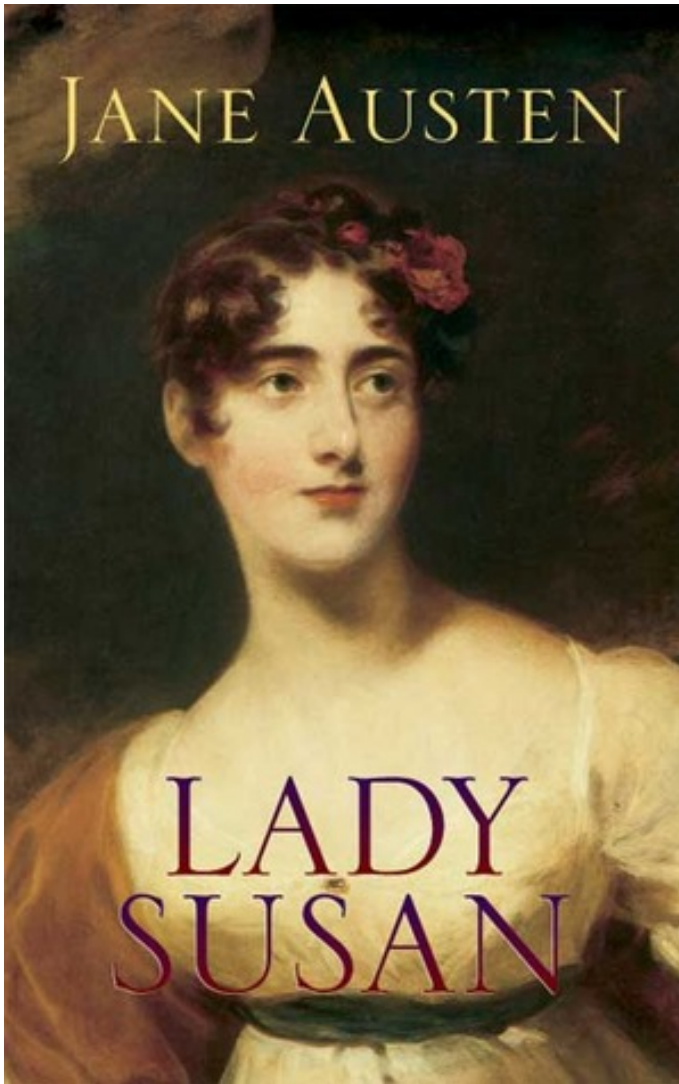

Jane Austen

Lady Susan



Title: Lady Susan

Author: Jane Austen

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Description

Beautiful, flirtatious, and recently widowed, Lady Susan Vernon seeks an advantageous second marriage for herself, while attempting to push her daughter into a dismal match. A magnificently crafted novel of Regency manners and mores that will delight Austen enthusiasts with its wit and elegant expression.

Insightful reviews

Meli: Muy sarcástico y muy entretenido.

Me sorprendió Lady Susan, tremenda bruja se mandó Jane con ese personaje. Buenísimo, el personaje más despreciable de Austen me parece. Tiene varios con complejo de bruja, pero manipuladores e insensibles como esta señora ninguno!

Lourdes:

Jane Austen dijo una vez que Emma Woodhouse, la protagonista de su novela *Emma*, sería quizás la heroína menos querida por sus lectores, debido a la presunción y al carácter caprichoso del personaje. Con el perdón de la autora, me tomo la libertad de disentir: no recuerdo haber leído, en toda mi vida, un libro cuya protagonista fuese tan mala persona como Lady Susan. Jamás. Ninguna tan falsa, manipuladora y egoísta, y sin posibilidad alguna de redención. Pese a todo (y eso es lo increíble del caso), se trata de un personaje construido con tanta solidez que no puede menos que fascinar a cualquiera (tanto fuera del relato como dentro de él). Porque lo confieso: una vez que empecé, me fue imposible abandonar este libro.

Por medio una serie de cartas entre los personajes, Lady Susan cobra vida a los ojos del lector, en toda su elegante y refinada crueldad: a los 35 años, hermosa y seductora, es capaz de destruir familias con sus encantos, de abandonar y calumniar a los de su propia sangre, y de llevar a los hombres a la ruina. Ni siquiera su hija, a quien fuerza a casarse con un hombre sin mérito alguno solamente por dinero, escapa a las imposturas y los planes maquiavélicos de esta aristocrática dama. Empobrecida tras la muerte de su esposo, solamente le preocupa mantener su reputación de viuda respetable, mientras busca, a menos de 4 meses del deceso de su esposo, otra abultada billetera con quien unirse en matrimonio. La mujer es, a todas luces, adúltera por deporte.

Las versiones sobre un mismo hecho (o sobre la propia Lady Susan) varían de una carta a la otra y los contrastes, afilados como navajas, no pueden más que divertir al lector: resulta tragicómico comparar las descripciones casi hagiográficas que la protagonista hace de sí misma con lo que sobre su conducta dicen los demás. En todo caso, Austen (con sólo 19 años) aprovecha estas divergencias magistralmente para criticar, con ironía y humor, a la sociedad de su época, donde la ambición, las apariencias, la posición social y el dinero constituían los valores más importantes. En ciertos círculos, al menos. (Nada demasiado alejado de nuestra civilizada sociedad contemporánea, en realidad). Con frecuencia, la mujer quedaba relegada a la perpetua caza del pretendiente perfecto (léase lo suficientemente millonario) y el matrimonio se reducía a un simple contrato comercial. Por fortuna, los personajes de la novela se rebelan

contra este orden de cosas y, quizás, eso es lo que la hace tan interesante.

Pese a lo escandaloso del personaje, me divirtió muchísimo leer esta novela. Muy, muy recomendada.

Helle: *Where there is disposition to dislike motive will never be wanting.*

This epistolary novella about the conceited coquette, Lady Susan, is delightful and reminiscent of Choderlos de Laclos's *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. Even the acidic, viper-like tongue of our main character has something in common with the scheming, self-absorbed Mme Merteuil of that novel. Though the tone may be harsher, the character of Lady Susan darker, than what was to come, it is clearly the precursor of the irony and satire that pervaded all of Austen's major works. As we read letters written by various characters and hear opposing points of view, we begin to piece together Lady Susan's character and the little goings-on in the wings of the story. Lady Susan's unfaltering convictions abound, and Jane Austen's linguistic gems shine already here:

Consideration and esteem as surely follow command of language, as admiration waits on beauty.

I'm heading a temporary book club at my local library dedicated to Jane Austen on the occasion of the bicentenary of *Emma* in November. Before meeting for the first time, the members were assigned, by me, *Lady Susan*, which I knew to be one of Austen's earliest works but not really considered part of her major oeuvre. I suspect now, having read it, that it is only due to its length and its rather unsatisfying ending because the rest is completely up to par – a worthy forerunner of her six princesses (as Forster called her six major novels).

I can't think why I hadn't read this until now – and I call myself a Janeite?!

(P.S. A new film adaption of *Lady Susan* is on its way!)

Kim: I completely loved hearing this wonderful audiobook model of Jane Austen's epistolary novel narrated by way of Harriet Walter, Kim Hicks and Carole Boyd. It is so brief that I used to be in a position to entire it via hearing it on the gymnasium after which on my technique to paintings and residential back during a unmarried day. The radical is especially diverse from Austen's different works. The principal personality is an anti-heroine: the amoral woman Susan Vernon, a predatory widow who endeavours to seduce a married guy and set up a wedding among her unwilling daughter and a guy who's anticipated to marry one other younger woman. The light, satirical tone of the prose contrasts with Austen's themes, which come with the hypocrisy inherent in social and familial relationships. Whereas there are darkish parts in all of Austen's novels, woman Susan's emotional abuse of her daughter is especially repellent. This paintings sat, unread, on my bookshelf for a few years in a quantity consisting of Austen's unfinished novels, *The Watsons* and *Sanditon*. I am happy that I ultimately obtained round to it, albeit by way of hearing the audiobook instead of studying the amount at the shelf. It is a needs to for Austen completists.

Moonlight Reader : i'm a woefully underread Janite, because it turns out. Sure, i have learn the large six - her half-dozen superbly written novels - many times. yet in all the years i have been analyzing Austen, I had by no means ventured into her other, unfortunately scarce, works. Laziness, maybe. Haughtiness, maybe. i might learn the best, why might i am going backwards from there?Well, a minimum of in relation to woman Susan, since it used to be freaking awesome. this can be Jane Austen before everything of her occupation - rumor has it that she wrote woman Susan on the age of nineteen and it's indisputable that she used to be a born author and a lady of serious perspicacity. She nailed woman Susan. it is a brief little novella, however it particularly crackles with wit, humor, nastiness, judgment, and realism. it really is written in letters, yet I by no means puzzled what was once happening. She lays naked the soul and the facade of woman Susan, a girl who increases manipulation and calculation to its maximum art. woman Susan does every little thing for effect, yet seems to be thoroughly natural."She is delicately fair, with superb gray eyes and darkish eyelashes; and from her visual appeal one wouldn't believe her greater than 5 and twenty, even though she needs to in truth be ten years older, i used to be under no circumstances disposed to appreciate her, notwithstanding regularly listening to she was once beautiful; yet i can't aid feeling that she possesses an unusual union of symmetry, brilliancy, and grace."She is the final word expression of what a society that praises shape and ignores substance deserves. Empty of compassion, absolutely self-absorbed and hedonistic, by no means fascinated by somebody yet herself. I want that Austen had written a full-length novel together with her as a character. i'm left considering approximately her marriage, her widowhood, her future. i would wish to recognize extra approximately her long-suffering daughter, Frederica, approximately whom she said, cruelly:"She is a silly girl, and has not anything to suggest her."In Frederica, I observed colors of Georgiana Darcy. A shy younger woman, beaten by way of her even more assertive mother. The novella signifies that she will get her chuffed ending. i'm hoping so!A girl like girl Susan will constantly land on her toes (often on best of her rival). She does not get the comeuppance she deserves, yet her end result is extra lifelike than satisfying.This was once loads of fun. quite a bit enjoyable that i stopped up analyzing sections of it out loud to my daughter, together with this gem, contained in a letter from girl Susan to her both unscrupulous pal Mrs. Johnson, touching on how she has been capable of yank her younger admirer again into line after it turns into obvious that she is extremely merciless to her younger daughter:"There is anything agreeable in emotions so simply labored on; no longer that I envy him their possession, nor would, for the world, have such myself; yet they're very handy whilst one needs to persuade the passions of another. And but this Reginald, whom a truly few phrases from me softened right now into the maximum submission, and rendered extra tractable, extra attached, extra committed than ever, may have left me within the first offended swelling of his proud center with no deigning to hunt an explanation. Humbled as he now is, i will not forgive him such an example of pride, and am uncertain even if I ought to not punish him by way of disregarding him straight away after this reconciliation, or by way of marrying and teasing him for ever."

Mack: **Part I of my 2015 Austen Re-Read-A-Thon**I'm uncertain woman Susan should be graded...I mean, it is Austen first try at a book, and it used to be most likely accomplished someday round 1793-1795, while she was once among 17 and 19 years old. Grading her novel will be just like my grading one in every of my Senior students' inventive writing pieces...necessary, yet now not definitive.Maybe i need to spare my cherished Jane the

undesirable information that I do not believe her test with the epistolary novel layout works. Telling an already sharply pointed critique of delusion, vanity, anxiousness and alienation is problem enough. attempting to accomplish that via letters from various characters (one, the delusional egoist: girl Susan, the other, a pointy and acerbic heroine: Catherine Vernon) mutes the particular conflict. every little thing is instructed instead of shown, and the secrets and techniques our heroine (Catherine) is looking for to uncover are blatantly noticeable to the reader (since we see Susan's confessions in her personal letters). If a 17 year-old Jane Austen have been sitting in my classification (and if I wasn't geeking out like a maniac), I might have lots to critique. yet I would even have lots to applaud, plenty of curiosity within the creativity, feedback and perception of a tender author, and an immense A for sheer audacity and effort. it isn't reasonable to pass judgement on girl Susan opposed to the remainder of Austen's catalogue. yet it is not reasonable to name it an under-appreciated vintage either. it really is what it is: an excellent first attempt from a powerful younger talent.

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