



Jane Austen's World: The Life and Times of England's Most Popular Author

Maggie Lane

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It is a truth universally acknowledged that Jane Austen is one of the world's most popular novelists, a sharp and witty writer whose stories enchant on their own and in numerous film and TV adaptations. *Jane Austen's World* takes a look at the woman behind the literature, revealing her private life and examining the world she inhabited—a time when England was developing into a colonial power, the Napoleonic Wars raged, and the Regency took hold. No other book truly captures Austen's spirit as well.

Jane Austen's World: The Life and Times of England's Most Popular Author Details

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Author : Maggie Lane

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From Reader Review Jane Austen's World: The Life and Times of England's Most Popular Author for online ebook

Laurel says

Author, and Jane Austen scholar Maggie Lane's lushly illustrated and thoroughly delightful volume on Jane Austen's life, times and works is one of my Austen favorites in my library.

I gravitate to this lovely volume on my shelf when I need a quick Austen escape. Its large coffee table format allows for lush color photographs and period illustrations on each page, and author Maggie Lane was cleverly arranged the keynotes into five chapters, representing important aspects of Austen's world; Who was Jane Austen? Daily Life in Jane Austen's England, Society and the Spirit of the Age, The Visual World, and The Immortal Jane Austen. This volume also includes a well written introduction, chronology, helpful index and author's acknowledgments. Here is an example of the first topic in chapter one...

Chapter One: Who is Jane Austen?

The Woman: We learn about Jane Austen's birth, family and home environment that nurtured her genius. Her physical appearance, character and personality are described and exemplified by Lane's thorough research, aptly including insightful quotes from her letters and family reflections.

"Her unusually quick sense of the ridiculous inclined her to play with the trifling commonplaces of everyday life, whether as regarded people or things; but she never played with its serious duties or responsibilities - when she was grave, she was very grave." Anna Austen Lefroy

Inevitably, comparisons of Austen's personality lead to the paring of her attitudes and personality with the characteristics of her own heroines. Even though each of her heroines is highly individual, Lane hints at similarities in the characters of Elizabeth Bennet, Emma Woodhouse and Anne Elliot, and though I agree for the most part, I was amused to see how one can find what they need to suit, by reason and ingenuity.

The chapters are broken down further by topics and continue in chapter one as follows; The Writer, Beliefs and Values, The Letters, The Portraits, Family Background, Home at Steventon, The six brothers, Some female relations, Love and friendship, Family visits, Bath and the West Country, and Return to Hampshire.

Even though Maggie Lane is qualified to write a scholarly treatise, she knows her audience, and her light style is approachable and engaging. She includes enough biographical and historical detail to introduce us to the subject, and not weigh it down with heavy language and minutia. The photographs and illustration have been thoughtfully selected, significant to the topic, and important historically. Her scholarship is exemplary.

This is my favorite Austen book to give as a gift as an introduction to Jane Austen, and as eye candy to the indoctrinated. It has never failed to please, and I hope that we shall see many additional editions for future readers.

Posted by Laurel Ann, Austenprose

Ann Keller says

This book really provides an in depth view of Jane Austen and the time in which she lived. Jane was influenced by so many of Society's rules governing her conduct and the way in which she lived. It is truly a wonder that she wrote and published as many novels as she did. Endearing portrait of one of my favorite authors.

Veronika Iris says

Sehr unterhaltsam geschrieben und voller Hintergrundinformationen zu Jane Austen und ihrem Leben.

Meg - A Bookish Affair says

4.5 stars. 2013 is the year that we celebrate the 200th year anniversary of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (how crazy is that?). "Jane Austen's World" is a re-release just in time for this celebration. Many of us know all about Ms. Austen's stories. They've been read and dissected and read and dissected some more for the past two centuries but how many of us know a whole lot about Jane Austen herself? If you are anything like me, the answer is almost nothing. This book seeks to fill this void.

Want to know what Jane Austen's life was like in her small English town? Want to know what other people's lives were like during the same time? Want to know what our beloved Ms. Austen did in her spare time? This book has the answers to all of these questions and more. After reading this book, I feel like I have a much better understanding of and a much better appreciation for Ms. Austen. I always like to see where authors drew their inspirations for various books so it was interesting to see where Austen drew the inspiration for books that are still so popular today.

This book is also chock full of pictures of so many different things related to Austen. There are pictures of what she and her relations might have looked like. There are pictures of her houses. There are even some pictures of some of the movie and television adaptations that have been done of her books. I loved that!

Bottom line: This would be a great book for anyone who already loves Austen and wants to get to know her better. It would also be a good book for those who are less familiar with Austen and her works as well.

Wealththeow says

A crash-course in Jane Austen, particularly suitable for those who have some familiarity with the period and love the books. Lane summarizes the trends in food, fashion, architecture, vacationing, leisure activities, poetry, prose, and politics of Jane Austen's lifetime. She walks us through what is known about Austen's life, what the sources are, and the probable biases/blinders of those sources. I found it a valuable resource, very useful for clearing up misunderstandings or areas of ignorance on my part. My only criticisms are that I found it a bit truncated (I would have loved far more detail) and that there were rather too many photos from recent film adaptations of Austen's films.

Jana Eichhorn says

This is a subject near and dear to my heart, but it was so dryly written that getting through it was a bit of a struggle. For Janeites Only.

Kayla says

I was so excited to read this book! First of all, Jane Austen is a fantastic author and I've been trying to read more of her work. Now I'll be able to read the rest of her novels with all of this background information about her life and the time period that she was living in. I think that this is an important read for any Jane Austen fan or just someone who wants to understand her writing better. Maybe you could read one of her books, read this, and then see what new information you pick up after during a reread of your favorite of her novels.

There's so much in here that I never really thought about but realize, maybe belatedly, was exceptionally important to the people in that time and thus to the characters she was writing. While of course people enjoy her writing as it is because she still has fans everywhere, there's so much history and information in Jane Austen's World that I think it'd be a disservice to her work not to at least be a little informed about how she might have thought before you try to judge her books.

If you're interested in history, literature, the context in which these books were written in, you most definitely need to look into picking up a copy of this book. It's an easy but informative read and the layout is just beautiful as well. Filled with wonderful pictures and the only known drawing of Jane Austen, this will look great on your bookshelf and you won't regret taking a look at this great book!

Meredith (Austenique Reviews) says

In this attractive and accessible updated rerelease from Carlton Books readers will find a beautiful blend of history, analysis, and art pertaining to our beloved Jane Austen. With its large size, hardcover, and elegant design, this tome would look excellent either on a library shelf or displayed on a coffee table. But don't be fooled by the slim spine and abundance of illustrations – Maggie Lane, a highly-respected author and acknowledged Austen expert, is no slouch when it comes to information and insight about Jane Austen! Through this one hundred and forty page book, Ms. Lane discusses and analyzes what is known about Jane Austen and her life, describes and explains the traditions of her world, gives a brief overview of historical events and social developments of the time period, and closes with a look at the present-day immortalization of Jane Austen through scholarly studies, script, film, and prose.

I, for one, really enjoyed and appreciated the layout of this book. As you can see in the video, each chapter is compiled of and divided into a collection of two-page vignettes – short and sweet! Giving readers an extensive yet fast-paced overview of Jane Austen's life and times. The design of this tome makes it easy to look up a specific topic, whether it be Jane Austen's relations on her mother's side, her views on poetry and poets, or her visits to various seaside resorts. In addition, the “bite-size” portions of this volume are perfect for readers who do not have the time or the inclination to read a lengthier and more in-depth biography. I

loved the breakdown of topics, valuable timeline and index, and the wealth of information and research that went into making this book! I'm so happy to own such a lovely treasure! I highly recommend!

Rose says

A beautiful and comprehensive compilation of Jane Austen's world, ranging from topics such as Jane Austen's life, who Jane Austen was as a person, daily life in England during her lifetime, society and the spirit of the age, architecture, interiors and landscaping of the time, and Jane Austen's novels, memoirs, and biographies. I enjoyed every page of this book! Maggie Lane is clear and concise in the picture she creates of Jane Austen, supplying photographs and paintings on every page to add depth to the text.

Lisa says

The cover we have of this book is different at the Library.

I reserved this book to get me in the mood of the Jane Austen Festival a few weeks ago. Although, I finally got around to reading it just now!

It's a good, solid balance of deep information about the time of the world when Austen was living and dashes here and there of information on the famous films of the last decade that have made Austen re-famous and adored by loving fans again.

The book is definitely an easy read, with simple chapters and a smattering of illustrations to keep the flow going. The book seems well researched and it was a delight to read.

Mandy says

This book is beautifully presented. Exasperatingly, it is written with a view to each chapter being a two page spread. This means that there is little space for detail and a lot is left unsaid which I would have preferred to have read about. There are also a few errors. The most irritating of these is to do with money.

This error comes in a chapter to do with card games and the fact that these were usually played, even at home, for money. Maggie Lane gets the amounts rather muddled at one stage, erroneously stating that 3 shillings is the same as 60p!!! Since, at that time there were 20 shillings to the pound, it can clearly be seen that each "shilling" is equal to 5 pence today. Thus, 3 shillings is 15p. Irritating to have such an error not edited out of the final draft and printed copy.

Stephanie Ward says

'Jane Austen's World: The Life and Times of England's Most Popular Author' is a beautiful and insightful look into Jane Austen's life and the England that she would have lived in. In the book, there is a biography of

Ms. Austen, along with a time line of her life. The book itself is divided into five chapters, each representing a major factor pertaining to Jane Austen and her life in England. Along with discussing the author, the book details what daily life in England during that time period would have been like, the society and what people believed in and enjoyed - such as art, farming, vacationing, wars, and more. Finally, the last chapter is devoted to the ways that Jane Austen has been immortalized in various films, texts, museums, and many other ways. Along with the text, the book features interesting facts, beautiful illustrations, mementos, and pictures of items from Jane Austen and the period in which she lived. This book is a wonderful and truly fascinating inside look at Jane Austen and what her life in England would have been like. Definitely a must read or even a must have for true Austen fans and those curious about life in historical England and the author's life.

Disclosure: I received a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

Alice says

This book is perfect on so many levels! On every page, I learned something and was entertained at the same time. The pacing, structure, depth, and breadth were all spot on. The best part is it will be so easy to return to this book over and over again every time I just want to remember something or take a quick trip down memory lane.

The book is divided into a few major sections: Jane Austen's life & family, her world, the world at large, and her books & legacy. I learned all about meals, games, traveling, and her aunt who was almost beheaded!

Every page brought something new, and I never once fell asleep! Sometimes, I struggle to stay awake when reading nonfiction, but that didn't happen at all with this book!

This is a great book to dip one's toes into learning about Austen. Even if you're an avid Janeite like myself, there are still things to learn and amuse. I recommend everyone read this because everyone could gain something!

Carla says

This book is history with a bit of biography (i.e. the book is aptly titled) of Jane Austen. It is written in coffee table format, with each short chapter laid out in the two pages open to the reader. It's nicely illustrated and organized around Jane Austen's life, the times that she lived in, and their influences on her. Then the book goes on to describe her completed books and their ongoing impact on literature and film. It's a simple book, but I learned quite a bit. The book presumes that the reader is familiar with the characters of Austen's books (otherwise the reader may be a bit lost). I'd recommend this book to Jane Austen fans, but perhaps not ones who already know a lot about her life, the regency period, and the cult of Jane Austen.

Victoria says

This informative work was compiled in the high of the Jane Austen TV and film adaptations. Many of the character illustrations use photographs from these adaptations.

I found it informative for someone who hasn't researched the Georgian and Regency society before now. I did find it a bit biased about Austen, most notably inferring how she would have potentially responded to the

death of a potential suitor. How could we assume how she could react?

It's for that reason, the whole society is a bit sugar-coated, I have given it 4/5 stars.
