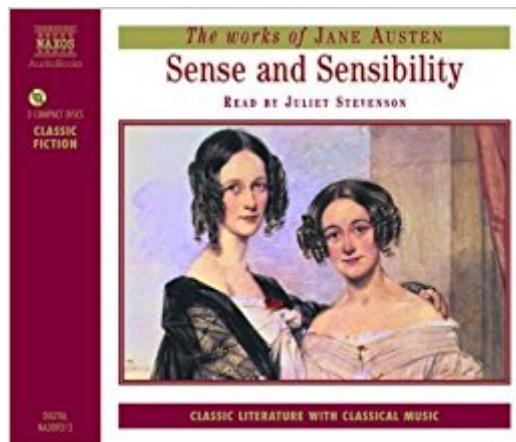


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Sense & Sensibility



Synopsis

When the Dashwood family estate passes to the eldest son John and his wife, Mrs. Dashwood and her daughters Elinor, Marianne, and Margaret must find a new home. Moving to a cottage in Devonshire, the Dashwood women begin adjusting to a new life and a new social circle. Soon, Elinor is being courted by the gentlemanly Edward Ferrars, and Marianne finds herself torn between two suitors, the brooding Colonel Brandon and social-climbing scoundrel John Willoughby. The love and heartbreaks that they all endure are shaped by the temperament of their time and place and the sense and sensibility of their society. "As nearly flawless as any fiction could be." --Eudora Welty
--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Though not the first novel she wrote, *Sense and Sensibility* was the first Jane Austen published. Though she initially called it *Elinor and Marianne*, Austen jettisoned both the title and the epistolary mode in which it was originally written, but kept the essential theme: the necessity of finding a workable middle ground between passion and reason. The story revolves around the Dashwood sisters, Elinor and Marianne. Whereas the former is a sensible, rational creature, her younger sister is wildly romantic--a characteristic that offers Austen plenty of scope for both satire and compassion. Commenting on Edward Ferrars, a potential suitor for Elinor's hand, Marianne admits that while she "loves him tenderly," she finds him disappointing as a possible lover for her sister: Oh! Mama, how spiritless, how tame was Edward's manner in reading to us last night! I felt for my sister most severely. Yet she bore it with so much composure, she seemed scarcely to notice it. I could hardly keep my seat. To hear those beautiful lines which have frequently almost driven me wild,

pronounced with such impenetrable calmness, such dreadful indifference! Soon however, Marianne meets a man who measures up to her ideal: Mr. Willoughby, a new neighbor. So swept away by passion is Marianne that her behavior begins to border on the scandalous. Then Willoughby abandons her; meanwhile, Elinor's growing affection for Edward suffers a check when he admits he is secretly engaged to a childhood sweetheart. How each of the sisters reacts to their romantic misfortunes, and the lessons they draw before coming finally to the requisite happy ending forms the heart of the novel. Though Marianne's disregard for social conventions and willingness to consider the world well-lost for love may appeal to modern readers, it is Elinor whom Austen herself most evidently admired; a truly happy marriage, she shows us, exists only where sense and sensibility meet and mix in proper measure. --Alix Wilber --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Austen is the hot property of the entertainment world with new feature film versions of Persuasion and Sense and Sensibility on the silver screen and Pride and Prejudice hitting the TV airwaves on PBS. Such high visibility will inevitably draw renewed interest in the original source materials. These new Modern Library editions offer quality hardcovers at affordable prices. Copyright 1996 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,

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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