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You've read *Emma*. You own *Pride and Prejudice*. You love *Sense and Sensibility*. But do you know all there is to know about Jane Austen?

Find answers to questions such as:

Who was the Irishman who stole her heart?

Why was their affair doomed?

Which Austen heroine most resembled Jane?

Who were the *real* Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy?

Why did Jane never marry?

These fascinating secrets and much more are revealed in 101 Things You Didn't Know about Jane Austen.

Romantic. Tragic. Mysterious. And you thought Austen's heroines led intriguing lives.

101 Things You Didn't Know About Jane Austen: The Truth about the World's Most Intriguing Romantic Literary Heroine Details

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From Reader Review 101 Things You Didn't Know About Jane Austen: The Truth about the World's Most Intriguing Romantic Literary Heroine for online ebook

Sylvia says

Contains lots of juicy facts I didn't know!

Laurel says

Most biographies of Jane Austen will reveal the quiet life of maiden Aunt Jane, who scribbled in secret, loved to dance, and lived her entire life in the country removed from the chaos of the world. Did you also know that she was also romantic, tragic and mysterious?

Patrice Hannon's *101 Things You Didn't Know About Jane Austen: The Truth About The World's Most Intriguing Literary Heroine*, is a gem of little Austenisms quite suitable for gift giving. Despite having one of the longest and most misleading titles of any book about Jane Austen of recent memory, the content is as appealing as the easy to read format.

In Jane Austen's 18th-century world, acquired knowledge was considered one of the most powerful and important skills of a polished society. Today we recognize the same benefits, but want our education to be forthright and expeditious. For anyone interested in the knowledge of Jane Austen's life and works in a compact and fact driven format, this book can serve as a great resource and quick reference. Categorized into seven parts Birth of a Heroine, Brilliant Beginnings, Silence and Disappointed Love, The Glorious Years, Heroes and Heroines, Untimely Death, and Austen and Popular Culture: From Eighteenth Century to the Twenty-First, this illuminating guide takes you through all aspects of Jane Austen's life journey and writing experience, revealing common facts, new insights, and minutia.

If you are interested, as I was, to know which heroine most resembles the author herself, who were the real Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy and why Jane never married, you will not be disappointed in this bright little book that is well researched, engaging, and incredibly practical.

Laurel Ann, Austenprose

Denise says

First of all, having previously read *Jane Austen: A Family Record* by William and Richard Arthur Austen-Leigh, I already knew most of the 101 things. However, this was a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting account of Jane Austen's life, in which the author ties in and analyzes Austen's writings according to events that occurred throughout her life. If you are a Jane Austen fan and would like to know more about her life and how it influenced her writing, I would definitely recommend this book. I've read the six main novels, but I am now eager to read the minor works as well.

Rebecca says

I love biography. And I loved the way this biography is structured (101 short chapters with intriguing titles). When I first heard the title I thought it was going to be a bathroom-reading-type of trivia book but I loved it all the more for NOT being that. It's detailed and well-researched and fun and gossipy all at the same time. It feels like it was written by someone who loves Jane Austen's novels as much as I do. And even though I had just finished a different Jane Austen bio (Carol Shields' Jane Austen: a Life), I still feel like I learned lots that I didn't know. Thanks for telling me about it Laurie! It finally motivated me to write a review here.

Monica says

A lot of helpful research, but some of the ordering and construction are confusing. Also, because of the encyclopedic nature it often left me wanting to know more about a particular topic covered... guess I'll have to be inspired to do my own research in those areas. Overall enjoyable to this Austen fan.

Faith-Anne says

This book takes a lot of liberties with Jane Austen's life. It states that Austen loved Tom LeFroy--there is no evidence to support this claim. Be careful not to trust everything you read as gospel. I found a lot of misconceptions in this book.

Heidi-Marie says

Interesting read. But then, I am interested in basically all things Austen. I was intrigued to see just how many things I actually did NOT know. And there were more than 101 things mentioned. This was more like 101 categories and then some facts fleshed out within those categories. I think I knew about 75% of this information. I liked learning new things, and I liked remembering things I have learned about Austen over the years. I liked the ties between Austen's life and her books. The book flowed remarkably well for basically being a "list of things." I liked it. I couldn't sit down and read it in huge chunks at a time (as evidenced by the time it took to read and the reading of other books in between). But still interesting. Deciding if I really want to keep it on my shelves at home, or pass along. It is a great book to have others read if they like Austen and would like to know more.

Vic says

Tons of good and useful information about Jane Austen. I am rereading the book and am on page 68. Again.

Lisa says

Wellll...the title overstates its case. I guess there were hardly any revelations about Jane Austen that I didn't know already. Beware young Janeites, some of the revelations are highly speculative. Still for those who have read only the usually requisite P&P and have not read any of the bios such as the great one by Park Honan, this may hold some surprises. And the format is fun.

Sophie Turner says

There's not a lot of new ground covered here, and some speculation. However, I did find myself highlighting a lot of little details. For the reader who doesn't know a lot about Austen's life, this will be a great overview, and for those who don't, there will be some new bits to learn.

Danna says

Now that I've finished it I can say I'm glad that I did. The author is an English Lit. prof who truly admires Austen's work. She calls her the greatest English novelist, or words to that effect.

The book is part biography and part literary criticism. While Austen's characters and plots reflect her view of the world I discovered that it is all fiction. I somehow concluded on a visit to her home in Chawton that Jane had drawn much of her work from real-life acquaintances and events. That is not the case.

What I really gained from reading this easy-reading, albeit academic, book is an appreciation of Jane as author and daughter-sister-aunt-neighbor-friend. Apparently she was well-liked and fun to be with. And she loved children and related well to them.

Jessica says

I'm not quite sure I know what I just read. At times it had the tone of a biography for young readers (which would have made her excessive use of speaking to the audience and ! exclamation ! points ! at the end of sentences that certainly do not need it much more forgivable), at others, it entered into analysis that I might expect to find in an undergraduate lecture or paper. The author simply couldn't pick an audience and stick with it. Furthermore, while I acknowledge that the writings of Austen are integral to her biography, too much of this book was focused on the Hannon's analysis of the works rather than details on Jane Austen herself. Unless you know nothing about Austen, I would not recommend this, and even then only if you have a great deal of patience or sense of good will.

Katie says

Grandma found this one at Barnes & Noble (thanks, Grandma!) and I gave it a try and was not disappointed. After reading several books this year about Jane Austen's life, I didn't necessarily learn anything new, at least historical facts, from this book, but it is very well-written and has an interesting perspective on how the events in her life impacted her stories, and even gives examples from all the novels, as well as the unfinished novels and stories written in her youth, to support the author's opinion. I am now more eager than ever before to read those extra stories; I've not read anything until now that made them sound as intriguing and insightful. Despite reading all those other similar books about Austen's life, this one managed to be equally thought-provoking and enjoyable. Worth reading for all Jane Austen fans.

Tracie says

This took forever to read. It was so disjointed that I had to make it a restroom reader. And the 101 items I was supposed to not know are at times comparative paragraphs from the author's PhD project on Jane Austen. For example, it might say in the first sentence of the section, Jane Austen didn't care for fashion. Then the rest of that fact was just a summary of times that each of the main characters in each of her novels talked about fashion. 75% of this book is about the books Jane Austen wrote and not about herself at all. Disappointing sections but every now and then, something I didn't know.

Nicole Shelby says

Why, on earth, do you love Jane Austen? It's all just cry, have tea, get married...blah, blah, blah. Is the common reaction I receive when others learn that Jane Austen is my favorite novelist.

My husband made fun of Austen so much, that I forbade any more jokes until he'd gotten through one book. I think he's still stalled in the first chapter of *Pride and Prejudice*. That said - he's the one who's bought me my beautiful copy of the Jane Austen collection. And, he's the one who brought me home this book.

I tend to blather, and am murky when I try to explain Austen to others. So, instead, I'd like to share some quotes from much better qualified authorities than myself.

Patrice Hannon (this book's author): "Jane Austen makes of ordinary occurrences the highest art, the most moving and amusing drama. Her delineation of perception and motive are supreme and her dialogue is unsurpassed...Her knowledge of character would not make Auseen's novels great if she did not also have consummate skill with the language...The narration is sophisticated and complex yet perfectly easy and natural. The comedy, whether witty or nonsensical, is unsurpassed, and delights the reader just as much upon the tenth reading as the first."

Maria Jewsbury (Austen's contemporary, and literary critic): "The secret is, Miss Austen was a thorough mistress of the knowledge of human character: how it is acted by education and circumstance; and how, when once formed, it shows itself through every hour of every day, and in every speech to every person."

Jane Austen herself, written in "Northanger Abbey" as a defense of good novels - and, I think, perfectly applicable to her own: works in which "the greatest powers of the mind are displayed, in which the most

thorough knowledge of human nature, the happiest delineation of its varieties, the liveliest effusions of wit and humor are conveyed to the world in the best chosen language."

I am not lonely in my own love and appreciation for Jane Austen. Among my fellow fans? Sir Walter Scott, George Elliot, Anthony Trollop, Henry James, Alfred Lord Tennyson, E.M. Forster, Virginia Woolf, Rudyard Kipling, C.S. Lewis, P.d. James, J.K. Rowling and and...

As long as I've gone this far...

Sir Walter Scott (in his journal, following his 3rd reading of "Pride and Prejudice"): Miss Austen has a talent for describing the involvements and feelings and characters of ordinary life, which is to me the most wonderful I have ever met with. [She has:] the exquisite touch which renders ordinary common-place things and characters interesting from the truth of the description and the sentiment..."

George Henry Lewes (George Eliot's "husband"): "the most real...the most truthful, charming, humorous, pureminded, quick-witted, and unexaggerated of writers...Austen and Fielding are the greatest novelists in our language."

Thomas Macaulay said Austen came close to Shakespeare. Now, I don't know about that. That would be like comparing Weezer and Led Zeppelin. Both excellent...and completely separate and different.

High fallootin' praise aside. The gist is: I love reading Jane Austen's works. I relate to her characters and themes and stories. She makes me laugh. She helps me view my world differently. I enjoy reading of magic and murders - but, they aren't my life. The world of Jane Austen (with a few detail changes - like the year) - is my life. I think she's brilliant. And, I feel brilliant when I read her.

And: is it a coincidence that my daughter's middle name is Jayne? I'll leave the answer in the wind...
