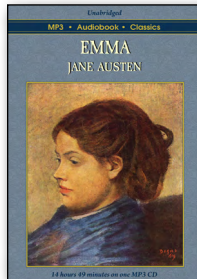


British Fiction - Jane Austen

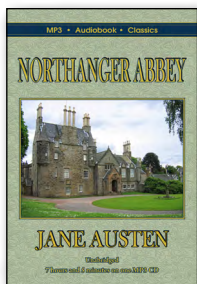


Emma

Author: Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)
Read by: Elizabeth Klett
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 14 hours 49 minutes
Genre: Romance

Emma (1915) was the second to last of Jane Austen's novels and treats the social concerns of Regency England with the light and satirical touch of a master. Emma Woodhouse is a wealthy, pretty, self-satisfied and willful young woman who lives in a small English town with her hypochondriac father. She has time on her hands and so decides to take charge of young Harriet Smith, the illegitimate daughter of an unknown gentleman, and marry her off to an suitable gentlemen. The well drawn characters are as much of the appeal as of the book as the comedy of a plot: the social climbing Mr. Elton, who snubs Harriet for a nouveau-riche wife; Robert Martin, the educated and respectable local bachelor farmer; Jane Fairfax, the talented and elegant orphaned niece of the impoverished neighbor Miss Bates; Frank Church, who will inherit a fortune from an aunt; and Mr. Knightley, who serves as the voice of conscience. The story ends happily after every possible mishap, much as we hope it will.

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MSLP: \$12.99



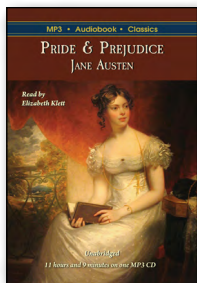
Northanger Abbey

Author: Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)
Read by: Elizabeth Klett
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 7 hours 5 minutes
Genre: Romance

Northanger Abbey is the story of Catherine Morland, the seventeen-year old daughter of a clergyman and his wife. She leads an ordinary life, but has a penchant for gothic novels and a lively imagination to go with it. On a visit to Bath she meets Henry Tilney and his sister Eleanor, who invite her to stay at Northanger Abbey, the family estate. Catherine's imagination has a field day, filling the novel with ruined castles, secret notes, locked chests in hidden rooms, and the obligatory tyrannical father. While

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UPC: 0684758936066
MSLP: \$11.99

Catherine finds portentous horrors lurking in every event, Austen skewers the horrors and hypocrisy of the polite society of her so-called friends. Originally entitled *Susan*, *Northanger Abbey* (1803) was sold for £10 to a London bookseller, who then decided not to publish it and sold it back to her brother. Austen revised it again in 1817, changing the title to *Catherine*. Her brother Henry arranged for its publication after her death under the title *Northanger Abbey*.



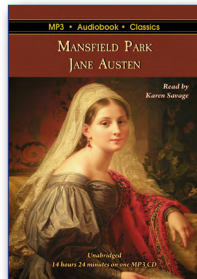
Pride and Prejudice

Author: Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)
Read by: Elizabeth Klett
Length: 11 hours 9 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Romance

Pride and Prejudice (1813) is the consummate novel of manners and remains one of the best loved novels of all time. Although its characters are steeped in the insular world of Britain's landed gentry, they are as timeless and attractive today as they were in the Georgian and Regency Eras. It has been said that God draws straight with crooked lines, and perhaps nowhere is that more evident than in the tortured and comic actions of Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy as they initially repulse one another like the wrong ends of magnets, only to be drawn

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ineluctably together by the power of a love so strong that it watches over the best laid plans and laughs. This speaks to the notion of "soul mates", of a world in the hands of a loving God who works His will so that Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy can find each other and the love destined for them in spite of themselves. It is no wonder that *Pride and Prejudice* has been adapted to stage and screen countless times and has sold over twenty million copies world-wide.

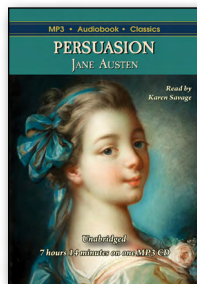


Mansfield Park

Author: Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)
Read by: Elizabeth Klett
Length: 14 hours 24 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Romance

Fanny Price, eldest daughter of a large family struggling to get by on a naval officer's pension, is sent to live with her wealthy aunt at Mansfield Park. Only her good natured cousin Edmund is civil. Lady Bertram is lazy and indolent; her son Tom drinks and gambles; her daughters are vain and spoiled. Things get interesting with the arrival of the worldly Henry Crawford and his sister and the loveless betrothal of her cousin Maria to rich dullard Mr. Rushworth. Passions supersede good sense, and the result is a comedy of missed opportunities, betrayal, adultery, and scandal. The rules of polite society prevail, and those who lack respect for the social contract get their comeuppance, while those that play by the rules find happy endings. *Mansfield Park* (1813) is the longest and the most controversial of Jane Austen's novels. Some find the character of Fanny timid and insipid; others find her complex and admire her faith, courage and inner growth. The differing perspectives are a telling commentary on the challenges faced by women of her time.

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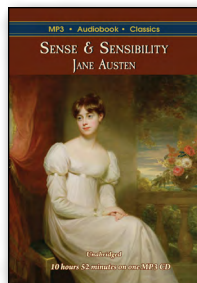


Persuasion

Author: Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)
Read by: Karen Savage
Length: 7 hours 14 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Romance

Had Jane Austen lived longer and continued to write, her last novel, *Persuasion* (1816), might be considered a transition point in her development. The unwritten rules of Britain's high society just before the beginning of Victoria's long reign were a game of sorts and remain so even today. Like any game, playing with the rules—bending them, breaking them—can be a delightful pastime. *Persuasion* presents a less than charitable view of that game and those rules, as it is steeped in the snobbery of the fatuous lives of those who have nothing better to do than to keep score. In contrast to this hermetically sealed society, Austen looks beyond the short horizons of Bath to the daring efforts of the men of the Royal British Navy at the dawn of its golden age. Ultimately the heroine, Anne Elliot, finds happiness with the love of her heart, an ending to a complex story that lays bare the less attractive virtues of a world view where status, real or imagined, deserved or not, rules all.

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MSLP: \$11.99



Sense and Sensibility

Author: Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)
Read by: Elizabeth Klett
Length: 10 hours 52 minutes
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Genre: Romance

Sense and Sensibility (1811) is a novel of manners written to deepen a character sketch of two sisters, Elinore and Marianne Dashwood. Reviews of the novel often start with attempts to discern Austen's view regarding the supremacy of "sense" or "sensibility" in the process of making choices and decisions. They define the age-old polar tension between reason and emotion, the Classical versus the Romantic. By 1811 England had embarked upon a Romantic movement. After the Age of Reason and its failures there was a desire to return to nature in its purity, youth in its innocence and the heart as seat of man's reason. *Sense and Sensibility* picks up on the transition and sets forth the field of endeavor where characters make their way under the light of reason or feelings. The novel solves no problem since there is no problem to be solved. Rather it presents the facts of the human condition. We are creatures of thoughts and feelings, creatures of reason and emotion, creatures of impulse and consideration. The miracle is that Austen's first novel intuitively and presents all of this.

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MSLP: \$12.99