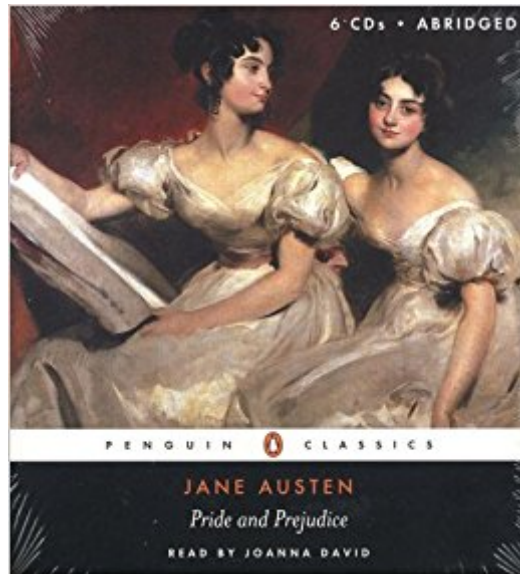




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Customer Reviews

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." Next to the exhortation at the beginning of *Moby-Dick*, "Call me Ishmael," the first sentence of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* must be among the most quoted in literature. And certainly what Melville did for whaling Austen does for marriage--tracing the intricacies (not to mention the economics) of 19th-century British mating rituals with a sure hand and an unblinking eye. As usual, Austen trains her sights on a country village and a few families--in this case, the Bennets, the Philips, and the Lucases. Into their midst comes Mr. Bingley, a single man of good fortune, and his friend, Mr. Darcy, who is even richer. Mrs. Bennet, who married above her station, sees their arrival as an opportunity to marry off at least one of her five daughters. Bingley is complaisant and easily charmed by the eldest Bennet girl, Jane; Darcy, however, is harder to please. Put off by Mrs. Bennet's vulgarity and the untoward behavior of the three younger daughters, he is unable to see the true worth of the older girls, Jane and Elizabeth. His excessive pride offends Lizzy, who is more than willing to believe the worst that other people have to say of him; when George Wickham, a soldier stationed in the village, does indeed have a discreditable tale to tell, his words fall on fertile ground. Having set up the central misunderstanding of the novel, Austen then brings in her cast of fascinating secondary characters: Mr. Collins, the sycophantic

clergyman who aspires to Lizzy's hand but settles for her best friend, Charlotte, instead; Lady Catherine de Bourgh, Mr. Darcy's insufferably snobbish aunt; and the Gardiners, Jane and Elizabeth's low-born but noble-hearted aunt and uncle. Some of Austen's best comedy comes from mixing and matching these representatives of different classes and economic strata, demonstrating the hypocrisy at the heart of so many social interactions. And though the novel is rife with romantic misunderstandings, rejected proposals, disastrous elopements, and a requisite happy ending for those who deserve one, Austen never gets so carried away with the romance that she loses sight of the hard economic realities of 19th-century matrimonial maneuvering. Good marriages for penniless girls such as the Bennets are hard to come by, and even Lizzy, who comes to sincerely value Mr. Darcy, remarks when asked when she first began to love him: "It has been coming on so gradually, that I hardly know when it began. But I believe I must date it from my first seeing his beautiful grounds at Pemberley." She may be joking, but there's more than a little truth to her sentiment, as well. Jane Austen considered Elizabeth Bennet "as delightful a creature as ever appeared in print". Readers of *Pride and Prejudice* would be hard-pressed to disagree. --Alix Wilber --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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 an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is just gorgeous! I already own a few copies of *Pride and Prejudice* so I didn't need another but this was too cute to pass up. It's a generous size, the colors are bold and bright and the illustrations are whimsical and fun. A great gift for any Jane Austen fan, even if she already owns a few copies ;)

This book is amazing. I've fancied myself an Austen fan for years, but after reading this, I've realized that I have barely scratched the surface of all there is to know. This book is a hardback 9x6in with gold edges and gold detail on the leather cover, in natural light it looks a hair darker than what's pictured. It is stunning and would look beautiful in any collection. However, what really surprised me, besides the physical appeal, was the story itself. I've read *Pride and Prejudice* before, but the variation must have been a little modernized? This book had a lot more content and offered

so much more insight into the characters and their world. I feel so cheated at the other variations I have read and encourage anyone who is or knows an Austen fan to pick this up and READ IT. It's absolutely worth your time and money.

A classic worth the read - a nice start for getting your teenager to start digging into classics without feeling overwhelmed - most pointedly, your female teenagers. There have been movies and a book of the zombie variety. There has been a sequel of sorts written in the recent years. But start with Jane Austen and *Pride & Prejudice*. Of women who are tough and not tough and men who are complicated and vapid. The price here is excellent and the book is currently being digested here by an A.P. student for her summer homework. Highly recommend.

After many attempts and too many distractions I have finally read this brilliant classic. Jane Austen was way ahead of her time. She created characters with sophisticated nuance and gave them witty dialogue. She perfectly captures the power of love over pride and humility over prejudice. Any reader finding the language difficult to grasp should think of the rhythm of her words which creates a flow so indicative of Austen's period. Also an e-reader helps with the more obscure language. Read this masterpiece, you will love it.

Pride and Prejudice is my favorite book and to have a beautifully illustrated edition is wonderful! This edition is over 600 pages and full of illustrations throughout the book. Most of the illustrations are black & white, but there are several color illustrations too, and the wrap-around soft cover is a full color (anime) illustration also. This is the full story by Jane Austen, but with the added bonus of great artwork illustrated throughout the book. There is already a good description of the story listed, so I won't go into that other than to say it's a great (love story) drama that takes place in the 1800's in England. I have always loved this book and others by Jane Austen and now this fully illustrated edition has come out and I have added it to my (Jane Austen) book collection. If you love this story you'll love having this special illustrated edition.

This is just a review for this particular edition. This is GORGEOUS! A must-have for *Pride and Prejudice*/Jane Austen collectors. The illustrations are amazing, and the little details, like the images on the edges of the pages, and the fold out pages in the center, are a real treat. I love it. Too beautiful to pass up.

I will freely admit to some trepidation in reviewing such a well-known book. Being as it is my first classic that I have considered reviewing, and one that has garnered much praise and censure that I believe I will not be able to add anything new, I did indeed waffle back and forth on whether or not it'd benefit me or anyone in my sphere to do so. I eventually decided that it'd be a fun challenge for me as well as not wanting to break my recent habit of reviewing every book that I read. Be forewarned, I have watched the BBC version of this story many times for somewhere in the ballpark of 15 years. This means the story as a whole was not new to me, though the particulars were. I did realize before reading this book that there were bound to be aspects which seemed odd to me, or that I may dislike, that would be considered part of the time period and other such nonsense. Basically, in stating what I did not take pleasure in, I hope not to draw criticism in the form of "Well, that's part of what makes it a classic." or "That's the way stories were told back then and is beyond critique." I'll start with my minor annoyances, since they were so few and far between as to hold little impact on the whole and should not take much time to convey. Early on I noticed a penchant for -- certain words either partially or in their entirety. At first I thought Austen was too lazy to type out those words and therefore just expected me to know what went there, but then I thought, "If she was perfectly content writing out this long of a book, I highly doubt she'd lower the quality of the story by being lazy on a few words." So yes, I did some research and found it was a habit of writers of the time to dash words so as not to offend people who may live on those streets, or in those towns, or who were part of those militias, etc. Though I know understand the reason behind the "dashing", it was still an irritation and I think omitting a word, or part of one, so as not to offend the sensitivities of someone who might feel slighted that an author is casting any sort of undesirable traits to an area a person may be connected with is silly. And I read what is before me so every time I'd come upon one such instance I'd go, "The (blank)shire" or "the something that's in Hertfordshire." I wouldn't make up my own town, or street, or whatever I was supposed to supply. I winced at every "chuse" and "shew". I get it. It was most likely the way to spell show and choose at the time, but ugh, my mind wanted to slay every usage of the two. And really, that was all the negative I have to say. The story itself didn't hold much mystery, as I am very familiar with it. I can't speak on the storyline, the characters, or any other such aspect which I feel best qualified to judge when the story is new to me. I was most pleased that the tv miniseries was, for the most part, faithful to the novel. I felt some hesitancy in reading this initially, in case it did lessen my enjoyment of a long time favorite movie. Some conversations were moved, or shorten, or even omitted. There were scenes that didn't exist in the movie. The greatest alteration that I detected was from the point where Lizzy meets Darcy on his property until the end of the book. There was a great deal that'd been altered or added,

deleted. Things such as Darcy diving in the lake and appearing half-dressed, Lizzy and her family continuing their tour of the grounds after that meeting, and lots of little things. Georgiana was much more a background character in the sense that I didn't really get a feel for her. In truth the movie did a much better job of highlighting the secondary characters such as Mary, Kitty, Georgiana, Louisa, etc. Not that all secondary characters need such illumination, but I enjoy getting a sense of them. Despite a fair bit of differences in the last part of the book from what I'm used to, the story was engaging and I maintain that the BBC version did capture the essence of the book. I particularly found the conversations that I wasn't privy to in the movie to be the most interesting aspect. My favorite part of the story has always been the dialogue. I love the banter that goes on between the characters. The subtle jabs that can be seen, even wrapped though they are in politeness and proper manners. The embarrassment Lizzy must of felt by the actions and speech of her family was so apparent because the sense of the time and what was proper was so thoroughly portrayed throughout the book. I found several little pieces here and there of where Lizzy is ruminating on something that I found particularly delightful because I've been in a position to think something along those lines myself. I feel like the mortification surrounding Darcy and his actions to her, and hers to him, and the impact her family had, came through much stronger in the novel than in the movie. I enjoyed getting more into Lizzy's head with that. Jane was much more annoying to me as her insistence on seeing no evil was so much more dwelled upon that I wanted to smack some sense into her. The father, I always knew, had several faults and had done the family many a disservice by his actions or rather lack of action, but with the book it was much more blatant and I think above all the characters, his was the most changed in my estimation upon conclusion of the story. Overall, yes, this is a book that you need to slow down and savor to get the full effect of what lies inside. It is a story that focuses on the everyday life of a family and can be slow in terms of plot if you're not stopping to smell the roses. It won't be for everyone, and as a reader who primarily enjoys fantasy, I can understand that, but this is one of those historical pieces that engaged me throughout and never did I find myself skimming or bored. I loved how the ending wrapped up everyone's lives more tightly than the movie did, and I shall now be able to see I've seen both the movie and read the book and enjoyed both. Rather than diminishing my pleasure of the former, the latter has only increased the depth of it. I'll now watch and now what is going on that I do not see.

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