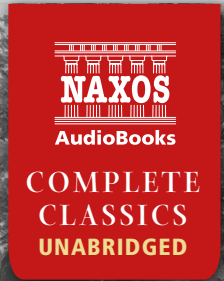


JANE AUSTEN

Mansfield Park

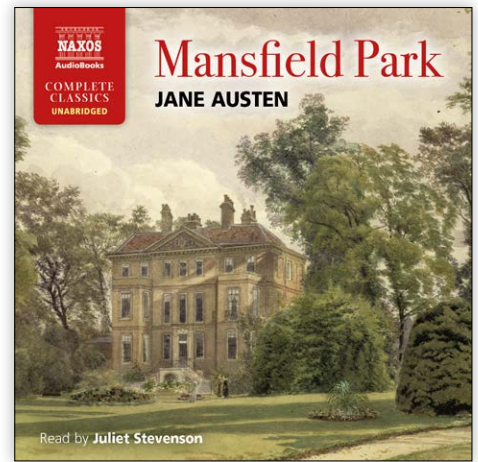
Read by **Juliet Stevenson**



When timid, ten-year-old Fanny Price is plucked from her large, raucous and somewhat impoverished family in Portsmouth to live with wealthy relatives in Mansfield Park her life is changed for ever. Immediately forming a strong attraction for her cousin Edmund, she develops into a genteel and mature young woman, whose love for him remains undimmed despite the diversion brought into both their lives by the attractive but morally bankrupt Crawfords. With its suggestion of adultery, and written with all the wit and style of the mature Jane Austen, this is the work of a writer at the peak of her powers.



Juliet Stevenson, one of the UK's leading actresses, has worked extensively for the Royal Shakespeare Company 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*. For Naxos AudioBooks she has recorded *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Persuasion*, *Stories from Shakespeare*, *To the Lighthouse*, *Bliss and Other Stories*, *The Road Home*, *Middlemarch* and many more.



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Volume 1

		Chapter 1 About thirty years ago Miss Maria ...	5:04
1	1-1	The letter was not unproductive.	6:02
2	1-2	Except to the attack on Nanny's cousin...	3:57
3	1-3	'I suppose sister you will put the child...'	3:36
4	1-4	Chapter 2 The little girl performed her long...	3:43
5	1-5	'This is not a very promising beginning...'	6:13
6	1-6	Fanny thought it a bold measure...	6:04
7	1-7	'To be sure, my dear, that is very stupid...'	6:58
8	1-8	Chapter 3 The first event of any importance...	6:16
9	1-9	'Well, Fanny, and if the plan were not unpleasant...'	6:03
10	1-10	'Good heaven! what could I do with Fanny?'	6:56
11	1-11	These opinions had been hardly canvassed...	3:33
12	1-12	Chapter 4 Tom Bertram had of late spent so little...	6:33
13	1-13	Though Edmund was much more displeased...	6:09
14	1-14	It was some months before Sir Thomas's...	4:29
15	2-1	The meeting was very satisfactory...	4:17
16	2-2	Chapter 5 The young people were pleased...	4:10
17	2-3	'Mary, how shall we manage him?'	5:49
18	2-4	And Fanny, what was she doing and thinking...	7:36
19	2-5	Chapter 6 Mr Bertram set off for...	6:34
20	2-6	Mrs Norris, who had begun to redden...	5:49
21	2-7	Edmund was sorry to hear Miss Crawford...	6:36
22	2-8	'Of Rears and Vices I saw enough.'	4:42
23	2-9	Chapter 7 'Well, Fanny, and how do you like...'	6:02
24	2-10	Fanny could not wonder that Edmund...	6:13
25	2-11	Fanny's answer was extremely civil...	6:16
26	2-12	'That is a very foolish trick, Fanny...'	7:18
27	2-13	Chapter 8 Fanny's rides recommenced...	6:21
28	3-1	'There can be no objection, then, to Fanny's...'	6:42
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		30	3-3	For the first seven miles Miss Bertram...	4:09
		31	3-4	Chapter 9 Mr Rushworth was at the door...	7:34
		32	3-5	For a few moments she was unanswered...	6:08
		33	3-6	No objection was made, but for some time...	3:53
		34	3-7	'But why are you to be a clergyman?'	5:02
		35	3-8	'My dear Fanny,' cried Edmund...	5:31
		36	3-9	Chapter 10 A quarter of an hour...	6:04
		37	3-10	'Prohibited! Nonsense! I certainly can get out...'	5:40
		38	3-11	'Handsome! Nobody can call such an undersized...'	5:26
		39	3-12	Dinner was soon followed by tea and coffee.	3:57
		40	3-13	Chapter 11 The day at Sotherton...	2:53
		41	3-14	'Your father's return will be a very interesting event.'	4:32
		42	4-1	'There are such clergymen, no doubt...'	4:37
		43	4-2	Fanny turned farther into the window...	3:22
		44	4-3	Chapter 12 Sir Thomas was to return...	3:41
		45	4-4	Fanny was the only one of the party...	6:22
		46	4-5	Fanny could listen no farther.	3:55
		47	4-6	Chapter 13 The Honourable John Yates...	4:28
		48	4-7	This, though the thought of the moment...	3:44
		49	4-8	He was determined to prevent it, if possible...	5:31
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		51	4-10	Chapter 14 Fanny seemed nearer being right...	5:06
		52	4-11	Everybody was growing weary of indecision...	4:25
		53	4-12	'Cottager's wife!' cried Mr Yates...	7:18
		54	4-13	Chapter 15 Miss Crawford accepted the part...	6:30
		55	4-14	'Do not act anything improper, my dear...'	4:32
		56	4-15	But the concerns of the theatre were suspended...	7:27
		57	5-1	'No, indeed, Mr Bertram, you must excuse me...'	6:54
		58	5-2	Chapter 16 It was not in Miss Crawford's power...	6:29
		59	5-3	Was she right in refusing what was so warmly...	5:14



60	5-4	'I have offended them, and they will not hear me...'	4:21
61	5-5	Chapter 17 It was, indeed, a triumphant day...	4:05
62	5-6	Everybody around her was gay and busy...	3:55
63	5-7	'You had better tell Miss Bertram...'	5:07
64	5-8	Chapter 18 Everything was now in a regular train...	4:11
65	5-9	From this moment there was a return...	3:41
66	5-10	Lady Bertram seemed quite resigned to waiting...	5:35
67	5-11	Surprise, consciousness, and pleasure appeared...	6:25

Volume 2

68	5-12	Chapter 19 How is the consternation of the party...	3:46
69	5-13	She was nearly fainting...	4:24
70	5-14	Sir Thomas was indeed the life of the party...	4:38
71	5-15	Sir Thomas could not be provoked.	5:21
72	6-1	There was little time, however, for the indulgence...	5:17
73	6-2	Mr. Yates was still talking. 'To own the truth...'	3:30
74	6-3	Chapter 20 Edmund's first object...	6:21
75	6-4	'I hope we shall always think the acquaintance...'	5:38
76	6-5	Her sensations were indefinable...	5:48
77	6-6	Chapter 21 Sir Thomas's return made a striking...	5:42
78	6-7	'Miss Crawford was very right in what she said...'	6:46
79	6-8	To her the conference closed as satisfactorily...	6:13
80	6-9	Chapter 22 Fanny's consequence increased...	6:07
81	6-10	Such was the origin of the sort of intimacy...	6:53
82	6-11	Fanny was silent, and Miss Crawford relapsed...	5:31
83	6-12	'You intend to be very rich?' said Edmund...	6:19
84	7-1	Chapter 23 'But why should Mrs Grant ask Fanny?'	5:08
85	7-2	The good news soon followed her.	3:44
86	7-3	Mrs. Norris fetched breath, and went on again...	6:46
87	7-4	Her two absent cousins, especially Maria...	4:35
88	7-5	She had never spoken so much at once to him...	5:20
89	7-6	Chapter 24 Henry Crawford had quite made up...	4:13
90	7-7	'Foolish fellow! And so this is her attraction...'	5:08
91	7-8	This dear William would soon be amongst them...	5:10
92	7-9	An affection so amiable was advancing...	5:37
93	7-10	Chapter 25 The intercourse of the two families...	5:27
94	7-11	Twice had Sir Thomas inquired into the enjoyment...	4:59
95	7-12	Miss Crawford, a little suspicious...	5:35
96	7-13	Sotherton was a word to catch Mrs. Norris...	4:12
97	7-14	'I want to be your neighbour, Sir Thomas...'	4:19
98	7-15	The chief of the party were now collected...	6:11
99	8-1	Chapter 26 William's desire of seeing Fanny...	4:28
100	8-2	The ball was now a settled thing...	5:23
101	8-3	With such matters to ponder over...	5:11
102	8-4	She would rather, perhaps, have been obliged...	4:03
103	8-5	Chapter 27 On reaching home Fanny went...	5:45
104	8-6	'For one night, Fanny, for only one night...'	5:28
105	8-7	Thursday, predestined to hope and enjoyment...	5:16
106	8-8	'I come from Dr. Grant's,' said Edmund...	5:11
107	8-9	He had said enough to shake the experience...	3:27
108	8-10	Chapter 28 Her uncle and both her aunts...	5:45
109	8-11	When the company were moving...	4:44
110	8-12	Miss Crawford saw much of Sir Thomas's...	5:07
111	8-13	The evening had afforded Edmund little pleasure.	5:14
112	9-1	Chapter 29 The ball was over...	4:24
113	9-2	A good night's rest improved her spirits.	4:16
114	9-3	The week which passed so quietly and peaceably...	3:52
115	9-4	The first half-hour was lost, for Fanny...	6:34
116	9-5	Chapter 30 Miss Crawford's uneasiness...	4:15
117	9-6	'When Fanny is known to him,' continued Henry...	5:28
118	9-7	'Ha!' cried Mary; 'settle in Northamptonshire!'	5:57
119	9-8	Chapter 31 Henry Crawford was at Mansfield...	4:57
120	9-9	Henry was most happy to make it more intelligible...	4:18
121	9-10	She had burst away from him...	5:17
122	9-11	She was more silent than ever.	5:05
123	9-12	At last – it seemed an at last...	3:33



124	9-13	Volume 3	
125	9-14	Chapter 32 Fanny had by no means forgotten...	3:37
126	10-1	Fanny would rather have been silent...	4:42
127	10-2	There was a look, a start, an exclamation...	4:42
128	10-3	Sir Thomas looked at her with deeper surprise...	5:25
129	10-4	You have shown yourself very, very different...	6:16
130	10-5	Her mind was all disorder. The past, present...	4:08
131	10-6	She was struck, quite struck, when, on returning...	6:16
132	10-7	Chapter 33 The conference was neither so short...	6:09
133	10-8	It was with reluctance that he suffered...	5:53
134	10-9	The promised departure was all that Fanny...	6:25
135	10-10	Chapter 34 Edmund had great things to hear...	5:23
136	10-11	In the evening a few circumstances occurred...	5:00
137	10-12	Both gentlemen had a glance at Fanny...	5:54
138	10-13	'A sermon, well delivered, is more uncommon...'	3:48
139	11-1	She grew more agitated and displeased.	5:23
140	11-2	Chapter 35 Edmund had determined...	6:17
141	11-3	'I must hope better things. I am aware...'	5:23
142	11-4	'As a bystander,' said Fanny, 'perhaps I saw...'	4:52
143	11-5	'It is above a week since I saw Miss Crawford.'	7:25
144	11-6	Chapter 36 Edmund now believed himself...	4:16
145	11-7	'Ha!' she cried, with instant animation...	5:53
146	11-8	Another short fit of abstraction followed...	4:39
147	11-9	'Excellent creature! I will not tease you.'	4:44
148	11-10	Poor Fanny's mind was thrown into the most...	3:26
149	11-11	Chapter 37 Mr Crawford gone, Sir Thomas's ...	3:56
150	11-12	Experience might have hoped more...	6:25
151	11-13	The only drawback was the doubt of her aunt...	4:10
152	12-1	By the time Mrs. Price's answer arrived...	5:02
153	12-2	Chapter 38 The novelty of travelling...	5:24
154	12-3	Another moment and Fanny was in the narrow...	4:30
155	12-4	Fanny with doubting feelings had risen...	5:15
156	12-5	Fanny was almost stunned.	4:33
157	12-6	In this more placid state of things William...	4:28
158	12-7	'What have you got there, my love?'	3:57
159	12-8	Chapter 39 Could Sir Thomas have seen...	4:31
160	12-9	Of her two sisters, Mrs. Price very much more...	5:57
161	12-10	Chapter 40 Fanny was right enough...	5:12
162	12-11	The first solid consolation which Fanny received...	4:47
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165	12-14	After talking a little more about Mansfield...	5:00
166	12-15	Once fairly in the dockyard, he began to reckon...	3:18
167	13-1	She turned away, and wished he would not say...	5:00
168	13-2	Chapter 42 The Prices were just setting off...	5:32
169	13-3	After a moment's reflection, Mr. Crawford...	4:33
170	13-4	'Is there nothing I can do for you in town?'	3:35
171	13-5	Chapter 43 It was presumed that Mr Crawford...	4:58
172	13-6	This was a letter to be run through eagerly...	6:09
173	13-7	Chapter 44 Seven weeks of the two months...	6:03
174	13-8	The only question is how?	6:23
175	13-9	Everybody at all addicted to letter-writing...	3:50
176	13-10	Fanny's feelings on the occasion were...	4:07
177	13-11	Chapter 45 At about the week's end...	6:18
178	13-12	It was sad to Fanny to lose all the pleasure...	5:13
179	13-13	It was a foolish precipitation last Christmas...	5:45
180	13-14	Chapter 46 As Fanny could not doubt...	7:05
181	13-15	'It is a mistake, sir,' said Fanny instantly...	4:45
182	14-1	Nothing happened the next day, or the next...	3:30
183	14-2	There is nothing like employment...	3:52
184	14-3	The carriage came; and he entered the house...	4:46
185	14-4	Chapter 47 It had been a miserable party...	5:52
186	14-5	Sir Thomas was preparing to act upon this letter...	5:49
187	14-6	That Edmund must be for ever divided...	5:00
188	14-7	After a little reflection, he went on...	6:03
189	14-8	After repeating this, Edmund was so much...	6:59
190	14-9	Chapter 48 Let other pens dwell on guilt...	5:13
191	14-10	Here had been grievous mismanagement...	5:08
192	14-11	Mrs. Norris's removal from Mansfield...	4:26
193	14-12	Had he done as he intended, and as he knew...	4:49
194	14-13	They lived together; and when Dr. Grant...	4:45
		Their own inclinations ascertained...	4:38

JANE AUSTEN

Mansfield Park

Unlike its predecessors, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*, which were revisions of her juvenile writing, *Mansfield Park*, published in 1814, was Jane Austen's first work to be completely original. Like its heroine Fanny Price, who develops during the course of the story to reach maturity, Jane Austen's third published novel was a much more mature work from a writer of increasing experience.

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 continuing her education at home with her father. By the time her first novel reached publication 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, a style which is evident throughout *Mansfield Park*.

Following the death of her father in 1805 Jane lived in Southampton, until, in 1809, with her mother and sister she moved to Chawton in Hampshire, to a home provided by her brother. Likewise, in *Mansfield Park* Jane creates a heroine who is dependant on the generosity of her relatives to provide her with a home at Mansfield Park. Here, she becomes increasingly fond of Edmund Bertram who, in becoming a clergyman, parallels Jane Austen's father as well as two of her brothers.

Morality in Regency England is closely examined in *Mansfield Park*. Jane Austen gives us Sir Thomas's behaviour as an example of the traditional eighteenth century morality, whilst the start of early nineteenth century social conscience is exemplified by Fanny, and Regency England's superficiality demonstrated in the Crawfords' moral ambiguity. Another of the themes in *Mansfield Park* is that of growing up. Immature at the start of the story, we see Fanny's development from a timid girl to a young woman who has acquired self-knowledge. This is achieved through her growing integration into the world of Mansfield Park and her experiences of relationships with Edmund Bertram and Henry Crawford. Indeed marriage forms another main theme of *Mansfield Park*. Jane Austen herself, however, never married. She was reputed to have had several romantic attachments, and did once receive a proposal of marriage from a wealthy Hampshire landowner. This she accepted, only to retract the following morning.

Mansfield Park is structured in three parts. The first, which takes the story up to the non-production of the play, highlights Fanny and the group of individuals who form the cast, and with whom she does not mix. Fanny's courtship by Henry Crawford is the focus for the second part, whilst her visit to Portsmouth and subsequent return

to Mansfield Park form the final part. The story is told by a narrator who frequently sees through Fanny's eyes, telling us her thoughts, and is written in Jane Austen's typically precise and analytical style, with humour a marked feature.

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. 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, needlework and reading, with private dances or balls and occasional visits to fashionable seaside towns providing the only real highlights. It must be remembered that class distinctions were rigid at this time, and life for the upper classes was just as portrayed by Jane Austen, drawing on her own limited experience. Not surprisingly then *Mansfield Park*, presents us with a world which is remarkably similar to that of Jane Austen herself. Indeed she herself said that, 'Three or four families in a country village is the very thing to work on.' Jane Austen never wished to write about something of which she had no first-hand experience so there are scant references to significant events of the time, notably the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. However, like Jane herself who had two brothers in the Navy, she does provide Fanny with a brother William, who is a Navy man and whose advancement Henry Crawford assists in order to win Fanny's gratitude and admiration.

Of Jane Austen's other great novels *Emma* was published in 1816, and both *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* in 1818. However, the dates of publication give no clues as to when these novels were actually written, as *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* were, in fact, published posthumously by Jane's brother Henry. He was the one to formally reveal her authorship since all four titles published in her lifetime were done so anonymously.

By 1816 Jane Austen had become seriously ill. In May of that year she visited Cheltenham with her sister Cassandra, but 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 Jane Austen is one of the greatest of all English writers.

Notes by Helen Davies

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Hannah Whale, Fruition – Creative Concepts.

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