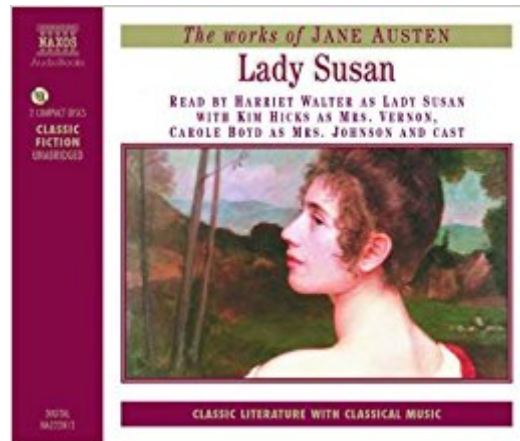




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Lady Susan (Naxos AudioBooks)



Synopsis

Unlike the women featured in Austen's other works, the recently-widowed Lady Susan Vernon is a beautiful and intelligent, but highly manipulative, woman in her upper thirties, who will stop at nothing to attain financially secure relationships for both herself and her wayward but shy teenage daughter, Frederica.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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One of England's most beloved authors, Jane Austen wrote such classic novels as *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma*, and *Northanger Abbey*. Published anonymously during her life, Austen's work was renowned for its realism, humour, and commentary on English social rites and society at the time. Austen's writing was supported by her family, particularly by her brother, Henry, and sister, Cassandra, who is believed to have destroyed, at Austen's request, her personal correspondence after Austen's death in 1817. Austen's authorship was revealed by her nephew in *A Memoir of Jane Austen*, published in 1869, and the literary value of her work has since been recognized by scholars around the world. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Thoroughly enjoyed this novella length story written in an epistolary style although I'm not overly

fond of this type of delivery, it does work in this instance. It's only lately that I've looked at the lesser known works of Jane Austen. Lady Susan, well she is a bit of a "cougar". A middle aged, ("pretty") woman who is devious, delusional, manipulative, vindictive, self serving and arrogant. She has no maternal feelings at all and she enjoys playing the game.....I found her quite delightful, she quite puts Lizzie Eustace from Trollope's *The Eustace Diamonds* in the pale with her machinations. Was surprised to find that this is an earlier work and that it's not more well known. More than worth a look at.

To some, Lady Susan's actions and self delusion may seem over the top. There is nothing redeemable about her. The trouble is that people like her do exist. Read contributions on forums for Narcissistic and Borderline Personality Disorders! The trouble is that unless you are one of the unfortunate individuals in their firing line, these people ensure the rest of the world thinks they are marvellous. Hats off to Jane Austen for identifying this type of behaviour at such a young age. And of understanding the personalities of the people surrounding them. Her decision to write her story as a series of letters was both brilliant and doomed to failure. The careful choosing of words and saying without saying worked really well at the start, but by midway through, the need for scenes with dialogue overrode a letter's capabilities. Had she returned to this project later in life, she may have worked a way around it, interspersing action with letters. But perhaps that would have negated what she was trying to do. Write the whole thing in the form of letters. She also possibly understood by then that characters like Lady Susan do exist, but they rarely become true heroes of a story because they never or rarely improve because they refuse to ever admit they are in the wrong. Modern psychology says the only way to deal with someone with NPD is to avoid them. From a distance, they (and Lady Susan) can be regarded with pity. It takes a special person to love them. So, while this story was never completed by the author, it remains as a true testament of her insight into people and their strengths and weaknesses.

Read it just because the work can be attributed to Austen, my favorite author. I cannot say it is my favorite Austen work but the characters are all unique with the flawed personalities that make them feel more real. The flawed and very human protagonists are part of why I enjoy Austen novels so much. I mean, who really likes the perfect but insipid heroine and flawless hero? Well some people might but I do not. Part of the reason I enjoy Austen so much is because of the depth of her characters and how they change. Lady Susan is definitely a flawed individual. It was an interesting combination of amusement and hate I found myself feeling while reading this work. Her daughter,

Frederica, is one of the many victims of her mother and while you might feel sorry for her she is almost a side note in the story. Interestingly enough there were no changes to Lady Susan's perfidious character. She will live on in infamy as one of the most reviled Austen character creations and people will continue to read the work for the sheer amusement at her audacity and thankfulness at their own good fortune to not be in possession of such a mother.

This little-known volume by Jane Austen, which is considered part of her Juvenilia, is really a gem.. It's a wonderful read. It's written in epistolary form. I thought I would be put off by reading a bunch of letters instead of a book that is centered directly in the action, but Jane Austen's use of the style is masterful. The book is a real page-turner! "Lady Susan" has been unfortunately overlooked by critics and perhaps therefore has escaped the notice of readers. Hopefully it will get the attention it deserves now that it has been adapted for the screen. I saw the movie starring Kate Beckinsale, who did a great job as Lady Susan! Kate Beckinsale has performed in so many action movies that I had no idea she is such a serious actress. I was so struck by her performance that I purchased the DVD adaptation of Emma. She plays the part beautifully, a thousand times better than Gwyneth Paltrow did, imho. Now whenever I think of Emma, I think of her as Kate Beckinsale played her. For some strange reason, they titled it "Love and Friendship" which is actually a separate work by Jane Austen.) I don't know why they weren't content with simply calling it "Lady Susan," since she is what the entire piece is about. But that is a minor gripe on my part. The movie is wonderful, and is very close to the book. Really well-done Worth purchasing on DVD. I thought Chloe Sevigny was a little out-of-place in it. She didn't really pull off the period that well, but her acting was serviceable.

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