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Jane Austen Unabridged CD Collection: Pride And Prejudice, Persuasion, Emma



Synopsis

Pride and Prejudice: A delightful novel about "how girls catch husbands." Listen in to find out: What will happen to sister Lydia? Will the arrogant Lady Catherine de Burgh's intrigues be foiled? Will sister Jane marry Mr. Bingley? And especially, will Elizabeth, cured of her prejudice, and Mr. Darcy, cured of his pride, fall into each other's arms? Listeners will also savor the wit, the sly irony and satire and comedy that Miss Austen crowds into almost every quiet, well-bred line of this novel. There is great sanity, common sense and worldly wisdom to be found in her exploration of human nature. Sir Walter Scott said, Jane Austen had "that exquisite touch which renders ordinary commonplace things and characters interesting." This quality provides today's listeners of Pride and Prejudice with a fascinating trip into the lives of the privileged in England during the eighteenth century. Persuasion: Anne Elliot is a young woman of perfect breeding and unwavering integrity. Austen wrote of her, "She is almost too good for me." Persuasion is the story of Anne and Captain Wentworth and their long awaited union. The world of country gentry in Regency England serves as a setting while portraying the many aspects of proper society - its failings and humor. Jane Austen's works have enjoyed a resurgence in popularity since the success of several motion picture adaptations of her novels. She wrote the novels Pride and Prejudice, Mansfield Park, Northanger Abbey, Sense and Sensibility, and Emma. Emma: The funny and heartwarming story of a young lady whose zeal, snobbishness and self-satisfaction lead to several errors in judgment. Emma takes Harriet Smith, a parlour boarder and unknown, under her wing and schemes for advancement through a good marriage. The attempts at finding Harriet a suitor occupy all of Emma's time. However, in the midst of the search she settles on a most unlikely union with her own constant critic: Mr. Knightly. Jane Austen's works have claimed a renewed popularity and audience with the release of motion pictures Sense and Sensibility, Emma, and Clueless based upon Austen's classic novels. Emma was originally published in 1816.

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Customer Reviews

I have listened to these recordings over and over again as I drive to work (many miles). All 3 novels are well done, the readers are excellent, and the novels are, of course, entrancing. There is so much here to enjoy and consider. I would say, too, that for the money you will not get a better bargain in recorded spoken word material. Let's assume you know the stories. You'll be aware that Persuasion is a bit of a downer, because Ann Elliott is so passive. Sensible, intelligent, quick-thinking, a wonderful person to have around in an emergency, but just unable to speak and act in the way that Elizabeth Bennet, or Emma can. They have some spirit, some liveliness. Ann is dutiful, possibly beautiful, but passive to a fault. She just wants to be useful. Its a good novel, but not my fave. Pride and Prejudice, you must know, or else why would you be reading this review? Elizabeth is my favorite among Jane Austen's characters, and she is very well done in this set. There is a good deal of dialog in Jane Austen's novels and it can be hard to keep track of who is speaking. The readers in this set deal with that by creating a variety of voices so that each character's speech can be told by sound - usually. There are a couple of slip-ups, most notably in Emma where the reader confuses Mr. Weston with Mrs. Weston for a couple of lines at the point in the book where the Westons are sharing a discovery about Frank Churchill with Emma. These slips are rare and this is the only one that leaves the listener momentarily confused. Emma, which I seem to have slipped into reviewing above, is another favorite character of mine. And she is well read in this set too. You'll want to listen, also, to Jane Austen's writing technique in this book.

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