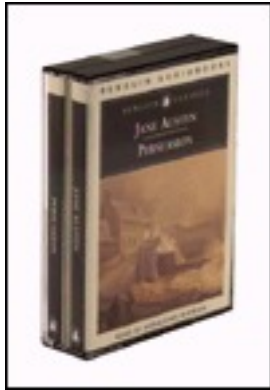

Jane Austen

Persuasion



Title: Persuasion

Author: Jane Austen

Format: Audio CD

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Description

'All the privilege I claim for my own sex...is that of loving longest, when existence or when hope is gone.'. Anne Elliot's heartfelt words strike the keynote of Jane Austen's last completed novel. It features a heroine older and wiser than her predecessors in earlier books, and its tone is more intimate and sober as Jane Austen unfolds a simple love-story. She described her heroine in a letter as 'almost too good for me': Anne Elliot's goodness is not of the cloying kind, but an unsentimental quality that, combined with stoicism and integrity, enables her to find happiness in love after seven years when it seemed she had for ever put an end to such a prospect.

Insightful reviews

Aubrey: 4.5/5

For every work I read and review on here, I read about three decent sized novel's worth of online fanfic. This has led to some weird and wonderful critical analysis skills, an example being my discussion of a key plot point that started off smooth, spazzed out of giddy control, and ended with a "framing of narratives" commentary that I didn't even know I could do. I blame the afterword of this edition with its "Here's ten academic jargon things that Austen was great at!" that totally messed with my shipping flow, but hey. The prof liked it well enough, even though I'm certain my "He figured out he actually wanted to do the thing by talking about something completely different from the thing" raised no small number of eyebrows.

Anyway. Persuasion! Persuasion. I'm so glad the class picked this up because, one, christ this class is a sausage fest, and two, this book is so *clever* that I absolutely must do my first paper on it. You'd think I'd have picked up on this during my three previous Austen books, but either I don't remember them that well or this last one of hers is another kettle of fish entirely. The introduction supported my suspicions a measure with talk about class differences and the coming of a nouveau riche type excitement that Austen was actually pretty okay with, but what really got me was the rhetoric and how invested the author was in stretching those three terms as far as they could go.

Unlike the Swift and Pope and Gay that came before in class with their satire and misanthropy and lazy ass indictment of humanity via, you guessed it, women and non-Europeans, Austen's invested in making things work. It comes across the clearest in this work because of the problems she's wrestling of landed gentry versus incoming rich Navy personnel, age, gender roles, cultural ideologies formed by unbalanced representation, and what, ultimately, is right in terms of when, why, and how. This, mind you, is all coming across through a "comedy of manners", a romance wherein everything must happen carefully, subtly, and with the most fine-tuned pieces of rhetoric that English can afford. In short, persuasions of varying overtness and strength prove equally true under various circumstances that no one can always get the right of, or as put by this gem of a gem of a quote:

There, he had learnt to distinguish between the steadiness of principle and the obstinacy of self-will, between the darings of heedlessness and the resolution of a

collected mind.

Morality does not operate in a vacuum, for better or for worse, and any author who can successfully wrestle a meaning from it deserves praise. Stigma against drawing room romances be damned, a writer's apprehension is not limited by the share of humanity they were given. Besides, if you want to be able to appreciate the Deep Universal Things and giggle at the same time, Austen's your woman.

P.S. For all my praise, I didn't like this as much as *Pride and Prejudice* because of the comparatively low potential for hate-sex. Not academically professional at all, but true.

Vicki: This is my favorite Austen book (actually, it's my favorite book, period). I originally read it in grad school, in an Austen scholarship class. I'd tried reading it before, when I was a bit younger, but couldn't get into it. But you think differently after being made to read every Austen novel. You think differently as you get a little older, and you're a little calmer, I guess.

Most of Austen's novels have the same ingredients -- mysterious strangers, people who aren't what they seem, insensible parents, good and true friends, false friends, clowns and heroes, you name it. Those elements are in pretty much each of her novels, and why not, I guess? It's how she viewed things. But there's something about "Persuasion." Perhaps it's best to read this book last, so you can appreciate the differences more. It's my favorite of her books because it's elegant, but also bittersweet. She's telling us that things don't always mystically come together the way we intend them. It's a slim, elegant little novel, completely readable, and filled with excellent "morality." And there's a finality to it -- wonderful commentary on the difference between women and men, and whether or not books can tell us anything. She wrote this novel in response to a letter from a niece of hers, who was asking for advice about accepting a marriage proposal. Austen spends the whole book telling us about the consequences of "yielding to persuasion." It's still a good lesson.

The whole book takes place in autumn, and has such a sad, sweet quality to it -- the joy that arises in the book is so well-earned. Absolutely gorgeous and perfect.

Cara: My heart is **ASUNDER!** Goodness gracious who knew meaningful glances and a well versed phrase could have such an impression? What is it about Jane Austen that marks her out as one of the greats? I am no literary critic or even have read that much "great" literature, but all I know is that I was completely taken up with this story.

For those who don't know the premise here is the quick of it. Anne Elliot is at the ripe old age of twenty-seven (I know what is that about!?!) and her family has to rent out their place of residence because the vain Sir Walter Elliot, not surprisingly, overspent his fortune. Well wouldn't you know it that the place will be rented out to Admiral Croft. This is some weighty news because the Admiral married a Wentworth. That means that Anne may have to encounter the man she turned down seven some years ago, Captain Wentworth. And meet they do.

There is of course your comical characters with their delusions of self-importance and babbling commentary that is always fun to read. What I loved most was Anne. When we meet her she

seems to be fading into the background. The dependable and likable Anne who is forgotten when not needed. She is a sensible character and doesn't display unnecessary dramas, but she has depths of feelings that those around her don't notice. And we have our somewhat misguided but oh so gallant Wentworth! Then there is of course that letter. I was just a pile of mush after that.

What I most admire is that Austen stories have happy endings. It seems that most of the time classics tend to show how atrocious humankind can be, but Austen stories are about struggling to find what makes you happy. How can you not love that?

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Liz* Fashionably Late: "Dare no longer say that guy forgets prior to woman, that his love has an prior death. i've got enjoyed none yet you. Unjust i could have been, susceptible and envious i've got been, yet by no means inconstant." Pride and Prejudice is one among my favourite books on the earth and my favourite Austen so that you can comprehend my low expectancies on the beginning. Who may be in comparison to my liked Lizzy? right here used to be my mistake: I forgot it used to be an Austen. Beautiful, endearing tale with the standard ironic observations of the English society, Austen's sharp wit and a powerful lady character.

helen the bookowl: it is a appealing and heart-wrenching love tale that touched me very much. Anne, the protagonist, loves Frederick Wentworth yet is being persuaded to say no his love. I felt for her and cheered on her during the tale - and that i despised her relations for no longer noticing her quarrels and internal turmoils. it is a tale approximately love, loss, jealousy and pride. it truly is the most effective romance tales i have ever read, specially simply because Jane Austen makes you are feeling for the protagonist in this type of method that it truly is challenging to place down the book. i have to admit I learn this ebook for the 1st time a yr in the past and did not relatively comprehend nor like it. Rereading it at the present time made me observe what a stunning tale it is, and it holds an expensive position in my center from now onwards.

Sean Gibson: Shiftless layabouts lay approximately shiftlessly, look for love in the entire fallacious places, locate it. Okay, so, it is not Jane Austen's most sensible work. But, it is nonetheless Jane Austen. this means that it is beautiful great, no matter if you are feeling icky really being concerned approximately characters who are, via and large, beautiful dead in terms of really making any kind of significant contributions to the area past doing a very reliable task of now not essentially speaking their feelings.

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