



Becoming Jane: The Wit and Wisdom of Jane Austen

Anne Newgarden (Editor)

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Inspired by *Becoming Jane*, the romantic film that could only make you want to know more about Jane Austen, here is a delightful collection of some of her most famous and quotable quotes -- pearls of wit and wisdom on topics like family, the sexes, friends, money, marriage, and of course love -- that are as true today as they were in Austen's time.

Jane Austen on Marriage:

"My being charming, Harriet, is not quite enough to induce me to marry; I must find other people charming -- one other person at least."

--Emma Woodhouse to Harriet Smith, in *Emma*

"I am of a cautious temper, and unwilling to risk my happiness in a hurry. Nobody can think more highly of the matrimonial state than myself. I consider the blessing of a wife as most justly described in those discreet lines of the poet, 'Heaven's last best gift.'"

--Henry Crawford to his sisters in *Mansfield Park*

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife."

--From *Pride and Prejudice*

Becoming Jane: The Wit and Wisdom of Jane Austen Details

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Kate says

I think this book was kind of misleading. The front cover says "Now a major motion picture" which implies the movie is based on the book. On the back it says "Inspired by the major motion picture". I thought it would be more biographical but it was mostly just quotes and many of the quotes were reused throughout the book, in different sections. Not terribly well done in my opinion

Charity says

I thought this book was the same book that the movie was based on, a movie that I quite enjoyed. I was mistaken. This book is a book of quotes from Jane Austin taken from her 7 novels. It's great because it's categorized into sections. Quotes on love, Quotes on reading, Quotes on marriage, and so on. I enjoyed it, and will use the quotes.

Christina says

Nice book with introductions and quotations on various subjects including friendship, courtship, marriage, letter writing, books and reading. - Many memorable quotations to return to again and again from her novels and letters.

Laura Rieth says

Watched the movie first. It is a neat book, although I did not read it all at once. That probably helped with the quotes and the style it was written in. I enjoyed the quotes from her writings and letters. Probably would have enjoyed it differently if I had not seen the movie.

Kirsten says

This has a lot of quotes from her books in it, and also from letters she wrote (mostly to her sister). I love her wit, and it made me want to read all of her books (I've only read Pride and Prejudice) even more than I've wanted to before. I'd recommend it if you are an avid Jane Austen fan, and even if you aren't.

Rebecca says

This book was tolerable, but dull. It seemed nothing more than a knock-off of the movie, "Becoming Jane"

with Anne Hathaway, something quickly put together and ill-inspired in a half-formed effort~perhaps strictly for financial gain. While I shall never be one to discount Austen's quotes, wisdom and wit, I found the listing of them, with little or no prior context, an injustice to Austen's strength and intended meaning.

Kersten says

A small book full of quotes from Jane Austen books and her letters. Cute and put together well, maybe a good coffee table book.

Beth says

It was very superficial. It sounded incredibly annoying to me having Jane Austen to talk with in your head all the time, and the conversations they had were very inane. I kept reading it just out of curiosity about what happened romantically to the main character. But I wouldn't recommend it.

Judine says

I like that this is a short and easily accessible collection from all of Jane Austen's works. While the essays that lead off each section are well written, they strike me as something anyone who knows Austen well could have written - nothing out of the common way, so to speak.

Rose says

The only thing better than this wonderful collection of Jane Austen quotes is reading her novels! I really enjoyed reading this book, which organizes Austen's quotes into 15 short and readable chapters concerning family, juvenilia, beauty and fashion, vanity and other vices, other people, friendship, the sexes, courtship, love, marriage, money, letters and letter writing, books and reading, her own writing, and becoming Jane. The cover art is from the recent film, *Becoming Jane*, that focuses on the romantic aspect of Jane Austen's life and how that influenced her writing. I really enjoyed the film! This book is a wonderful first step into Jane Austen's writing that will hopefully leave you wanting to read more!

Prita says

Sebagai fans beratnya Jane Austen, gue selalu penasaran dengan kehidupan pribadinya. Waktu pertama baca novel2nya dia, gue pikir dia adalah wanita yg punya kisah yang happy end karena novel2 yg dia buat terkesan sangat wise dan real, despite the difference of lifetime etc. Setelah baca biografinya ini, in the end gue jadi berpikir bahwa setiap kisah yg dia angkat dalam novelnya mungkin adalah hal yang ia harap terjadi pada dirinya. Karena Jane Austen adalah seorang spinster yang tidak punya kisah cinta yang indah. Lahir dari impoverish family, kehidupannya penuh masalah. Sekalinya tunangan, ia harus kawin lari dan bahkan membatalkan pernikahannya karena ia tahu tunangannya akan bermasalah kalau mereka menikah.

I can't imagine how it feels when you meet your unrequited love after all those years, kemudian dia muncul dihadapan lo dengan anaknya. Sedangkan dia sendiri tidak menikah, mungkin Mr. Darcy adalah khayalan Jane Austen karena pada kenyataannya, dia harus merelakan semua itu karena uang. Dan Mr. Darcy is a wealthy gentleman, yg tidak harus bergantung pada orang lain. Adieu~

Alysa says

This is not the movie just in book form. This is a collection of quotes from Jane Austen on many subjects taken from all of her writings. I learned a lot about Jane Austen and her time in this book. I liked that there were more than just quotes from her published books. There were quotes from her personal letters as well as her earlier unpublished works. They were fun to read and shed a light on Jane's personality that I had not understood before. I highly recommend it for any Jane Austen fan.

Atlantis says

A collection of quotes by Jane Austen from her books and letters. The author shares personnel insights and engages the reader with her efforts to make Ms. Austen a relatable person. However, if you have read a great deal of Austen then this could be considered a bit dull. The author obviously finds Ms. Austen a fascinating person as well as writer and her intent is merely to share that as well as encourage further reading.

Jenny says

I found this collection to be quite good. I had never read anything from Jane Austen before (believe it or not!) and this book of quotes from letters she'd written to her sister, Cassandra, and also quotes from different parts of her novels such as from Northanger Abbey, Pride and Prejudice, Sense and Sensibility and Mansfield Park have piqued my curiosity and I would like to begin reading some Jane Austen soon!!

I give this book ***** (5 stars!) and would recommend it to anyone that either has read Jane Austen before, or would maybe be interested in doing so.

This book is also in movie form and I've been told the movie was very good, so now I am more interested in renting it!

Brooke says

This is a book of quotes. I love Jane Austen and I love reading quotes from all of her books and her letters written to family. This is a great book to pick up and read a bit, and then can read a little bit more later. The author does a good job of introducing Jane and her circumstances at the beginning of each chapter.
