



Sense and Sensibility (Oxford World's Classics)

By Jane Austen

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In her first published novel, *Sense and Sensibility*, Jane Austen presents us with the subtle portraits of two contrasting but equally compelling heroines. For sensible Elinor Dashwood and her impetuous younger sister Marianne the prospect of marrying the men they love appears remote. In a world ruled by money and self-interest, the Dashwood sisters have neither fortune nor connections. Concerned for others and for social proprieties, Elinor is ill-equipped to compete with self-centered fortune-hunters like Lucy Steele, while Marianne's unswerving belief in the truth of her own feelings makes her more dangerously susceptible to the designs of unscrupulous men. Through her heroines' parallel experiences of love, loss, and hope, Jane Austen offers a powerful analysis of the ways in which women's lives were shaped by the claustrophobic society in which they had to survive. This revised edition contains new notes, appendices, chronology, and bibliography.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Though not the first novel she wrote, *Sense and Sensibility* was the first Jane Austen published. Though she initially called it *Elinor and Marianne*, Austen jettisoned both the title and the epistolary mode in which it was originally written, but kept the essential theme: the necessity of finding a workable middle ground between passion and reason. The story revolves around the Dashwood sisters, Elinor and Marianne. Whereas the former is a sensible, rational creature, her younger sister is wildly romantic--a characteristic that offers Austen plenty of scope for both satire and compassion. Commenting on Edward Ferrars, a potential suitor for Elinor's hand, Marianne admits that while she "loves him tenderly," she finds him disappointing as a possible lover for her sister:

Oh! Mama, how spiritless, how tame was Edward's manner in reading to us last night! I felt for my sister most severely. Yet she bore it with so much composure, she seemed scarcely to notice it. I could hardly keep my seat. To hear those beautiful lines which have frequently almost driven me wild, pronounced with such impenetrable calmness, such dreadful indifference!

Soon however, Marianne meets a man who measures up to her ideal: Mr. Willoughby, a new neighbor. So swept away by passion is Marianne that her behavior begins to border on the scandalous. Then Willoughby abandons her; meanwhile, Elinor's growing affection for Edward suffers a check when he admits he is secretly engaged to a childhood sweetheart. How each of the sisters reacts to their romantic misfortunes, and the lessons they draw before coming finally to the requisite happy ending forms the heart of the novel. Though Marianne's disregard for social conventions and willingness to consider the world well-lost for love may appeal to modern readers, it is Elinor whom Austen herself most evidently admired; a truly happy marriage, she shows us, exists only where sense and sensibility meet and mix in proper measure. --*Alix Wilber*

From Library Journal

Austen is the hot property of the entertainment world with new feature film versions of *Persuasion* and *Sense and Sensibility* on the silver screen and *Pride and Prejudice* hitting the TV airwaves on PBS. Such high visibility will inevitably draw renewed interest in the original source materials. These new Modern Library editions offer quality hardcovers at affordable prices.

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Review

From the youthful energy of *Northanger Abbey* to the subtle art of *Persuasion*, these works reveal the breadth and artistry of one of the most beloved novelists of all time. Now, these timeless novels of manners, morals, and love have been beautifully repackaged to appeal to a new generation of readers. A strikingly designed collection, featuring new introductions as well as reading group guides.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Willie Hodges:

This Sense and Sensibility (Oxford World's Classics) book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is definitely information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. That Sense and Sensibility (Oxford World's Classics) without we realize teach the one who studying it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't become worry Sense and Sensibility (Oxford World's Classics) can bring once you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Sense and Sensibility (Oxford World's Classics) having fine arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

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