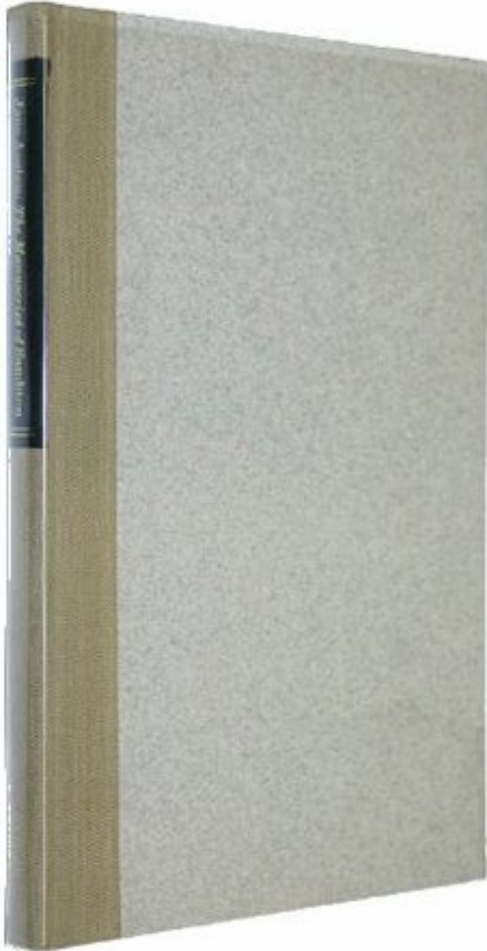

Jane Austen

Sanditon: Facsimile of the Manuscript



Title: Sanditon: Facsimile of the Manuscript

Author: Jane Austen

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Description

Following a chance meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Parker, Charlotte Heywood accompanies them to their home in Sanditon, which her excitable hosts promise will be the future epicenter of society summers. On arrival, our heroine finds herself confronted with a very new and all but deserted town that nevertheless begins to fill with holidaymakers. Austen assembles a cast of characters of varying degrees of absurdity and sense, and sets about describing their relations with her characteristic insight and ingenuity.

Insightful reviews

Robert Palmer: This is the last book written by Jane Austen, she began the story in January 1817 and stopped writing in March, she died on July 18, 1817. She had only written half way into chapter 11 and the last words she wrote were "poor Mr. Hollis!---the book I have read was written by "Marie Dobbs" in 1975----- she begins where Miss Austen left off with " poor Mr. Hollis! ,I don't think I would have noticed that there was a different writer at any point in the story, but I did take notice of the fact that I did not for the story even at chapter 11 at which point all of the major characters had been introduced. I am a great fan of Jane Austen's but the plot was thin and the whole story was rather flat. It starts with Mr. and Mrs. Parker meeting the Heywood family in Sussex and after a short stay with the family they return to their home in Sanditon along with Charlotte, the eldest Daughter of the Heywood 's Sanditon has become a fashionable seaside resort and Mr. Parker has recently had a " bathing machine" installed. I couldn't quite envision a bathing machine, of course my friend Wikipedia explained it, with many images, who knew that walking in the water could be so complicated. Sad to say this was the only part of the story that held my interest . If you are a fan of Jane Austen's you may want to read this novel, if not ---forget about it !

Briar Rose: It was really hard to read this knowing it was just a fragment of an unfinished novel. I expected to be frustrated and disappointed. But I wasn't. I loved reading it. Although this is just an early draft, and Austen no-doubt would have reworked the manuscript before publication, there's a fully realised book here. The 11 chapters are a perfect start to a novel, sketching out an impoverished heroine, a seaside town and its eccentric inhabitants, and hinting at some intrigue and romance.

This description makes it sound like a classic Jane Austen novel, but actually what surprised me most was how this manuscript breaks with the conventions of her six published novels. It's focused much more on the social setting and the interplay between rumour and fact than it is on the heroine, who barely features in the first six chapters. It's fascinating to see how Austen's style continued to develop over her career, right up until the last months of her life. With each successive novel she moves further and further away from the literary conventions of the romance and deeper into the social satire and commentary which is the engine of all her works. Like *Persuasion*, Austen's last completed novel, the Sanditon fragment shows a complexity and compassion in the satire of secondary characters which is less evident in her earlier works. I was particularly captivated by this description of Lady Denham:

Over a period of years, [Mrs Parker] had come to understand that this discourtesy towards casual visitors did not arise from any unwillingness to entertain them, any deficiency in the appointment or arrangement of the household, nor even any real lack of hospitality. The truth lay more in a failure of mental resilience, an unfortunate but inevitable result of Lady Denham's declining years; she preferred everything and everybody about her to remain comfortably settled in their proper places.

She could be describing one of my own relatives!

Two things really stood out for me: how polished Austen's first drafts were (I'm sure most authors would give their right hand to write a first draft half this good), and how uncertain the direction of the novel is. It's really impossible to say how Austen intended the plot to develop. She left no notes behind, no hints about her intentions, just 11 perfect chapters, introducing us to the setting and lightly sketching in a huge cast of characters. She makes moves towards introducing a romantic hero, but it's just as likely someone else yet to be mentioned was intended as the romantic lead. And it's impossible to say what lies behind the romantic mystery she introduces in the last chapter, although based on Austen's other works, we can make surmises.

What's also interesting is how Austen moves away from the interiority of the drawing-room in her early novels, into the globalised world of post-Napoleonic England. Although Austen engages with English imperialism in *Mansfield Park*, it's filtered through the drawing-room and the naivete of the heroine. *Sanditon* has a more cosmopolitan air, and is the only one of her books to feature a West Indian character. I would love to know what she planned to do with her.

It's very sad that Austen never got to finish this book. It would have been great to see how her style changed and developed as she grew older, and how far *Sanditon* broke from the tradition of her earlier books. We'll never know. What we're left with is a delicious, frustrating, fascinating fragment; an unsolvable literary mystery. *Sanditon* must be left to our imaginations and our dreams to finish, but I think what is here deserves to be read and discussed as part of the Austen canon. I'll definitely be revisiting it.

Amanda: Of course I had to read "Sanditon", if only because it's preparation for the latest adaptation of a Jane Austen piece by the people who produced "The Lizzie Bennett Diaries". The story is unfinished, so I'm curious to see how they will make it work.

Eliza: <http://labibliotecadieliza.blogspot.i...> Recensire Jane Austen mi mette sempre una certa agitazione, lo ammetto. La Austen abbandonò Sanditon pochi mesi prima della morte, lasciandolo, insieme a I Watson, incompiuto. Anche in questo caso abbiamo le best pagine di quello che ha tutte le potenzialità in line with essere un nuovo grande romanzo dell'amata scrittrice inglese. Se ne I Watson il perno intorno al quale ruota los angeles storia è il matrimonio, in Sanditon abbiamo le grandi ambizioni di Mr Parker according to il piccolo centro di Sanditon, destinato secondo lui a diventare luogo di villeggiatura e cura più rinomato del

paese. Proprio nei confronti di questo personaggio si scatena l. a. pungente ironia della penna della Austen. l. a. cara Jane non deve fare nulla, solo farlo parlare a più non posso di questo piccolo centro e delle sue meraviglie, al resto pensa lui. Mrs Parker e Sanditon sono lo specchio di quello che sta succedendo nella società inglese della prima metà del '800: l'urbanizzazione è in area of expertise sviluppo e con essa appare oramai chiaro un nuovo modo di intendere il lavoro e l. a. società. In questo quadro si inserisce anche los angeles contrapposizione, appena accennata ma comunque evidente, tra il piccolo centro rurale di Willingden e los angeles stessa Sanditon. Ma non è solo il piccolo imprenditore advert essere messo sotto l. a. lente di ingrandimento dell'autrice. Jane Austen non risparmia nessun aspetto negativo della società che l. a. circonda, fatta di pomposi arrivisti, ipocondriaci pigroni, malelingue vanitose. Tutti aspetti presentati tramite uno o più personaggi, quasi macchiette ridicole che si muovono intorno alla protagonista Charlotte. Charlotte è invece un personaggio che spicca in keeping with l. a. sua normalità, seria, posata, quasi troppo razionale nel suo modo di pensare. E' un'eroina positiva, ma anche matura, che ha tanti punti di contatto con le altre eroine asteniate, ma anche tante differenze. Purtroppo poco altro si può dire di questo romanzo, semplice abbozzo di quello che sarebbe stato e che non potremo leggere. Come according to I Watson, pur sapendo che si tratti di un romanzo incompleto, alla high-quality delle a hundred twenty five pagine sono rimasta delusa, non da Jane Austen (non sia mai), ma dal rimanere lì al primo incontro di Charlotte con Sidney Parker (un nome piuttosto moderno), alla sua prima visita a Sanditon House. Non si può evitare di domandarsi cosa avesse in mente Jane Austen in step with questo romanzo, quali personaggi avrebbe introdotto in seguito, che finale avesse in serbo.

Gemma: Now i am lacking woman Susan and that i could be comprehensive with every little thing Jane Austen has written lol

Valerie Malott: This book, the final unfinished novel began by means of Jane Austen and entire through "another lady", used to be an engaging read. the 1st eleven chapters have been penned by means of Austen, and it is simple to inform they have been the 1st draft. not like such a lot of Austen's books, which just about instantly hooked my curiosity in the first couple of chapters, this one rather did not pique my curiosity till the opposite author took over. It was once as if Austen was once particularly taking her time getting to know simply who her characters have been and the place the tale was once almost certainly going. as soon as the opposite author took over, the tale took up extra pace and the characters turned extra rounded. i am giving it three stars since it took goodbye to get going. Had it gripped me from the start, it would've been four stars.

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