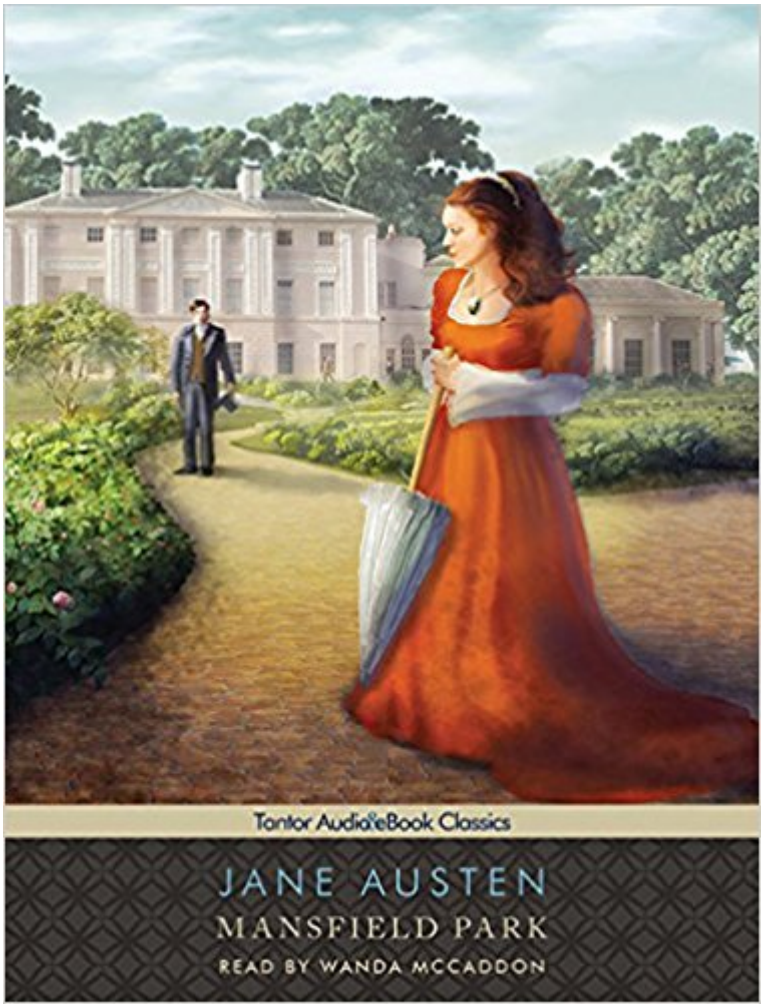
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Mansfield Park (Tantor Unabridged Classics)



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Synopsis

From its sharply satiric opening sentence, Mansfield Park deals with money and marriage, and how strongly they affect each other. Shy, fragile Fanny Price is the consummate "poor relation." Sent to live with her wealthy uncle Thomas, she clashes with his spoiled, selfish daughters and falls in love with his son. Their lives are further complicated by the arrival of a pair of witty, sophisticated Londoners, whose flair for flirtation collides with the quiet, conservative country ways of Mansfield Park. Written several years after the early manuscripts that eventually became Sense and Sensibility and Pride and Prejudice, Mansfield Park retains Jane Austen’s familiar compassion and humor but offers a far more complex exploration of moral choices and their emotional consequences.

Book Information

Series: Tantor Unabridged Classics

Audio CD

Publisher: Tantor Audio; Unabridged edition (September 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1400106915

ISBN-13: 978-1400106912

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 5.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 5,740 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,270,158 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (A) > Austen, Jane #705 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Children’s Fiction > Classics #81814 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics

Customer Reviews

Though Jane Austen was writing at a time when Gothic potboilers such as Ann Ward Radcliffe’s The Mysteries of Udolpho and Horace Walpole’s The Castle of Otranto were all the rage, she never got carried away by romance in her own novels. In Austen’s ordered world, the passions that ruled Gothic fiction would be horridly out of place; marriage was, first and foremost, a contract, the bedrock of polite society. Certain rules applied to who was eligible and who was not, how one courted and married and what one expected afterwards. To flout these rules was to tear at the basic fabric of society, and the consequences could be terrible. Each of the six novels she completed in her lifetime are, in effect, comic cautionary tales that end happily for those characters who play by

the rules and badly for those who don’t. In Mansfield Park, for example, Austen gives us Fanny Price, a poor young woman who has grown up in her wealthy relatives’ household without ever being accepted as an equal. The only one who has truly been kind to Fanny is Edmund Bertram, the younger of the family’s two sons. Into this Cinderella existence comes Henry Crawford and his sister, Mary, who are visiting relatives in the neighborhood. Soon Mansfield Park is given over to all kinds of gaiety, including a daring interlude spent dabbling in theatricals. Young Edmund is smitten with Mary, and Henry Crawford woos Fanny. Yet these two charming, gifted, and attractive siblings gradually reveal themselves to be lacking in one essential Austenian quality: principle. Without good principles to temper passion, the results can be disastrous, and indeed, Mansfield Park is rife with adultery, betrayal, social ruin, and ruptured friendships. But this is a comedy, after all, so there is also a requisite happy ending and plenty of Austen’s patented gentle satire along the way. Describing the switch in Edmund’s affections from Mary to Fanny, she writes: "I purposely abstain from dates on this occasion, that everyone may be at liberty to fix their own, aware that the cure of unconquerable passions, and the transfer of unchanging attachments, must vary much as to time in different people." What does not vary is the pleasure with which new generations come to Jane Austen. --Alix Wilber --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Grade 9 Up-Jane Austen paints some witty and perceptive studies of character.Copyright 1998 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 eventally 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, everythig 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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