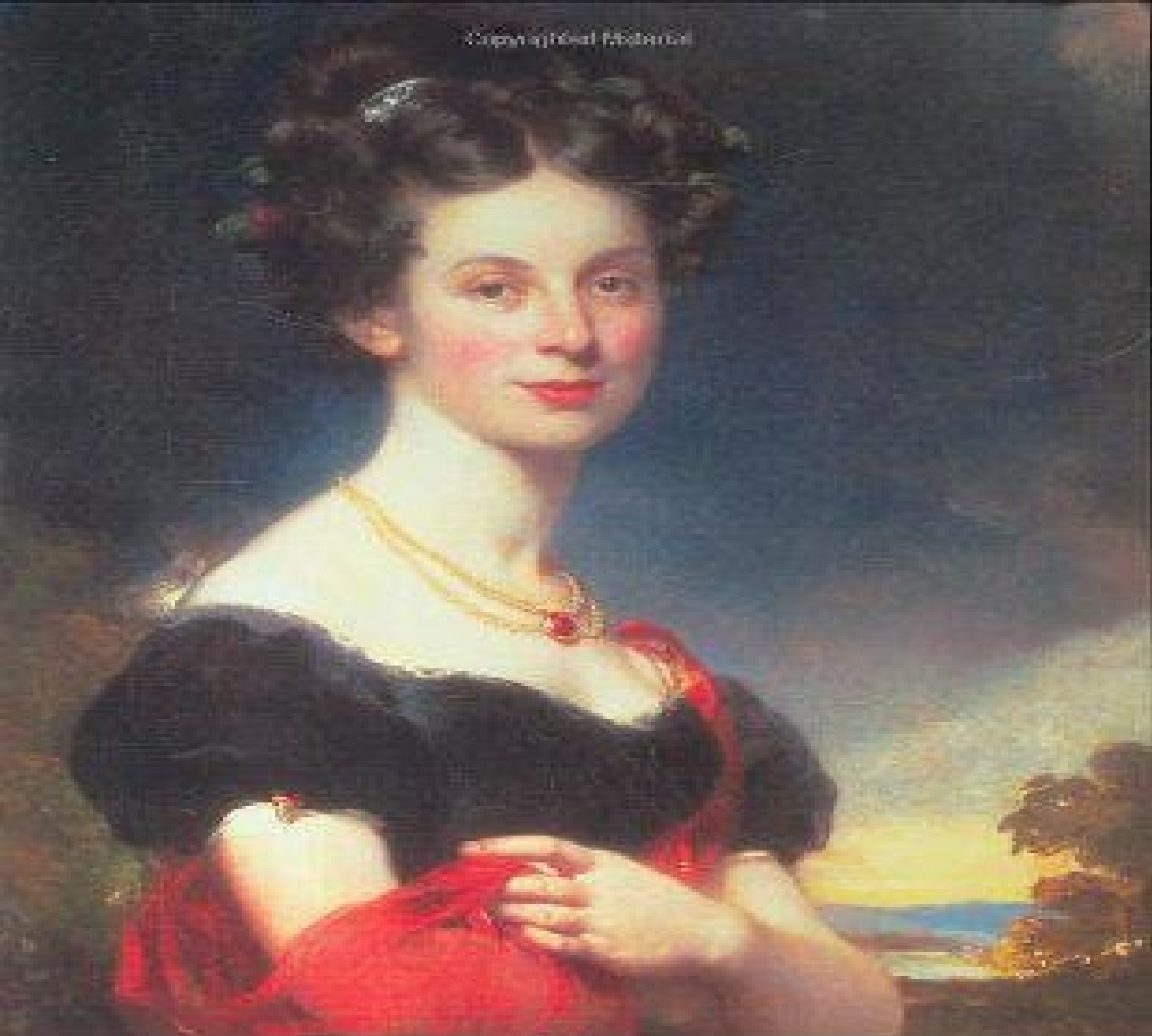


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P E N G U I N



C L A S S I C S

JANE AUSTEN

Emma

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Emma



Jane Austen

With an Introduction by Steven Marcus

Notes by Victoria Blake

George Stade

Consulting Editorial Director



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Table of Contents

[*From the Pages of Emma*](#)

[*Title Page*](#)

[*Copyright Page*](#)

[*Jane Austen*](#)

[*The World of Jane Austen and Emma*](#)

[*Introduction*](#)

[*Notes to Introduction*](#)

[Volume the First.](#)

[Chapter I.](#)

[Chapter II.](#)

[Chapter III.](#)

[Chapter IV.](#)

[Chapter V.](#)

[Chapter VI.](#)

[Chapter VII.](#)

[Chapter VIII.](#)

[Chapter IX.](#)

[Chapter X.](#)

[Chapter XI.](#)

[Chapter XII.](#)

[Chapter XIII.](#)

[Chapter XIV.](#)

[Chapter XV.](#)

[Chapter XVI.](#)

[Chapter XVII.](#)

[Chapter XVIII.](#)

[Volume the Second.](#)

[Chapter I.](#)

[Chapter II.](#)

[Chapter III.](#)

[Chapter IV.](#)
[Chapter V.](#)
[Chapter VI.](#)
[Chapter VII.](#)
[Chapter VIII.](#)
[Chapter IX.](#)
[Chapter X.](#)
[Chapter XI.](#)
[Chapter XII.](#)
[Chapter XIII.](#)
[Chapter XIV.](#)
[Chapter XV.](#)
[ChapterXVI.](#)
[Chapter XVII.](#)
[Chapter XVIII.](#)

[Volume the Third.](#)

[Chapter I.](#)
[Chapter II.](#)
[Chapter III.](#)
[Chapter IV.](#)
[Chapter V.](#)
[Chapter VI.](#)
[Chapter VII.](#)
[Chapter VIII.](#)
[Chapter IX.](#)
[Chapter X.](#)
[Chapter XI.](#)
[Chapter XII.](#)
[Chapter XIII.](#)
[Chapter XIV.](#)
[Chapter XV.](#)
[Chapter XVI.](#)
[Chapter XVII.](#)
[Chapter XVIII.](#)
[Chapter XIX.](#)

[Endnotes](#)

[Inspired by Emma](#)

[Comments & Questions](#)

[For Further Reading](#)

From the Pages of Emma



Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessings of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her.

(page 3)

Matrimony, as the origin of change, was always disagreeable.

(page 5)

“Success supposes endeavour.”

(page 9)

“The attentions of a certain person can hardly be among the tittle-tattle of Highbury yet. Hitherto I fancy you and I are the only people to whom his looks and manners have explained themselves.”

(page 48)

“One half of the world cannot understand the pleasures of the other.”

(page 73)

“I shall not be a poor old maid; and it is poverty only which makes celibacy contemptible to a generous public!”

(page 76)

There are people, who the more you do for them, the less they will do for themselves.

(page 82)

“The truth is, that in London it is always a sickly season. Nobody is healthy in London, nobody can be.”

(page 92)

It was a delightful visit;—perfect, in being much too short.

(page 97)

“There is, I believe, in many men, especially single men, such an inclination—such a passion for dining out; a dinner engagement is so high in the class of their pleasures, their employments, their dignities, almost their duties, that any thing gives way to it—and this must be the case with Mr. Elton: a most valuable, amiable, pleasing young man undoubtedly, and very much in love with Harriet; but still he cannot refuse an invitation, he must dine out wherever he is asked.”

(page 99)

Human nature is so well disposed towards those who are in interesting situations, that a young person, who either marries or dies, is sure of being kindly spoken of.

(page 164)

“I cannot separate Miss Fairfax and her complexion.”

(page 181)

Perfect happiness, even in memory, is not common.

(page 208)

“Business, you know, may bring money, but friendship hardly ever does.”

(page 263)

“If other children are at all like what I remember to have been myself, I should think five times the amount of what I have ever yet heard named as a salary on such occasions dearly earned.”

(page 346)

Seldom, very seldom, does complete truth belong to any human disclosure;

seldom can it happen that something is not a little disguised, or a little mistaken.
(page 391)

“I always deserve the best treatment, because I never put up with any other.”
(page 428)

Emma



Jane Austen

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Begun in 1814, *Emma* was first published in 1816.

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Emma

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Jane Austen



The English novelist Jane Austen was born on December 16, 1775, the seventh of eight children, in the Parsonage House of Steventon, Hampshire, where she spent her first twenty-five years. During her relatively brief lifetime Austen witnessed political unrest, revolution, war, and industrialization, yet these momentous events are not the central or explicit subjects of her finely focused novels. Rather, Austen wrote out of her immediate experience: the world of the country gentry and middle-class professional and business families. Jane's father, the Reverend George Austen, was the well-read country rector of Steventon, and her mother, Cassandra (née Leigh), was descended from a well-connected line of learned clergymen. By no means wealthy, the Austens nonetheless enjoyed a comfortable and socially respectable life.

Jane and her beloved elder (and only) sister, Cassandra, were schooled in Southampton and Reading for short periods, but most of their education took place at home. Private theatrical performances in the barn at Steventon complemented Jane's studies of French, Italian, history, music, and eighteenth-century fiction. An avid reader from earliest childhood, she began writing at age twelve, no doubt encouraged by her highly literate and affectionate family. Indeed, family and writing were her great loves. Despite a momentary engagement in 1802, Jane Austen never married. Her first two extended narratives, "Elinor and Marianne" and "First Impressions," were written while she was at Steventon but were never published in their original form.

Following her father's retirement, Jane moved in 1801 with her parents and sister to Bath. That popular watering hole, removed from the country life Jane preferred, presented the observant young writer with a wealth of events and experiences that would later be put to good use in her novels. Austen moved to Southampton with her mother and sister after the death of her father in 1805. Several years later the three women settled in Chawton Cottage in Hampshire, where Austen resided until the end of her life. She welcomed her return to the countryside and, with it, there came a renewed artistic vigor that led to the

revision of her early novels. *Sense and Sensibility*, a reworking of “Elinor and Marianne,” was published in 1811, followed by *Pride and Prejudice*, a reworking of “First Impressions,” two years later.

Austen completed three more novels (*Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, and *Persuasion*) in the Chawton sitting room. Productive and discreet, she was not widely known to be the author of her published work. All of her novels were published anonymously, including the posthumous appearance, thanks to her brother Henry, of *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*.

The last years of Austen’s life were relatively quiet and comfortable. Her final, unfinished work, *Sanditon*, was put aside in the spring of 1817, when her health sharply declined and she was taken to Winchester for medical treatment of what appears to have been Addison’s disease or a form of lymphoma. Jane Austen died there on July 18, 1817, and is buried in Winchester Cathedral.

The World of Jane Austen and Emma



- 1775** The American Revolution begins in April. Jane Austen is born on December 16 in the Parsonage House in Steventon, Hampshire, England, the seventh of eight children (two girls and six boys).
- 1778** Frances (Fanny) Burney publishes *Evelina*, a seminal work in the development of the novel of manners.
- 1781** German philosopher Immanuel Kant publishes the *Critique of Pure Reason*.
- 1782** The American Revolution ends. Fanny Burney's novel *Cecilia* is published.
- 1783** Cassandra and Jane Austen begin their formal education in Southampton, followed by study in Reading.
- 1788** King George III of England suffers his first attack of mental illness, leaving the country in a state of uncertainty and anxiety. George Gordon, Lord Byron, is born.
- 1789** George III recuperates. The French Revolution begins. William Blake's *Songs of Innocence* is published.
- 1791** American political writer Thomas Paine publishes the first part of *The Rights of Man*.
- 1792** Percy Bysshe Shelley is born. Mary Wollstonecraft publishes *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*.
- 1793** Europe is shocked by the execution of King Louis XVI of France and, some months later, his wife, Marie-Antoinette; the Reign of Terror begins. England declares war on France. Two of Austen's brothers, Francis (1774-1865) and Charles (1779-1852), serve in the Royal Navy, but life in the countryside at Steventon remains relatively tranquil.
- 1795** Austen begins her first novel, "Elinor and Marianne," written as letters (this early version is now lost); she will later revise the material as *Sense and Sensibility*. John Keats is born.
- 1796** Austen drafts a second novel, "First Impressions," which was also never
-1797 published; it will later be rewritten as *Pride and Prejudice*.

- 1798** Poets William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge publish *Lyrical Ballads*.
- 1801** Jane's father, the Reverend George Austen, retires. He and his wife and two daughters leave the quiet country life of Steventon and move to the bustling, fashionable town of Bath.
- 1803** Austen's novel "Susan" is accepted for publication but does not see the light of day. The manuscript is eventually returned by the publisher. It will be revised and released posthumously as *Northanger Abbey*. The United States buys Louisiana from France. Ralph Waldo Emerson is born.
- 1804** Napoleon crowns himself emperor of France. Spain declares war on Britain.
- 1805** Jane's father dies. Jane and her mother and sister subsequently move to Southampton. Sir Walter Scott publishes *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*.
- 1809** After several years of moving about and short-term stays in various towns, the Austen women settle in Chawton Cottage in Hampshire; in the parlor of this house Austen writes her most famous works. Charles Darwin and Alfred, Lord Tennyson, are born.
- 1811** Austen begins *Mansfield Park* in February. In November *Sense and Sensibility* is published with the notation "By a Lady"; all of Austen's subsequent novels are also brought out anonymously. George III is declared insane, and the Prince of Wales (the future King George IV) becomes regent.
- 1812** *Fairy Tales* by the Brothers Grimm and the first parts of Lord Byron's *Childe Harold* are published. The United States declares war on Great Britain.
- 1813** *Pride and Prejudice* is published. Napoleon is exiled to Elba, and the Bourbons are restored to power.
- 1814** *Mansfield Park* is published.
- 1815** Napoleon is finally defeated at Waterloo.
- 1816** *Emma* is published. Charlotte Brontë is born.
- 1817** Austen begins the satiric novel *Sanditon*, but puts it aside because of declining health. She dies on July 18 in Winchester and is buried in Winchester Cathedral.
- 1818** *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* are published under Jane Austen's brother Henry's supervision.