot-line. I found the small section of parody too unevenly inserted into the bigger scope of the story, which mainly just had to do with the day-to-day life of Catherine, and the adventures she'd gone on. Again, like *Sense and Sensibility*, there was a terribly rushed ending in which she got married (not a spoiler - everybody gets married by the end of Austen novels, right?).

All in all, of the four novels I've read by her, I'm evenly split on whether I like them or not. I'm willing to read another one of her works (*Persuasion*, perhaps), but I'm far from being an Austen fan.

Katelyn Buxton says

Pride and Prejudice

5 out of 5 stars

Review coming whenever I re-read it and can give a coherent account of *why* I loved it. :P

Sense and Sensibility

4 out of 5 stars

[Some spoilers may be contained. Mostly copied from my original review here:

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>]

Well this was one of those books that was hard to rate. I dilly-dallied between giving it three and four stars for a while, but ultimately decided on four since what I did like significantly outweighed the parts I didn't care so much for. (And while these latter bits do take up a good portion of the review, they didn't bother me so much while I was busy reading.)

First, the good stuff. I just really love Austen's archaic writing style. It's so lovely to go back to a time when things seemed simpler. (Admittedly, however, I am glad no one's bent on marrying me off to someone just

because they're rich!) And, although the mile-long sentences can be a lot for some people to get through, I love them, because some passages were just so funny. Austen possessed a very sharp understanding of human nature, and brought her characters to life in a way that made me laugh, because humanity never really changes. (One of my favorite examples of this was of a mother-in-law being bothered that her son-in-law thought all babies looked the same, despite having a brand-new one of his own. She, of course, could tell exactly where the child's nose came from.)

I also liked the fact, that, unlike *Pride and Prejudice*, the theme of marrying rich wasn't so thoroughly accepted by authority figures. Sure, they could, but it wasn't necessary. Mrs. Dashwood placed her girls' happiness above riches, and I loved that. So did their motherly guardian of much of the book, Mrs. Jennings. It was refreshing! [mini rant about marrying rich over]

As for characters, Elinor was a very level-headed young woman with a truly admirable moral compass, which balanced out her anything-but-level-headed sister Marianne. Marianne was the romantic. And while I usually really love romantic characters, hers was carried out to the extreme, and ultimately did more harm for her than good.

There also several plot twists that took me completely by surprise! I can think of two that really shocked me, and made me put the book down to stare at nothing for several seconds while I tried to process What. Just. Happened. Dun dun dunnn. I love a good plot twist. :P

Buuut now we come to the stuff that I wasn't so keen on. The romance wasn't as well paced as in *Pride and Prejudice* (this is the only other reference for Austen I have, so bear with me.) I liked Willoughby and Marianne's while it lasted *pauses to glare at the former* but of course it didn't, and we were left scrambling at the end of the book to marry both Elinor and Marianne Dashwood to somebody. (Elinor's primary suitor had been placed out of reach early on by discovering another girl had a claim on him first.) Again, I have a problem with this, because at the end, the aforementioned Girl decided she would break off the engagement of four years to marry this man's brother, therefore freeing This Man to marry Elinor. Just—what?? It seemed much too convenient, and really didn't add up for me, neither did Elinor's apparently always having loved This Man with a strength I didn't gather she had in the time before she knew he was taken, and furthermore, that He reciprocated it.

Also, Marianne moped for a very long time after her heart was broken. I understand that would be a difficult thing, but she almost killed herself by it when not eating, sleeping, or really possessing a will to live gave her a violent fever. Overkill much?

And they tried to explain away a Certain Man's scoundrel-ness, but ultimately, the best I could do was feel a little sorry for him. He brought it all upon himself, and while he felt the loss of everything very keenly, he was not repentant.

As for other objectionable content, there was mention of a couple instances of sex outside of wedlock, but only in a very veiled, unapproving sort of way.

scrolls up *realizes the less-than-favorable stuff takes up about as much space as the favorable stuff and I rated it four stars* Honestly, I really did enjoy this book, and will be returning for more Jane Austen in the future. I just have a lot of articulate thoughts on the stuff I didn't like so much. xD Really, these things were not big deals for me as I was reading, I just felt they needed to be mentioned in my review for anyone that might be interested. It was a good book, and while I ultimately ended up preferring *Pride and Prejudice*, this one was a lovely read too.

Emma

4 out of 5 stars

Emma is a very solid four-star read for me. Austen has a way of bringing you right into the world of her characters, and making you care about little, everyday happenings, as well as the bigger, not-so-everyday stuff... like getting married. (I mean 'cause you know it's going to happen, being Jane Austen and all.) :P

Previously, I've read two other Austen novels: *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Sense and Sensibility*. I find them to be a pleasant variation from the typical "save the world," type things I usually read, and going back in time to the eighteen hundreds is another plus. (I kinda sorta love that time period, *cough*.) The problem with having read two Jane Austen books before, however, is the fact that by round three, they begin to become a little predictable—there always seems to be a Mr. Collins, Wickham, and Darcy, to use *Pride and Prejudice* terms. (I won't say more than that for fear of spoilers, but I saw who the main character, Emma, would end up with almost from the very beginning.)

Speaking of Emma, at the start of the book she was quite the "nonsensical girl," as Mr. Knightley once put it, almost to the point of being irritating. However, by the end she had grown a lot, as a character, and as a person. I thought that it was a refreshing arc, because Elizabeth from *Pride and Prejudice* already had a good head of sense on her shoulders, as did Elinor from *Sense and Sensibility*, but Emma was more relatable because she *wasn't* perfect. (Also, she had declared that she would never marry—an extraordinary thing, given the time period and the fact that she's in a Jane Austen novel. While I don't think either extreme of the Marry-or-not-to-Marry spectrum is good—after all, we should be after what *God* wants in our lives—she wasn't so bent on upholding that declaration that couldn't be persuaded otherwise.)

As for the other characters—*Mrs. E* was infuriating, Mr. Knightley by far my favorite male character, Harriet quiet and sweet, Mr. Woodhouse funny and endearing despite his obsession with health, Mr. and Mrs. Weston just the sort of lovely people you want to associate with, and Miss Bates... holy cow, that woman could talk—just to name a few.

The reason I didn't give it four stars despite the super-satisfying ending that gave you time to enjoy it before dropping you back into the real world again, was the fact that it did drag a little at times (although that might just be my attention span to blame there), and everyone lived Happily Ever After™. I know it's Jane Austen, but I felt like the end of Harriet's subplot was just a little thrown in, so you wouldn't feel *too bad* about Emma's turning out all right in spite of everything.

Those are my only complaints, however. Although *Pride and Prejudice* still reigns as my favorite Jane Austen novel to date, this one's a close second, and is definitely worth the read!

Northanger Abbey

4 out of 5 stars

This book is glorious, simply put. For a large chunk of it I had to wonder why it seems to be one of the lesser-known Jane Austen novels. The chosen heroine, Catherine Morland, grew up a tomboy, is bookish, rather naïve, and a hopeless romantic—her Love Interest is even more well-read than she is—and Austen fearlessly breaks the fourth wall on a regular basis. In short, I was thoroughly prepared to give it five stars and challenge *Pride and Prejudice* as the reigning champion of my favorite Jane Austen novel, except for the end, which just wasn't satisfying.

But before I get into that, let me just talk about Catherine a little more. She was a tomboy until age fifteen, (when she settled down somewhat), loves to read, fangirls before it was a thing, views life through the colorful lens that reading gives it, is, admittedly, a little oblivious from time to time, always wants to think the best of people, and is infatuated old architecture. She's like Anne Shirley meets Jane Bennet meets me. *awkward laughter* Also, she never fell for anyone but the Right One. (Can I get a hallelujah?? Amen.)

Northanger Abbey seems to be a little more condensed than most Jane Austen novels, as well, and therefore moves quicker without introducing a Collins or Wickham, (although there was one guy that was kind of a jerk, but could've been worse, I s'pose), and kept me interested throughout. The character that disgusted me the most in this book was not a scoundrel of a man at all, in fact—it was a certain scoundrel of a young lady who dared to call herself Catherine's friend. *glares* A close second was Mr. Love Interest's father, when he showed his true colors.

As for the rest of the book, it was glorious, like I mentioned. Catherine gets herself into a truly awkward scrape when snooping where she shouldn't (think reader death-by-second-hand-embarrassment type situation), but experiences grace unlooked-for. This tames her wild imagination somewhat, and makes her a steadier person altogether.

The only reason I didn't give it five whole stars, as mentioned above, is because of the ending. It was sudden (a reoccurring problem I've noticed with Jane Austen in general), and because of this, the moment when Catherine's Mr. Right confesses his feelings is skimmed over and summarized in a few paragraphs. There wasn't one line of dialogue. That eliminated the payoff, and left me feeling rather cheated, since the rest of it was so enjoyable. *whispers* Authors, don't do that. There's a time and place for summarizing conversations, but the moment of payoff isn't it.

All things considered, however, *Northanger Abbey* was a fitting end to this collection of Jane Austen novels, and definitely worth a read, if you like reading about characters that like reading. (I know I do!)

Maria says

I would prefer to immerse myself into a Jane Austin book than a bath any day!

Michaela says

Love Jane Austen's writing! I know some people find it hard to read, but I found it easier, or about the same, to read as to other authors of the age. Although, if you asked me what *Northanger Abbey* was about, I would say, "I don't know."

P.S. Winn says

Great collection, if you haven't read books by this author pick this up. Many movies and tv shows have been made from Jane Austen stories, but reading the books takes the tales to another level.

Jessica Scott-Moore says

It's a really nice edition very handy to have all her books in one volume! Well made and very attractive!
