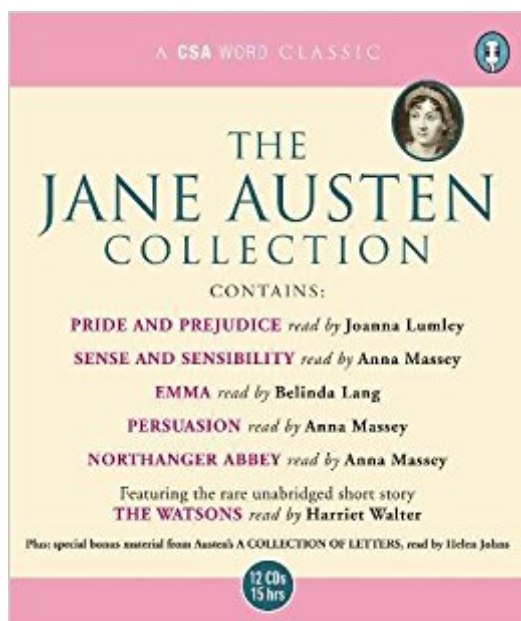


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The Jane Austen Collection (A CSA Word Recording)



Synopsis

Jane Austen's novels have proved to be enduring favorites in every medium in which they appear, whether books or movies, comic books or TV mini-series. Works like *Emma*, *Persuasion*, and *Pride and Prejudice* present incomparable portraits of marriageable but discriminating young women, the scoundrels and gentlemen who entrance and confound them, their scheming mothers and hapless fathers—all set in the well-mannered world of early 19th-century British country life. With this collection, fans can enjoy the books anew in audio format. Joanna Lumley, whose *Patsy* made *Absolutely Fabulous* a cult hit, aptly showcases the mordant wit of *Pride and Prejudice*. Anna Massey brings character and vigor to her dramatizations of *Persuasion*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Northanger Abbey*. Belinda Lang offers a stylish interpretation of *Emma*, while Harriet Walter evokes Austen in a different mode in her reading of the little-known novella, *The Watsons*. Musical backgrounds enhance the listener's experience. Abridged.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is in Electronic Paperback Format. If you view this book on any of the computer systems below, it will look like a book. Simple to run, no program to install. Just put the CD in your CDROM drive and start reading. The simple easy to use interface is child tested at pre-school levels.

Windows 3.11, Windows/95, Windows/98, OS/2 and MacIntosh and Linux with Windows Emulation. Includes Quiet Vision's Dynamic Index. the ability to build a index for any set of characters or words.

--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Jane Austen (1775-1817) was an English novelist famed for her satirical social commentary and romantic fiction.

These recordings are abridged. I have a reading of Emma on 11 CDs. This collection does it in 2. This is a drawback, and it is not evident from the description. The box only mentions it on the back at the lower left although it would be evident from the CD count, I suppose. On the plus side the set includes an unabridged reading of The Watsons, and a CD of readings of Jane Austen's letters, both of which I have not seen elsewhere available in audio. I was looking for Sense and Sensibility on CD. It is her, abridged, in a 2 CD set, also. I'm torn between opening the box, i.e. accepting the item, for the Watsons and Letters, and to hold my S&S desires until I can find a full version; and sending it back. Watch for a further review if I open the box. Ok, I did open it and listened to the Watsons (unabridged), Sense & Sensibility (abridged) and Pride and Prejudice (abridged). Here's the deal: You don't read Jane Austen for the plot. You read it because of Jane Austen's writing. You listen to it for the same reason. This means there is nothing at all to recommend an abridged version. Here's the problem in a nutshell. At one point in Pride and Prejudice, Elizabeth Bennet regrets all of the saucy speeches she ever made to Mr. Darcy. We regret them too, but for a different reason. She wishes Mr. Darcy had never heard them. Had he been listening to the abridged version, he never would have heard them because they were all cut out. Parts of the abridgement make no sense at all. When Ms. Bingley says Elizabeth is one of those women who curry favor with men by running down members of her own sex in the abridged version, this makes no sense whatever because we have not heard the conversation that led it to it in the novel. I do not recommend buying this set at all. Had I not opened it, I would return it. There is no point in an abridged Jane Austen. That said, I note this is the only audio version of Sense & Sensibility I can find, except the Project Gutenberg rendition which seems to have each chapter read by a different volunteer - a reading that is not up to the performance standard of the professional sets. It is also the only audio version of the Watsons, and the excerpts from what seem to be the early practice sessions of a young Jane for an epistolary novel. These are presented as letters by Jane Austen, but I don't believe that is accurate in the sense of letters being written to someone else. These are letters which practice writing on a brief topic, and they have interesting echoes in her published novels. They are not the equal of any of the writing in the novels, however. I should probably give this set No Stars, but I don't think that's an option. So, 1 star for the otherwise unavailable material.

I bought this set of audio CD's for my wife so that we could listen to them while traveling in the car. I believe that the set is good for that purpose. We are both fans of Jane Austen (my wife actually writes Jane Austen fan fiction) and know her stories well. So, it was disappointing to find that this collection was 'abridged'. But for the purpose of being able to listen and enjoy Jane Austen's work while traveling this is well worth the price. For me, I have learned to do a better job of research when looking into a product, but I have enjoyed very much listening to these productions. Enjoy listening!

Great set of books by Jane Austen for any first time readers of her work, I did expect the paperbacks to be a bit more flexible and not so stiff but I will probably be investing in a hardcover set of her books later on anyways.

I regret not checking the dimensions before buying. The books are tiny and the font is almost impossible to read without a magnifying glass.

I have only read through Emma so far on my Kindle and the book doesn't appear to have any spelling, grammar, or technical mistakes. The illustrations are a nice touch also. However, the audio book links I have tried to use are really atrocious. I know it's inexpensive but the audio book narration voice is poor. If you'd like to listen to the books I recommend buying an audio book specifically, but for reading I think the e-book is a good deal.

Great buy for a great collection

I just finished rereading "Lady Susan" in preparation for reading a spin-off: "Lady Vernon and Her Daughter." Looking forward to a little more Austen.....even if it's fake Austen.

I purchased this item for my adult sister, I thought she would enjoy listening to the CD's while she 'took a break'. She absolutely loves them, even takes them along on short road trips. This is an awesome gift idea!

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