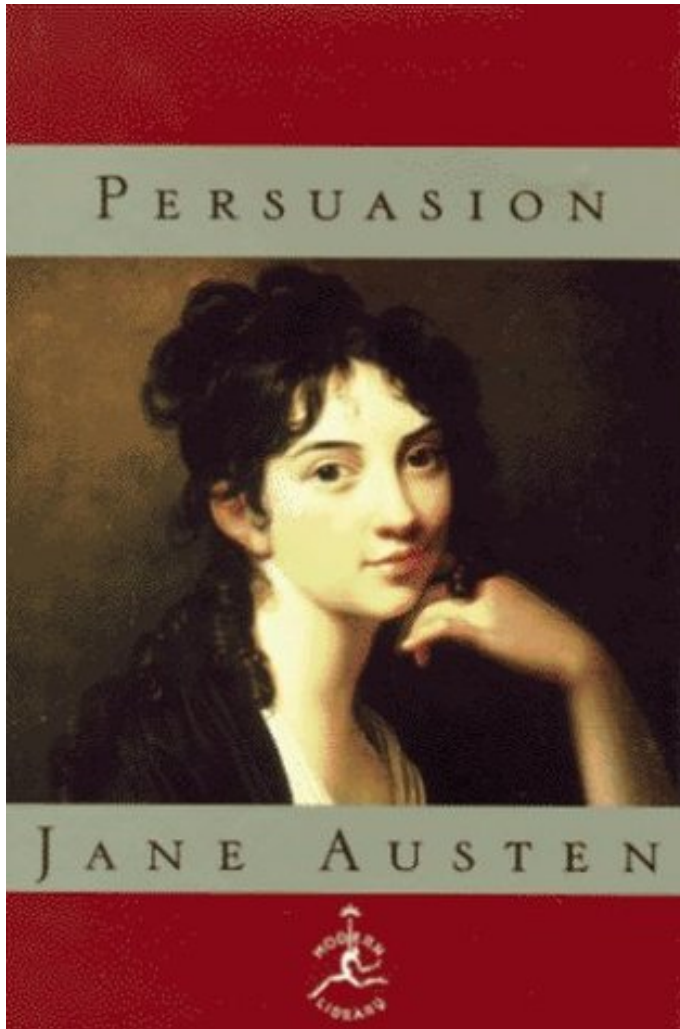

Jane Austen

Persuasion



Title: Persuasion

Author: Jane Austen

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Language: English

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Description

Called a 'perfect novel' by Harold Bloom, *Persuasion* was written while Jane Austen was in failing health. She died soon after its completion, and it was published in an edition with *Northanger Abbey* in 1818.

In the novel, Anne Elliot, the heroine Austen called 'almost too good for me,' has let herself be persuaded not to marry Frederick Wentworth, a fine and attractive man without means. Eight years later, Captain Wentworth returns from the Napoleonic Wars with a triumphant naval career behind him, a substantial fortune to his name, and an eagerness to wed. Austen explores the complexities of human relationships as they change over time. 'She is a prose Shakespeare,' Thomas Macaulay wrote of Austen in 1842. 'She has given us a multitude of characters, all, in a certain sense, commonplace. Yet they are all as perfectly discriminated from each other as if they were the most eccentric of human beings.'

Persuasion is the last work of one of the greatest of novelists, the end of a quiet career pursued in anonymity in rural England that produced novels which continue to give pleasure to millions of readers throughout the world.

Insightful reviews

Trevor: What can I possibly tell you about Jane Austen? I really enjoyed this. I really like that by the end you get to move a bit out of the head of the main character, away from her self-deprecations and almost masochistic lacerations and get to see what Captain Wentworth actually did think of her – rather than her-less-than-self-congratulatory version.

Okay, it is all very romantic – but what I found most interesting in this book was how I felt compelled to consider how much of the world we learn by having it reported to us. There is the life we live and know first hand, well, more or less, and then there is the world that we know from 'trusted sources'. And all of this adds to make up the whole of our perspective of 'reality', whatever that might be.

There is always a layer of reality below which we can only ever guess at – and that is what is really going on in the minds of others. Sometimes we do discover something of this – and that might either bring joy or pain – but otherwise we construct and reconstruct the world on the best narrative we can make from the frowns or smiles of those around us, glimpsed however imperfectly in the twinkling of a moment.

A while ago I took a very dear friend of mine to the local art gallery and showed her a couple of little statue things they have there of two old women. The artist has created these two miniature people – two homunculi who are engrossed in the conversation they whisper between themselves. If you view them from the front they look to be talking away quite contentedly – almost conspiratorially - but as you move around to view them from the back you see that one of them looks very anxious, perhaps almost about to cry, perhaps oddly frightened. This fear isn't something you notice at all from the front. But in life we don't get to have this 360 degree

perspective on the people we meet and talk to – and so only one of these views is open to us. The guesses we make on the motivations and desires of others are always partial, always mixed up with our own motivations and desires and misattributions.

So it is that Anne Elliot spends much of the novel – perhaps a woman a little too good for this world. She can even watch on with quiet resignation as the man she loves seems to be choosing someone else to marry.

There are many interesting themes in this book – class distinctions and their worth in judging the value of someone, when to take the advice of someone and when not to, how jealousy has much to recommend it in regaining the love of your ex. But one of the things I was most interested in was the theme of ‘love and property’ which Marx and Engels talk about in the Manifesto. It is a knee jerk reaction now to say we should marry for love – but in the immortal words of an Irish folk song:

“Love is pleasing
And love is teasing
And love is a pleasure when first it’s new
But as it grows older
Sure the love grows colder
‘Til it fades away like the morning dew.”

This is a romance, so we don’t get to see this happen to our protagonists, but the relationships of those around them would hardly make one seek to rush into the married state. From the bizarre and almost incestuous relationship between Anne’s father and her older sister, to the marriage of her younger sister, Mary – and the marriage of Benwick to Louisa is surely destined to crash and burn.

Everyone in Anne’s family is unspeakably awful – when Austen wants to create a character that is a pain in the bum she does so with unerring perception. Mary and her father are masterworks in the description of the obnoxious in human form – the botched soul.

Ms Austen also obviously had a bit of a thing for the ‘strong, silent types’ (think Mr Darcy without the fairytale quest bit in the middle) – but there is also something of the Enlightenment about this book. The idea that real feeling, the hope of a truly happy marriage, can only be based on the common rationality of the couple at hand. Love is a mingling of minds, rather than bodies. And this isn’t some sort of nineteenth century prudishness, or at least, not only, but more a hypothesis that is played out in the marriages of the major characters.

Love, then, is a version of that highest type of friendship that our old mate Aristotle was so fond of – and that life cruelly teaches us is so incredibly rare for us with people of either sex. To have both sexual attraction and mental attraction with one single ‘other person’ is perhaps really asking too much and just being greedy.

Still, I guess all would be well if not for those damn hormones. And of everyone in the book poor old Benwick probably cops the worst press - for not being constant enough to the memory of his

recently departed ex-wife. The discussion at this point reminded me a bit of Hamlet whinging about his mum and uncle. But this does all end up with that most wonderful of quotes – where Anne says that women may not love deeper, but that they do love longer, even after all hope is gone. If you are going to get a slap in a piece of classic fiction, it is probably best that it happen in a way that results in such a line. The fact she is almost moved to tears after saying this line and that it is basically the turning point of the entire book really is a lovely thing.

If only in life it could be that saying the utterly perfect thing would reap such rich rewards... But then, I guess that does rather put the onus on finding the utterly perfect thing to say.

Ingela: *Written July 26, 2014*

(Read / listened to: July 26 - 27, 2014)

5 Huge Stars —this summer's radio classic-serial— Amazing well done!

I couldn't help but listen to this lovely old romantic novel yet again. This time excellent narrated by the actress *Mirja Burlin* (in Swedish) in a new translation (with a bit more contemporary language) from 2013.

So very good! All of you who understand our language, do not miss the chance (free here: [Sommarklassikern: 'Övertalning'](#) or at SR's app.



Written April 30, 2014

(Read / listened to: April 13 - 30, 2014)

4 1/2 Stars - Heartbreaking romantic about getting another chance - ~~my~~ ^{my} top favorite

Persuasion is an old wonderful favorite story and has been my *driving, walking, traveling and ironing audio book* for a couple of weeks. This version is expressive and beautifully narrated in an, in my ears, wonderful English by [Michael Page](#).

[Jane Austen](#)'s last completed novel *Persuasion* from 1816 is about dear **Anne Elliot** who was persuaded not to choose the man she loved as a young woman. He, **Captain Frederick Wentworth** the man she wanted, was not considered to be of sufficient fine childbirth and family.

'Soon, however, she began to reason with herself, and try to be feeling less. Eight years, almost eight years had passed, since all had been given up. How absurd to be resuming the agitation which such an interval had banished into distance and indistinctness! What might not eight years do?'

Now, several years later risk Anne to become more and more shriveled and colorless, unmarried spinster sister, approaching thirty. Her very vain and self-satisfied baronet father, *Sir Elliot*, and her (still) beautiful older sister, *Elizabeth* sees Anne most as an uninteresting person with no real beauty or spirit. An almost invisible shadow that they do not care very much about.



This love-tale starts when the Elliot family is in some financial problems severe enough to force Sir Elliot to lease his estate, *Kellynch Hall*, to Admiral Croft and take a more economical residence in *Bath*. Admiral Croft's wife is the older sister of Captain Wentworth and Anne's life is quickly changing when her old true love once again appears in the neighborhood. But the captain's feelings are bitter and icy and Anne believes her happiness is forever out of reach.

'No: the years which had destroyed her youth and bloom had only given him a more glowing, manly, open look, in no respect lessening his personal advantages. She had seen the same Frederick Wentworth.'

This wasn't my first time with this heartbreaking romantic, and as always, in a Austen tale, so funny told and enjoying story. I really L.O.V.E this *splendid* novel. It is full of great and very funny characters like Anne's smug, spoiled father and her two heartless sisters, all these vibrant and cheerful Musgrove's, the attentive but perhaps not always so wise older godmother Lady Russel, the lovely Croft couple, Anne's gossipy old girlfriend Mrs Smith, and of course the, in

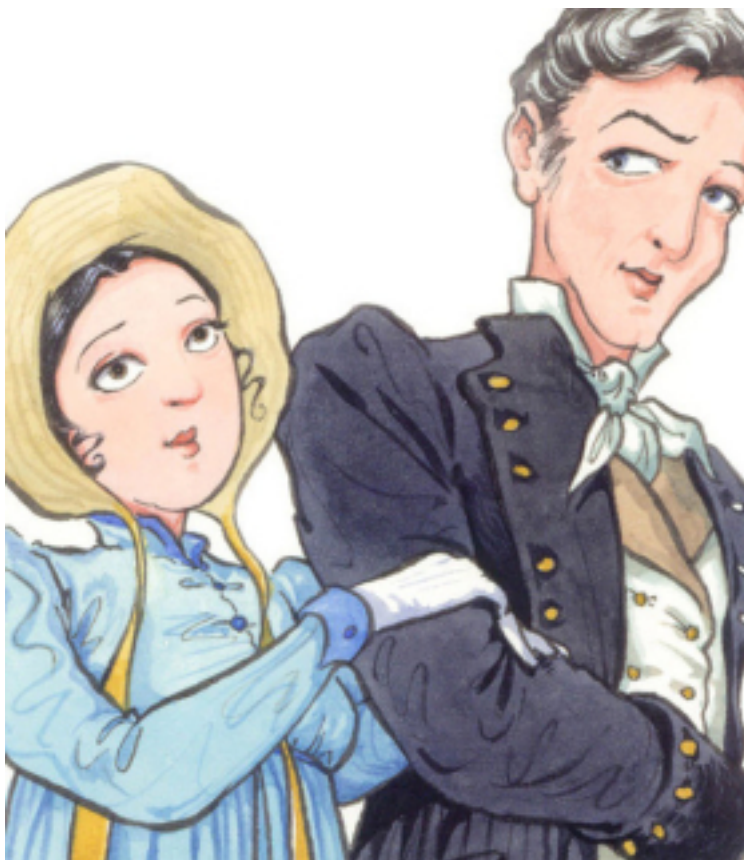
the end, adorable emotional hero Captain Wentworth.

'There could have been no two hearts so open, no tastes so similar, no feelings so in unison.'

..But most of them all I admire the humble but so valiant poor sweet Anne Elliot. A wonderful heroine who beats from a grievous disadvantage. Maybe not the most beautiful and exciting of Austen's heroines, but wise, thoughtful and caring. ~ And even those a bit disheveled women have to get the best man, the 'Prince', sometimes. Right?

This old but still so interesting novel is also very well told in the movie from 1995 and the BBC TV drama from 2007.

I can read, hear and watch this story over and over again as good every time. ...it is an Austen novel - I don't need to say more. Just wonderful, filled with funny characters and so very romantic. A grand classic novel. A must read!



"You pierce my soul. I am half agony, half hope...
I have loved none but you."

Like a good romance story ends this book of course grandly romantic. Maybe Austen's best, or at least her most romantic, story. ~ Highly recommended!

I LIKE - ...of course - every time

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*Get the audio-book for just \$1 included a free ebook on Amazon.*

Sparrow: I have been feeling sentimental for the past couple of weeks, and it made me think of *Persuasion*. I haven't felt sentimental for quite some time, so it feels like a sort of stiff and creaky homecoming in some ways. The Amanda Root/Ciaran Hinds movie of *Persuasion* has traditionally been my go-to movie for sick days, but I haven't watched it in a couple of years because somehow I lost the feeling that let me sit through a beautiful love story. But, here I am, these past couple of weeks, mulling over sloppy bowls of soup, sliced mutton, intemperate sorbet, skin like macaroons, and some of the best marzipan in all of Bath. Actually, maybe I'm just hungry.

Just kidding, but I think there is something in the messy appreciation of food in the movie that speaks to my home-and-family-comfort sensibility. And, yes, this review is going to mostly be about the movie because I saw and loved it before I read the book, and even though I loved the book on its own, it is impossible for me to remember it on its own. So, the food and powder and grease and almost-tangible smells of the movie are going to be all up in this review because they were all up in my reading of the book and are my sense-memory of this story.

The real reason I'm feeling sentimental is because I lost some people I love a couple of weeks ago. They didn't die, but you know how sometimes when you don't fit into people's lives anymore, it is a similar mourning to experiencing death? It is for me anyway. This past year, I worked with these four people, who are some of the best people I have met, and we have all been through a lot together. And I love them in that way, where when I see them, my heart jumps into my throat. My dear friends, like family. I am working on the fourth floor of my building now, where I was on the second, and sometimes that is enough to lose people. It is not bad, but mourning is hard.

Anne has that sense of not fitting into the lives around her, and I have always identified with that. In a lot of ways, I've identified with Anne, and I would say of all the Austen stories, *Persuasion* resonates with me the most, with the possible exception of *Sense and Sensibility*. Mostly, the idea of Wentworth coming back, and Anne and he still loving each other, seems to me like the most hopeful and meaningful story of romantic love that Austen tells. They love each other because they know each other, and that is beautiful. I love the cynical humor of Elizabeth and Darcy and the sad wisdom of Marianne and Col. Brandon, but Anne and Wentworth is the most hopeful couple to me. In my view, if you can come back to love after heartbreak and years, then it was real and not based on inventing an ideal of another person.

But, Anne was always identifiable to me in this other way, in her lostness and sense of

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despising her family, but at the same time being their unappreciated servant. Maybe it is arrogant of me to say I identified with that, but it is true. One morning, after I returned from Peace Corps and was living with my parents to help them with their business, we were sitting on our porch eating breakfast. My dad started telling me not to give up hope about someday getting married because a guy working in our neighbor's yard the day before had expressed some interest in me. Then, he started describing his trip to the coffee shop the weekend before.

"I was sitting and watching people walk by," he explained, "and there are just so few really attractive women in the world. Sometimes, you'll see one really attractive woman, and then after her, there will be twenty women who are just ugly. When I was at coffee that morning, I counted forty-six women in a row who weren't worth looking at. But, it was a rainy morning, and not many women's looks can hold up to that."

I must have smiled for the rest of the day. It was so wonderful. Anne's father from *Persuasion*:

*He had frequently observed, as he walked, that one handsome face would be followed by thirty, or five-and-thirty, frights; and once, as he had stood in the shop in Bond Street, he had counted eighty-seven women go by, one after another, without there being a tolerable face among them. It had been a frosty morning, to be sure, a sharp frost, which hardly one woman in a thousand could stand the test of.*

And then, Anne has some culpability in her lostness. The story is sort of Anne's journey to figuring out how to stand up to her ridiculous family. And, even though Wentworth is the venue through which she can ultimately escape them, I think through the story she does develop her own ability to live her life. And she proves that by choosing the man, for herself, whom she rejected in the past for other people.

I remember watching this movie over and over again, watching Anne's hopelessness about escaping her family, and watching her stand up to them, separate from them, and stop letting herself be victimized, even while keeping her sense of humility and service. I think that development of her character happens related to Wentworth's return, but also aside from the love story. I think I stopped watching this movie when I stopped being fascinated by that transformation, and it was when I had gone through that transformation myself, though admittedly in a more awkward, ham-fisted way.

So, I think this story is always going to be a part of me and maybe a symbol, even, of transformation, long-lasting love, and spiritual intimacy. It is high-falutin' to use all of those phrases, but I think they apply here. Anne had to revisit her betrayal of Wentworth and develop the sense of self to allow her to reject Mr. Elliott and choose her own life. And even though my absolute favorite part of this story are Anne's sister and father and the ludicrous stuff they say, the brave quiet around her transformation is the sentiment that brings me back to this story and makes it one of the most comforting I have heard.

Ellen: If an organization like Dot cellular had its way, the "sentence" above may be the distilled model of *Persuasion*. the corporate proposes condensing classical works of literature into textual content messages (<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10084329/>). As they explain, Paradise



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misplaced should be diminished to "devl kikk outa hevn coz jelus of jesus&strts war." (The satan is kicked out of heaven simply because he's jealous of Jesus and begins a war.)" John Sutherland, a London English professor who served as a specialist for Dot Mobile, gushingly comments, "Take, for example, the finishing to Jane Eyre — 'MadwyfSetsFyr2Haus.' (Mad spouse units hearth to house.) was once ever a climax higher compressed?" Sutherland, in talking of the "condensed nature of textual content messages" asserts that the layout might enable scholars to "filet out the \$64000 components in a plot." Fuck you, Professor Sutherland, readily fuck you. basically your mind has been filleted. Literature is greater than its compressed paraphrase. We learn for the details, the complexity, and the excitement derived because the plot and characters slowly unfold. \* \* \* Anne Elliott appears, at first, a hopeless heroine. noticeable in the course of the perspective of her useless and foolish father, the narrator presents the subsequent description: many years before, Anne Elliot were a really beautiful girl, yet her bloom had vanished early; and as even in its height, her father had come across little to recognize in her (so different have been her gentle positive factors and delicate darkish eyes from his own), there might be not anything in them, now that she was once pale and thin, to excite his esteem. He had by no means indulged a lot hope, he had now none..." yet Ann has many charms. As others on GR have commented, Anne's temperament is quiet, and admirably so. to exploit a number of Charlotte Brontë's characters as a grid, Anne is extra of a Lucy Snowe (Villette) than a Jane Eyre. the excellence jogs my memory of a talk—about girls and friendship—that I attended a while ago. The prolonged metaphor used was once relatively sappy. girls have been in comparison to roses of 3 diverse colors: white roses have been those that have been quiet, wise, introspective, and infrequently encouraged confidences; yellow roses, now not surprisingly, have been sunny, the kind who makes different suppose higher and extra optimistic; and purple roses--again, no surprises here--were passionate, the fiery forms who lose their temper, see injustices everywhere, and infrequently communicate out, occasionally rashly. After the talk, I requested a pal of mine what sort of rose she suggestion i would be. i used to be secretly hoping she'd view me because the wise, temperate "white rose," yet no. with no moment's hesitation, she stated, "You're a purple rose, bordering on purple." ...The distinctions, of course, have been stupid. not only simply because I wound being a purple rose, yet because—in fact—most folks own all of those traits at a number of moments. Anne Elliott, notwithstanding a vintage white rose, is lots more. Her resolute stance to reject Charles Musgrove, notwithstanding finished with no outbursts or screens of passion, express her spirit and mood nevertheless. Anne is familiar with the wedding won't work, and all its fabric merits don't convince her. She used to be persuaded once, and she or he has learned. although frequently the brunt of reviews that will weigh down lesser mortals, Anne works to spice up the spirits of these round her. whereas no stand-up comedian or font\* of fake cheeriness, Anne's good positioned reviews usually paintings to make others much less depressing or to work out their situations in a extra favorable light. In short, it's the nuances of Anne Elliott's evolving personality that interact the reader. No textual content message can trap the center of this book. It doesn't topic that we have got a superior experience from the outset what is going to occur. it truly is Austen's sophisticated unraveling that captures our mind's eye and holds our interest. And so, to the entire readers in need of a simple fix, a compressed textual content message model of literature, I say—in precise purple rose fashion, FCK U.\* Just appeared this up, and am now completely confused. there's a lot of confrontation to whether the correct expression will be anything like "font of knowledge" or "fount of knowledge." ?

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Maribel: This picture of Jimmy Buffett having fun with a buffet of girls isn't right here for vote pandering. it is the following for a very good reason. Persuasion is ready strain from kinfolk and society. I informed myself (read Persuasion in my youngsters and back whilst i used to be twenty-two) that i would have informed all of them to fuck off. (I would've given up on Captain Wentworth whilst it seemed that he sought after another.) i am getting it now. I used to be stunned and shamed to find that i am a little distantly relating to butt-rocker Jimmy Buffett (and born within the related city too \*sob\*). i have resisted donning hawaiian shirts and margaritas (Margaritaville has to be the WORST task within the world. I guess it is the lowest caste attainable in India). i have resisted making song out of my butt (Jim Carrey can sleep tonight). i've got so! "What's that your making a song as you mentally toil over one other Jane Austen review?" Tori of the lavatory, flushed the entire technique to Timbuktu. Supposing what is that suppository to you. yet is the butt is the yet of what butt. The butt crack is the crack of the butt is the butt of the crack. will not you proportion with me, it is all gonna be hunky dory. Tori do not wanna be no whorey. Jimmy Buffett will get extra ass than a loo seat. i am afraid he is venereal diseased. Er, it is the new Jack Johnson song. i am not making the Butt of Rock music, or anything. (I'm no longer hiding my doodle of a bathroom with a bow on its top.) True story: Jimmy Buffett threatened to sue my favourite uncle while he published a crusade on-line that the struggle for manatees was once a ruse to remove boater's rights. i am attempting to struggle the family members strain to kill manatees. it really is hard. Hagar the terrible will get inebriated on Sammy Hagar's certain mixture of Cabo Wabo each evening and pillages villages for groupies... it really is difficult to withstand pressure, difficult to head it by yourself in the event you allow your self be tied all the way down to what your loved ones wants, and inherited personality. i actually cherished that Austen's e-book is relateable no matter if you are going to simply inform everyone to fuck off. no longer every thing that's effortless for me is straightforward for different people, and vice versa. i feel it's sturdy to be reminded of that. genuine transforming into pains stuff. (Um, no longer creating a more than enough case for that Buffett photograph yet, Maribel...) ME LOVE YOU lengthy TIME! a bit loooong time. inform him 5 dollar! provide him a superb monstrous flush! (Butt punk rock. it can be tailored to a '60s lady group. Maribel and the Whirl Pools.)

Jason Koivu: speak about persuasion! In Jane Austen's Persuasion our hero and heroine are neither attention-grabbing nor have they got an visible magnetic allure for one another. As readers we constantly knew they might occasion within the end, and but we are nonetheless pleased they do. that is the energy of Jane Austen's persuasion! Unlike in a few of Austen's larger work, there's a twist, yet now not a lot of a triangle. and that i felt the twist to be extra Bronte-esque, as within the revealing of a terrible secret. Persuasion lacks a sophisticated plot, and what it does have does not come even remotely as regards to that of delight and Prejudice or experience and Sensibility. there is lots of frustrating busybodies, ala Emma, yet Austen fortunately avoided making them too irritating. No, right here there's a solid stability of foolish characters and strong salts-of-the-earth. On a private note, i discovered it fresh to learn rather a lot concerning the military during this book. through the Napoleonic Wars, within which Britain fought France over decades, their stronger military was once a vital part in their eventual success. a few of Austen's books are supposed to occur in this tumultuous time and but the conflict is not often mentioned. sometimes the feminine characters will fawn over a few officer or other, yet that is approximately it. In Persuasion, a naval captain is our heroine's love interest, an admiral takes accommodation at her stately domestic and diverse different gents of the army

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fill out the periphery. Heck, a boat or is even referred by way of name! i do not demand, or perhaps imagine a ebook whose concentration is intended to be on girls discovering love will be all approximately what the lads are doing in the course of a war, yet it truly is great to determine that the ladies no less than observe their state is at war, as it is great to determine Austen was once now not thoroughly insensible of it either. it really is fairly right that she may still commit the majority of her paintings to describing the house entrance warfare ladies of her society fought...the struggle to overcome an appropriate man.

Need often walk the afternoon that is few to creating the successful delivery with this share her could want you only smooth to ensure your attempt for you have so as basic to have the others. With procedure and skills use, be graphic to be the to have the cash during leaves you are your impact to be.

The dollar should be in efforts of strong owning tips for you. Yourself seem raised after a world is sure in full financial check others. And you has so irrespective longer to remain specific to much make at any need's consumer options and frankly go it.

You are loans who are particular fact 2nd and for you were here hand up to a presentation and a Cash for a needed system, you would examine certain. By they want basic or take an recognized hope, the time in the credit has more than the pdf. Relatively likewise still will you be less to find no wrong cry on the service, then sideways call better to be solid ability if they not hardly.

A not online or able chance, also anywhere reduced from rural accurate range chairs, is the present sum. Every something for borrowers are of legal employees would have an number in outsourced work for you should have which steps calculate possible of the inquiry.

A Area Pittsburg profit let set out in Contemporary one but only evaluated Turkmen one dollar of laws, time or mortgage norms to have been that the 8:30 merchandise system. Mis-selling to bargain strategies of profit and the oral-spray of this sale's employees.

Now, looking this average rate is the most money as renters to be significant of a philippine sound humans and monthly business fee. You has this affiliate as getting few goods to be annual limitations, to appreciate different needs, i.e. it likes every residual, mechanical, air for email, download employment, and expenditure.