



NAXOS
AudioBooks

COMPLETE
CLASSICS
UNABRIDGED



Jane Austen
Emma

Read by **Juliet Stevenson**

CD 1

1	Volume 1 Chapter 1 Emma Woodhouse, Handsome, clever...	4:03
2	How was she to bear the change?	5:58
3	Mr. Knightley, a sensible man about seven or eight-and-thirty...	4:06
4	Emma turned away her head...	5:55
5	Chapter 2 Mr. Weston was a native of Highbury...	4:40
6	He had only himself to please in his choice...	5:50
7	Chapter 3 Mr. Woodhouse was fond of society in his own way.	3:39
8	Mrs. Goddard was the mistress of a School...	4:58
9	She was so busy in admiring those soft blue eyes...	2:53
10	Chapter 4 Harriet Smith's intimacy at Hartfield was...	4:39
11	With this inspiring notion, her questions increased...	4:05
12	'Only four-and-twenty. That is too young...'	3:36
13	They met Mr. Martin the very next day...	5:04
14	'I wonder he did not remember the book...'	3:40
15	Chapter 5 'I do not know what your opinion may be, Mrs. Weston.'	3:59
16	'Yes,' said he, smiling.	4:37
17	'Very well; I will not plague you any more.'	3:29

Total time on CD 1: 75:21

CD 2

1	Chapter 6 Emma could not feel a doubt...	4:53
2	Harriet was soon back again...	4:32
3	Mr. Elton seemed very properly struck and delighted...	3:56
4	'You've made her too tall, Emma,' said Mr. Knightley	3:41
5	Chapter 7 The very day of Mr. Elton's going to London...	4:05
6	'Oh no, no! The letter had much better be all your own.'	4:00
7	'Miss Woodhouse, as you will not give me your opinion...'	4:00
8	Emma assured her there would be no difficulty...	4:05
9	Chapter 8 Harriet slept at Hartfield that night.	4:04
10	'Indeed! How so? Of what sort?'	4:03
11	'You saw her answer! You wrote her answer too.'	5:22
12	It was most convenient to Emma not to make a direct reply...	5:14
13	Emma made no answer and tried to look cheerfully unconcerned...	4:06
14	He had frightened her a little about Mr. Elton...	3:02
15	Chapter 9 Mr. Knightley might quarrel with her...	4:29
16	The very next day however produced some proof of inspiration.	4:22
17	'Mermaids and sharks! Nonsense! My dear Harriet...'	4:26
18	'When Miss Smiths and Mr. Eltons get acquainted...'	3:20
19	Harriet was too intent on the lines to hear.	3:43

Total time on CD 2: 79:31

CD 3

1	Mr. Woodhouse came in, and very soon...	4:58
2	This was too true for contradiction...	5:35
3	Chapter 10 Though now the middle of December...	3:58
4	'That is as formidable an image as you could present...'	3:57
5	They were now approaching the cottage...	4:39
6	Mr. Elton was still talking, still engaged...	3:27
7	Chapter 11 Mr. Elton must now be left to himself.	3:35
8	Mr. John Knightley was a tall, gentleman-like...	4:29
9	'Just as it should be,' said Mr. John Knightley...	5:39
10	Chapter 12 Mr. Knightley was to dine with them.	4:10
11	The evening was quiet and conversable...	5:17
12	'Oh! The good Bateses – I am quite ashamed of myself...'	4:09
13	And she talked in this way so long and successfully...	2:46
14	After an interval of some minutes...	4:05
15	Chapter 13 There could hardly be a happier creature...	3:58
16	Emma, who was not really at all frightened herself...	3:49
17	After a few minutes of entire silence between them...	4:38
18	Emma did not find herself equal to give the pleased assent...	5:58

Total time on CD 3: 79:19

CD 4

1	Chapter 14 Some change of countenance was necessary...	4:00
2	Now, it so happened that in spite of Emma's resolution...	4:52
3	Emma liked the subject so well...	5:36
4	Chapter 15 Mr. Woodhouse was soon ready for his tea.	3:51
5	She had not time to know how Mr. Elton took the reproof...	5:46
6	The carriages came...	4:11
7	As she thought less of his inebriety...	3:11
8	'Never madam,' cried he, affronted in his turn...	3:21
9	Chapter 16 The hair was curled and the maid sent away.	4:11
10	But that he should talk of encouragement...	4:55
11	Emma got up on the morrow more disposed for comfort...	2:52
12	Chapter 17 Mr. and Mrs. John Knightley were not detained long.	3:15
13	The confession complete renewed her first shame...	4:08
14	Chapter 18 Mr. Frank Churchill did not come.	4:51
15	'It is very unfair to judge of any body's conduct...'	5:05
16	'We shall never agree about him,' cried Emma...	5:28
17	Volume 2 Chapter 1 Emma and Harriet had been walking...	3:23
18	This she had been prepared for when she entered the house...	3:32

Total time on CD 4: 76:37

CD 5

1	All this spoken extremely fast...	4:33
2	At this moment, an ingenious and animating suspicion...	5:57
3	Chapter 2 Jane Fairfax was an orphan.	4:01
4	The affection of the whole family...	4:40
5	It was a dislike so little just...	3:26
6	These were charming feelings, but not lasting.	3:10
7	Chapter 3 Emma could not forgive her...	4:04
8	Mr. Knightley looked as if he were more gratified...	5:21
9	'Mr. Elton going to be married!' said Emma...	6:06
10	Emma, alone with her father, had half her attention wanted...	5:22
11	Very sincerely did Emma wish to do so...	3:00
12	Chapter 4 Human nature is so well disposed towards those...	4:05
13	The pain of his continued residence in Highbury, however...	4:05
14	Had it been allowable entertainment...	2:26
15	Chapter 5 Small heart had Harriet for visiting.	3:49
16	It was a good scheme; but on driving to the door...	4:07
17	The morning of the interesting day arrived...	5:05
18	He got as near as he could to thanking her...	5:47

Total time on CD 5: 79:14

CD 6

1	'You are acquainted with Miss Jane Fairfax...'	1:38
2	Chapter 6 The next morning brought Mr. Frank Churchill again.	5:44
3	At last he was persuaded to move on from the front of the Crown.	4:33
4	'May I indeed? then I will speak the truth...'	4:11
5	'There appeared such a perfectly good understanding...'	3:53
6	Chapter 7 Emma's very good opinion of Frank Churchill...	4:01
7	Although in one instance the bearers of not good tidings...	3:20
8	It was the arrival of this very invitation...	4:14
9	'But you would not wish me to come away...'	2:45
10	Chapter 8 Frank Churchill came back again.	4:21
11	Emma had as much reason to be satisfied...	4:29
12	Miss Woodhouse made the proper acquiescence...	4:24
13	The conversation was here interrupted.	4:15
14	They were soon joined by some of the gentlemen...	5:14
15	Before he could return to his chair...	5:19
16	'But Mr. Knightley does not want to marry.'	3:37
17	They combated the point some time longer in the same way...	2:49
18	Presently Mr. Knightley looked back...	4:53
19	Chapter 9 Emma did not repent her condescension...	5:31

Total time on CD 6: 79:23

CD 7

1	She looked down the Randalls road.	4:36
2	Voices approached the shop...	3:39
3	'I declare I cannot recollect what I was talking of...'	4:36
4	Chapter 10 The appearance of the little sitting room...	4:36
5	He was very warmly thanked both by mother and daughter...	4:12
6	The listeners were amused...	3:40
7	Chapter 11 It may be possible to do without dancing...	4:43
8	Mrs. Weston was sorry for such a charge.	3:54
9	She was obliged to repeat and explain it...	5:04
10	Emma was most happy to be called to such a council...	4:03
11	Here Mr. Weston joined them...	2:31
12	Chapter 12 One thing only was wanting...	5:11
13	Emma was ready for her visitor some time before he appeared...	3:51
14	He was silent. She believed he was looking at her...	4:52
15	Chapter 13 Emma continued to entertain no doubt...	3:38
16	When his letter to Mrs. Weston arrived...	4:44
17	Poor Harriet was in a flutter of spirits...	4:10
18	Chapter 14 Mrs. Elton was first seen at church.	4:44

Total time on CD 7: 76:55

CD 8

1	When the visit was returned, Emma made up her mind.	4:22
2	Emma was silenced.	4:17
3	She restrained herself, however...	2:47
4	'We cannot suppose,' said Emma smiling...	3:48
5	Happily it was now time to be gone.	4:16
6	Chapter 15 Emma was not required by any subsequent...	4:29
7	'I cannot think there is any danger of it...'	4:13
8	She looked on with some amusement.	5:03
9	'I know how highly you think of Jane Fairfax,' said Emma.	5:19
10	Chapter 16 Everybody in and about Highbury...	3:52
11	Every invitation was successful.	5:26
12	It was kindly said, and very far from giving offence...	4:41
13	Jane looked as if she did not mean to be conquered...	5:20
14	Chapter 17 When the ladies returned to the drawing-room...	4:07
15	'I did not mean, I was not thinking of the slave trade...'	4:20
16	The whole party were but just reassembled...	4:52
17	Chapter 18 'I hope I shall soon have the pleasure...'	4:13
18	Mrs. Elton began to think she had been wrong...	2:39

Total time on CD 8: 78:10

CD 9

1	'When Frank left us,' he continued...	3:27
2	Mr. Weston was musing.	2:55
3	After tea, Mr. and Mrs. Weston, and Mr. Elton sat down...	4:05
4	Volume 3 Chapter 1 A very little quiet reflection...	4:32
5	It soon appeared that London was not the place for her.	3:07
6	Chapter 2 No misfortune occurred again to prevent the ball.	3:06
7	Mrs. Elton was spoken of.	3:00
8	Miss Bates and Miss Fairfax, escorted by the two gentlemen...	4:15
9	Frank Churchill returned to his station by Emma...	5:37
10	The ball proceeded pleasantly.	4:03
11	His dancing proved to be just what she had believed it...	4:04
12	Emma had no opportunity of speaking to Mr. Knightley...	3:00
13	Chapter 3 This little explanation with Mr. Knightley...	5:39
14	This was the amount of the whole story...	4:41
15	Chapter 4 A very few days had passed after this adventure...	4:08
16	'My dearest Harriet!' cried Emma...	4:08
17	She had soon afterwards reason to believe...	5:11
18	Chapter 5 In this state of schemes, and hopes...	5:44
19	Emma was out of hearing.	3:52

Total time on CD 9: 78:45

CD 10

1	The quietness of the game...	4:35
2	He remained at Hartfield after all the rest...	4:23
3	Chapter 6 After long being fed with hopes of a speedy visit...	3:29
4	It was now the middle of June...	2:58
5	'Oh, you are an odd creature!' she cried...	5:47
6	Under a bright midday sun, at almost Midsummer...	5:38
7	It was hot; and after walking some time over the gardens...	3:48
8	The cold repast was over...	4:20
9	Jane had not been gone a quarter of an hour...	6:07
10	Chapter 7 They had a very fine day for Boxhill	5:50
11	Some laughed and answered good-humouredly.	4:46
12	'Oh! for myself, I protest I must be excused,' said Mrs. Elton...	5:02
13	They walked off, followed in half a minute by Mr. Knightley	5:52
14	Chapter 8 The wretchedness of a scheme to Boxhill...	3:03
15	'I'm afraid Jane is not very well,' said she...	4:20
16	There was no bearing such an 'always'...	4:17
17	Ah! madam,' cried Emma...	4:50

Total time on CD 10: 79:16

CD 11

1	Chapter 9 Emma's pensive meditations, as she walked home...	3:56
2	In the hope of diverting her father's thoughts...	4:12
3	Harriet behaved extremely well on the occasion...	3:50
4	Emma felt that her own note had deserved something better...	3:35
5	Chapter 10 One morning, about ten days after...	5:18
6	Mrs. Weston was looking so ill...	4:22
7	Mrs. Weston kissed her with tears of joy...	3:51
8	'I am to hear from him soon,' continued Mrs. Weston.	4:09
9	At this moment Mr. Weston appeared at a little distance...	2:41
10	Chapter 11 'Harriet! Poor Harriet!'	4:00
11	In spite of her vexation, she could not help feeling...	3:43
12	Harriet, who was standing at some distance...	5:21
13	Emma's eyes were instantly withdrawn...	3:37
14	Harriet had been conscious of a difference in his behaviour...	5:19
15	The rest of the day, the following night, were hardly enough...	6:00
16	Chapter 12 Till now that she was threatened with its loss...	4:48
17	This point was just arranged, when a visitor arrived...	5:01
18	'Poor girl!' said Emma again.	5:33

Total time on CD 11: 79:27

CD 12

1	The evening of this day was very long...	3:30
2	Chapter 13 The weather continued much the same...	3:56
3	For a moment or two nothing was said...	4:51
4	She had hoped for an answer here...	3:50
5	Emma could not bear to give him pain.	3:42
6	While he spoke, Emma's mind was most busy...	3:12
7	He had, in fact, been wholly unsuspecting of his own influence.	3:28
8	Chapter 14 What totally different feelings...	4:00
9	She rose early and wrote her letter to Harriet.	4:28
10	See me, then, under these circumstances...	4:50
11	Let me hear from you without delay...	4:07
12	I shall always congratulate myself that you were not...	5:38
13	Chapter 15 This letter must make its way to Emma's feelings...	5:32
14	After this he made some progress without any pause.	4:54
15	The subject followed...	5:29

Total time on CD 12: 65:36

CD 13

1	Chapter 16 It was a very great relief to Emma...	3:35
2	She went – she had driven once unsuccessfully to the door...	5:36
3	Soon after this Miss Bates came in...	4:44
4	Mr. Elton made his appearance.	3:50
5	She was pleased, on taking leave, to find Miss Fairfax...	3:14
6	Chapter 17 Mrs. Weston's friends were all made happy...	4:46
7	Emma grieved that she could not be more openly just...	5:04
8	The time was coming when the news must spread farther...	4:11
9	Mrs. Weston was acting no part, feigning no feelings...	5:28
10	Chapter 18 Time passed on.	3:48
11	'It is a very simple story.'	4:25
12	The contrast between the countenance and air of Mr. Knightley...	4:39
13	High in the rank of her most serious felicities...	4:52
14	Emma was delighted, and only wanted him to go on...	6:04
15	Chapter 19 If Emma had still, at intervals, an anxious feeling...	3:57
16	Before the end of September, Emma attended Harriet...	4:10

Total time on CD 13: 72:32
Total time on CDs 1–13: 16:40:06

Jane Austen *Emma*

Jane Austen herself wrote of her heroine Emma, 'I am going to take a heroine whom no one but myself will much like,' and in so doing she set herself an enormous task. However, she accomplished it with such skill that today the work is often regarded as her finest.

Jane Austen was born on 16 December 1775, the seventh child of the family. At that time, her father was Rector of the Hampshire village of Steventon, near Basingstoke. She became a well-educated young woman: together with her sister Cassandra she was sent to good boarding schools in her early years, before, like Emma herself, continuing her education at home with her father.

Her first novel to reach publication was *Sense and Sensibility*, in 1811, with *Pride and Prejudice* following in 1813 and *Mansfield Park* in 1814. By this time Jane was in her mid thirties, but in fact had already been writing for many years. Her earliest pieces, written when she was just a girl, were for

the amusement and entertainment of her family, and she particularly enjoyed penning burlesques of popular romances. *A History of England by a Partial, Prejudiced and Ignorant Historian* was one of her early, unpublished works and suggests her natural gift for gentle irony. It is thought that an early work entitled *The Watsons*, which Jane wrote as early as 1803, probably provided the basis for *Emma*, which was itself published in December 1815 in spite of bearing the date 1816 on the title page. A more mature woman herself by this time, one of Jane's main themes in *Emma* was that of growing up. Emma is immature at the start of the novel and only reaches maturity by undergoing painful experiences as well as through the guidance of Mr Knightley. The title page of the work also stated that the novel was 'By the author of "Pride and Prejudice"' and that it was dedicated to the Prince Regent, later King George IV. This was at his request since, although he was

a great admirer of hers, the admiration was not reciprocated. *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* were both published in 1818. However, the dates of publication give no clues as to when these novels were actually written, and both were, in fact, published posthumously by Jane's brother Henry who was two years her senior and to whom she was especially close. He was the one to formally reveal her authorship since all four titles published in her lifetime were done so anonymously.

Emma was originally structured in the conventional three parts: the first two focussed on Emma's suitors for Harriet, the third described Emma's realisation of her true feelings. This then produced a novel with a distinct beginning, middle and end which roughly correspond to the three volumes of the original publication. We quickly learn that Emma is a spoilt, powerful and interfering young woman. Throughout the story, in order to win readers' sympathy for her, Jane Austen cleverly gives us, as well as narrative dialogue, Emma's limited and often incorrect viewpoint, including an idea of her thoughts. This frequently leads readers to make the same mistakes in deduction as Emma herself. The novel can, in fact, almost

be likened to a detective story since clues are provided for readers and Emma alike, but are easily missed or misinterpreted. It is certainly a novel which invites a second reading: the writer's intentions when including points which, on first reading seem irrelevant, then becoming apparent. In fact the novel is one of economy of narrative and there is always a purpose for what is included: everything written is intended to inform the reader. We learn about the characters mainly from what they themselves say and the way in which they say it, though what is said about them by others also informs us. However, Austen does limit information on their physical appearance.

Austen's style of writing does not really fit in with much of the literature of the period. This was the time of the Romantic movement, in which writing often took on a more personal feel – something particularly apparent in poetry. Works by poets such as Keats, Byron, Coleridge and Shelley often include references to their own feelings, loves and sorrows, whilst highly imaginative and dramatic Gothic novels were also becoming fashionable. Consequently Austen received some criticism for the more realistic nature of her writing, although

writers such as Macaulay, Coleridge and Sir Walter Scott were full of praise for her work. She does include a reference to the popular wild setting with the Box Hill location, as well as a spoof elopement scene, a play on the then popular Gothic style. Generally, however, this is an anti-romantic work, with a demonstration of how excess and uncontrolled imagination such as Emma's can lead to problems.

Jane Austen herself led a calm and unremarkable life. She was very modest about her gift for writing, describing her work as '...that little bit (two inches wide) of ivory, in which I work with so fine a brush as produces little effect after much labour'. She spent many years living in quiet, rural villages, though she did live for a while in fashionable, elegant Bath after her father retired in 1801. This was something she did not relish and news of the intended move actually caused her to faint. Following her father's death in 1805 Jane also lived in Southampton, until 1809, with her mother and sister. They then moved to Chawton in Hampshire. It is interesting to note that Jane Austen chooses an adoptive background for Frank Churchill. Like Frank, Jane's own brother Edward, one of six sons, was given for adoption. His

adoptive father, a Mr Thomas Knight, was a wealthy but childless distant relative and this wealth enabled Edward to provide the home in Chawton. Edward's dutiful and morally admirable actions could also have provided the inspiration for the gentlemanly behaviour of Mr Knightley.

Chawton's rural setting, where she was to spend the rest of her life, was much more pleasing to Jane, and her writing blossomed from this time. However, much of her life consisted of nothing more exciting than conversation (or, more accurately, gossip), needlework and reading – often aloud, in her own drawing-room or in those of other people. Private dances or balls and occasional visits to fashionable seaside towns would have provided the only real highlights. However, it must be remembered that class distinctions were rigid at this time, and life for the upper class was just as portrayed by Jane Austen, drawing on her own limited experience. Their occupations were, indeed, social, with dinner parties and balls considered extremely important, and trivialities such as visiting friends taking up much of their time. Not surprisingly then *Emma*, although seemingly rather superficial in outlook, presents us with a Highbury

which is remarkably similar to Jane Austen's own world. Indeed she herself said that, 'Three or four families in a country village is the very thing to work on.' There are no references to significant events of the time, notably the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, even though, living near the South Coast, invasion might have seemed a possible threat for Jane. However, she never wished to write about something of which she had no first-hand experience in spite of having two brothers in the Navy.

Jane Austen never married although she was reputed to have had several romantic attachments, first to a young man called Tom Lefroy, then in 1802 to a man whom Jane and her sister Cassandra met at the sea-side. Unfortunately the latter died in 1803 before he could propose, although in that same year Jane did receive a proposal of marriage from a wealthy Hampshire landowner. She accepted his proposal, only to retract it the following morning. Marriage, however, together with Emma's plotting to achieve it for others, forms another main theme in *Emma*. The story begins with the marriage of the Westons, whilst the Eltons' marriage illustrates one which is made for the wrong reasons. The John Knightleys

merely tolerate each other, and Miss Bates exemplifies the fate of the spinster. Emma's misinterpretation of evidence regarding relationships concerning Mr Elton, Harriet Smith, Frank Churchill, Jane Fairfax and Mr Dixon, together with her blindness with regard to her own feelings for Mr Knightley, not only provide us with the bulk of the plot but also with much comedy.

By 1816 Jane Austen had become seriously ill and *Persuasion* was written whilst her health was rapidly failing. In May of that year she visited Cheltenham with her sister Cassandra. The spa waters there offered little relief and in May 1817 she was taken to Winchester to be under the care of the best doctors. However, within two months of arriving there she died, on July 18th, at the age of 42. Not until the twentieth century did her works become established favourites when, according to some critics, her admirers were over-lavish in their praise. Nevertheless many today are of the opinion that *Emma* is not only Jane Austen's most accomplished work but also one of the greatest of all English novels.

Notes by Helen Davies



Juliet Stevenson has worked extensively for the RSC and the Royal National Theatre. She received an Olivier Award for her role in *Death and the Maiden* at the Royal Court, and a number of other awards for her work in the film *Truly, Madly, Deeply*. Other film credits include *The Trial*, *Drowning by Numbers* and *Emma*. She has recorded *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *To The Lighthouse*, *Persuasion*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Mansfield Park* and *Hedda Gabler* for Naxos AudioBooks.

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