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Emma: An Unabridged Reading By Jenny Agutter



Synopsis

Emma Woodhouse is one of Austen's most captivating and vivid characters. Beautiful, spoiled, vain, and irrepressibly witty, Emma organizes the lives of the inhabitants of her sleepy little village, but her attempts at matchmaking lead to misunderstandings and potential heartbreak. Only her friend and neighbor Mr. Knightley dares to point out the mistakes she is making and encourages her to change her ways. Considered by many to be the best English novel, Emma is at once a charming love story, a detective story, and a comic and lively portrait of English life two hundred years ago. Emma is now a major BBC television series starring Romola Garai, Jonny Lee Miller, and Michael Gambon. Jenny Agutter reads Jane Austen's classic novel, complete and unabridged.

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Customer Reviews

Perhaps the out-and-out funniest of Jane Austen's books. Telling the story of a heroine Austen feared readers would actively dislike, Emma has turned out to be a character whose creation was necessary to the development of the spoiled rich kid genre of literature, TV and movies. Since Emma knows what's best for everybody, she sets about trying to straighten the world out. It doesn't work. Fortunately, before completely screwing up everyone else's life, she gets her head screwed on straight and for the first time sees what it's all about. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This is another case where a classic is being reprinted simply as a tie-in to a TV/feature film presentation. Libraries, nonetheless, can benefit by picking up a quality hardcover for a nice price. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

So I just wanted to let others know that this collection is one giant book of all Austen novels combined. You can't tell from the picture, but I was actually expecting (and hoping for) individual books packed in one box like other book collections I have. So I was definitely a bit disappointed when I received this book. And while I am used to reading large books like David McCullough biographies, this compilation is by far the heaviest I have in my possession. I'm not sure I will be able to read this in bed or even hold it up in my arms for any long period of time. So beware. I would have chosen differently if had this information when I was contemplating purchase.

It was a little slow in some parts but overall I enjoyed it. The book is about two sisters who find love but get their hearts broken in different ways. Elinor, the sensible sister, loves Edward but soon finds out that he is engaged to be married to someone who he does not love anymore. Marianne, the more light hearted and outgoing sister, is crazy in love with Willoughby but eventually finds out he is a dirty scoundrel who is also involved with another woman who he is using for money. Meanwhile, another man, Colonel Brandon loves Marianne from a distance but she does not share his feelings even though his love is genuine and true. Elinor manages to keep her heartache to herself and suffer in silence but Marianne is wildly dramatic and falls into a deep depression. In the end, everything works out for the best for the girls. Edwards engagement to his other lady falls apart enabling him to rekindle his relationship with Elinor, and Marianne finally begins to learn what true love is and opens her heart up to Colonel Brandon. The book was a bit predictable, but all in all it was a good story.

I just purchased the 'used' copy of the 2007 hardcover edition from the Wordsworth Library Collection. The problem is not with the bookseller's description, which is accurately noted as 'like new.' The problem is with the book's layout. There's not quite enough margin on the inside of the pages.. or maybe the binding is too tight... to be able to read the words along the inside edge without pulling and pressing on the book to make it flatter. Does not make for a relaxing dip into the works of one of my favorite authors. This was intended to replace a 1930's Modern Library edition which has started losing its covers. I have found a duplicate of my existing book and will be ordering that.... this one goes to Goodwill. Again, no slight on the vendor... this is not something you would notice unless you open the book and start to read.

I'm a huge fan of Jane Austen and have read many of her other books. This was her first published

novel so I was excited to finally get to it. Unlike her other works, this has less philosophical musings but just as much drama. The storyline is engaging and the characters are so nicely developed that you really find yourself reproaching or lauding their actions in your head. This format was just fine on my kindle and was easy to read. I find that a good romantic drama always contains some joy, some sadness, and multidimensional characters. This checks all the boxes. I would definitely recommend this book.

Most great Austen novels feature women encountering terrible familial or legal circumstances which it is their business to overcome ("Emma" may be the sole exception). In a few novels the (possible or actual) entailment of an estate away from a deserving wife after the death of a beloved husband is that circumstance. The Dashwood sisters (and their mother) have been displaced from their financially secure life after the death of their father. Once the estate goes to their insipid brother and his scheming wife, the girls and their mother are removed to a cottage with none of the graces inherent in their former life. While Marianne Dashwood seeks solace in Romantic ideals and romance, her sister Elinor pragmatically negotiates their new world with Austen-esque grace. I will not do the minutiae of plot, but this, along with "Persuasion" and "Pride and Prejudice," are supremely satisfying reads. Austen's light-filled prose, characterization, and gentle satire make her novels supremely pleasurable reads.

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