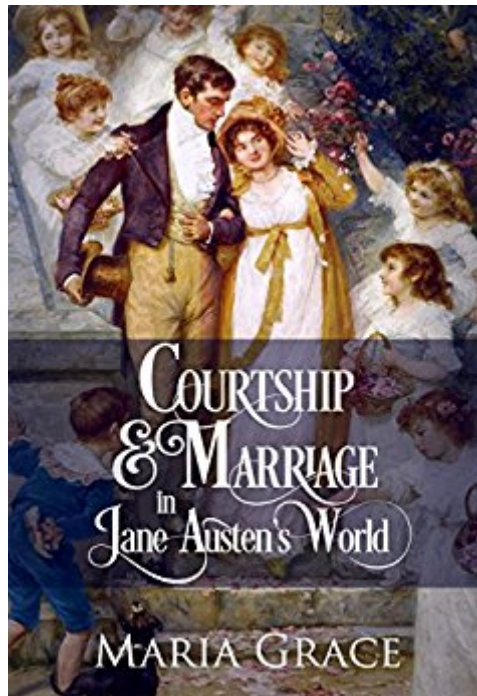


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Courtship And Marriage In Jane Austen's World (Jane Austen Regency Life Book 2)



Synopsis

Jane Austen's books are full of hidden mysteries for the modern reader. Why on earth would Elizabeth Bennet be expected to consider a suitor like foolish Mr. Collins in *Pride and Prejudice*? Would Lydia's 'infamous elopement' truly have ruined her family and her other sisters' chances to marry? Why were the Dashwood women thrown out of their home after Mr. Dashwood's death in *Sense and Sensibility*, and what was the problem with secret engagements anyway? And then there are settlements, pin money, marriage articles and many other puzzles for today's Austen lovers. Customs have changed dramatically in the two centuries since Jane Austen wrote her novels. Beyond the differences in etiquette and speech, words that sound familiar to us are often misleading. References her original readers would have understood leave today's readers scratching their heads and missing important implications. Take a step into history with Maria Grace as she explores the customs, etiquette and legalities of courtship and marriage in Jane Austen's world. Packed with information and rich with detail from Austen's novels, Maria Grace casts a light on the sometimes bizarre rules of Regency courtship and unravels the hidden nuances in Jane Austen's works. Non fiction

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Customer Reviews

Firstly, as someone who loves Austen and fanfic, I found this book an invaluable resource. When I first heard about it, I admit my initial reaction was hmmm. We think we know everything just from reading the original or from watching the 1995 miniseries. Oh Colin Firth! But if that's all we know, we don't know anything. This book was very well researched and it covers everything you need to know to understand the period. Initially marriage was only an ecclesiastical concern, although the government did get involved eventually, because that's what they do. When we read a Regency novel, everything is about the happily ever after or the assumed happily ever after. There was a lot more to it than that. I always wondered why the marriage articles and settlements are stressed in a lot of Regency fiction. It is because they are really important. Basically when a woman married, her husband owned everything, and she only got what he was willing to give her. In the monied class, the spending money that a woman was allowed, was set out, and thus Mrs. Bennet's raptures about the pin money she imagined her daughters would have. That pin money belonged to the woman and spending was at her discretion, and her husband generally did not concern himself with that. I never thought of the marriage settlement as a prenup, but it was indeed. It spelled out what was expected of the husband and wife, but it was a man's world. Several men writing at the time glowingly spoke of the way women were legally treated, but they were looking through rose colored lenses. It was tough being a woman. I learned a lot about morality at the time too. Things were not as chaste as we assume they were.

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