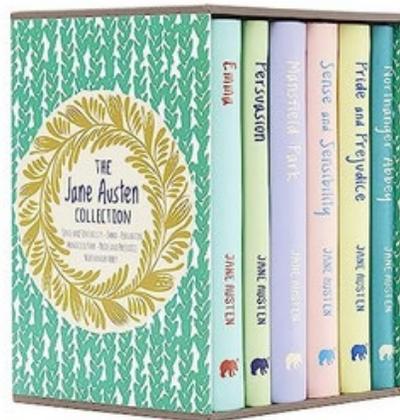


The ultimate guide to Jane Austen's Books

I fell in love with the works of Jane Austen as a young teen. In her works she addressed issues of gender, politics and class-consciousness rarely expressed in her day. Her description of society's rules for young woman of the time intrigued me. Her books started me on a journey to discovery the world for women 220 years ago.

It is a truth universally acknowledged that no one could write quite like Jane Austen. If you're not sure which of her novels to read first, or you're looking to reread your favorites, my guide to Jane Austen's books is the perfect place to start.



Jane Austen, one of the most famous writers in the world, wrote six full-length novels. You may have read some, studied others, and been captivated by adaptations of them all on both the big and small screens.

And it's no wonder that more than 220 years after she penned her first work, we're all still enraptured by Jane Austen's books. All of her novels are beautifully written and feature casts of characters that are impossible to forget. They share common themes – love, class difference, societal expectations, money, family, and class, but each book has a distinct character and feel all of its own.

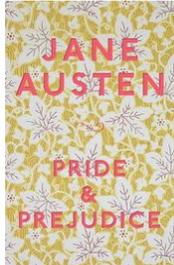
Her books are all so celebrated and so *good* that it can be difficult to choose which one to read next. So whether this is the first book by Jane Austen you've ever read, or you're looking for your next classic to curl up with and curious as to which of Austen's novels is the 'best', here's a quick and simple guide to help you choose.

Jane Austen's Books

If you only read one Jane Austen book . . .

Pride & Prejudice

by Jane Austen



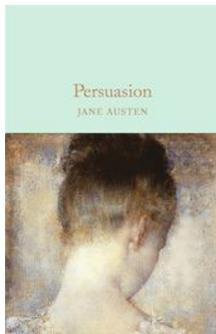
Dive into Jane Austen's most famous novel which features the pitch perfect love story between headstrong Elizabeth Bennet and the aristocratic Mr. Darcy. When they first encounter each other, they really don't get on and that's the magic of this timeless romance; both must have their pride humbled and their prejudices dissolved before they can acknowledge their love for each other. But if you think *Pride & Prejudice* is just an entertaining rom com (and there's nothing wrong with that!) then think again, there's much more going on here. Jane Austen cleverly unpicks the rigid social rules of her time, and she successfully explores the tension between 'truths universally acknowledged' and authentic human feelings.

Classic books to read once in your lifetime

The most romantic Jane Austen novel

Persuasion

by Jane Austen



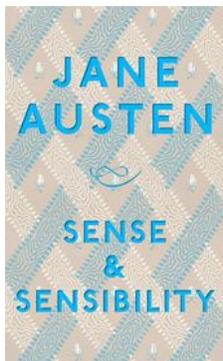
Anne Elliott is 27 and single – and by Regency England standards, that's old. But Anne was once in love and engaged to Frederick Wentworth. Sadly, her friend Lady Russell persuaded her not to

marry him –she convinced Anne that he was too poor and not a good match – so Anne broke off the engagement. Anne and Frederick meet again eight years later, and their circumstances have changed – he’s now a triumphant war hero, she’s fallen into hard times. Can they find love again? Read Jane Austen’s most contemplative, mature and romantic novel to find out.

The most heartfelt Jane Austen novel

Sense and Sensibility

by [Jane Austen](#)



The story of two sisters and their search for love, a home and security; Elinor is the sensible and responsible one, Marianne is emotional and impulsive. It’s a lovely premise as the two sisters both clash and come together for each other. Elinor loves a man who is promised to another woman, Marianne loses her heart to a scoundrel who jilts her. Elinor feels too little, and Marianne feels too much, and in her first published novel, Jane Austen sensitively explores the problems of disclosing one feelings in a society governed by rules and constant scrutiny.

The most controversial book Jane Austen wrote

Mansfield Park

by [Jane Austen](#)

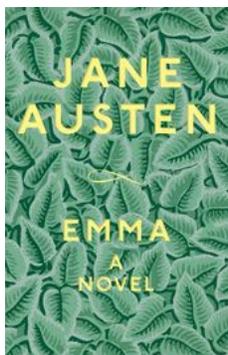


This is the one that divides opinion the most so read it to make your own mind up about Austen's most controversial novel with a different kind of heroine. Fanny Price is not your usual Austen female protagonist – she's a quiet and timid child who's sent by her impoverished parents to live with their wealthy relatives, the Bertrams, at Mansfield Park, who look down at Fanny as the poor relation. Treated with disdain by three of her cousins, she finds her only comfort in the kindness of the fourth, Edmund. Their friendship develops into romantic love - until the arrival from London of the sophisticated Henry Crawford and his vivacious sister Mary causes an emotional upheaval that no one in the family expects. Fanny must work hard to stick to her own moral code amidst the frivolity of wealthy society.

The best Jane Austen book for stories of female friendships

Emma

by [Jane Austen](#)

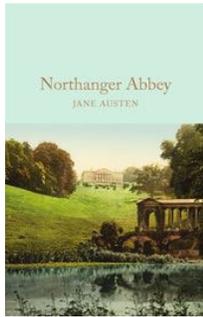


Emma Woodhouse is spoilt, rich and beautiful. And she always thinks she knows best. She's charming and flawed - she wants to help her friends but she's too insensitive to realize that her attempts at matchmaking lead to chaos and misunderstandings at every turn. The result? A glittering comedy of manners, a twisty turny plot and a voyage of self-discovery for one of Austen's most endearing – and infuriating – central characters.

The funniest Jane Austen book

[Northanger Abbey](#)

by [Jane Austen](#)

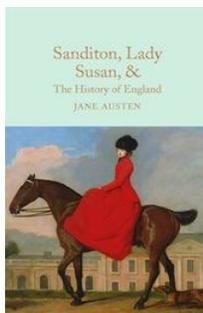


Northanger Abbey is fun, lively, and full of drama. And, most importantly, it's a properly funny send up of the gothic novel genre. This is the story of Catherine Morland, a naive teenager who's addicted to romantic, gothic novels. She's excited to leave her dull home town for the delights of popular Bath and once there she imagines the kind of mystery and intrigue, she finds in her favorite reads. In *Northanger Abbey* itself, she suspects a sinister crime has occurred. But how can she reconcile such drama with the reality of life?

The book Jane Austen never finished

[Sanditon](#)

by [Jane Austen](#)



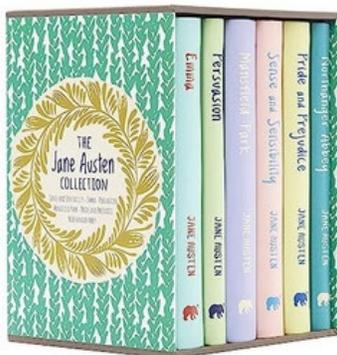
Jane Austen was only 42 when she died. She was working on a novel, but very sadly, after eleven chapters she was too ill to continue writing and she passed away just months later. *Sanditon* is a fictitious sea side town, a new and fashionable playground for people who want to be seen and seen.

Although only a fragment of a novel, Austen still manages to create her usual cast of characters and she pokes fun at society's obsession with all things new. It's very tempting to finish an unfinished novel and many people have taken on the task on page and screen. In fact Andrew Davies' current television drama of the same name is so successful and popular that it's going into a third series.

And if you can't choose just one . . .

The Jane Austen Collection

by [Jane Austen](#)



The perfect gift for a Jane Austen fan (or, ahem, yourself), this gorgeous, limited edition boxed set of all of her classic romantic novels includes *Pride & Prejudice*, *Emma*, *Sense & Sensibility*, *Mansfield Park*, *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*. Each individual volume is beautifully designed and features a bespoke jacket, introduction or afterword, and Hugh Thomson's timeless, evocative illustrations.