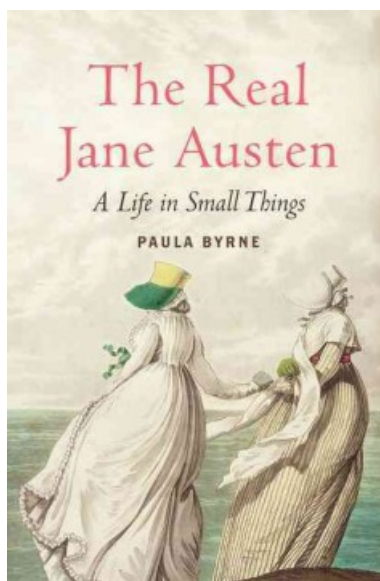


THE REAL JANE AUSTEN : A LIFE IN SMALL THINGS / PAULA BYRNE.



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Author(s): Byrne, Paula

Language:
English

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xi, 380 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.

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Women novelists, English -- 19th century -- Biography Novelists, English -- 19th century -- Biography

Subject**Terms:**

Austen, Jane, 1775-1817

[> Additional Information](#)**Publication Information:**

1st U.S. ed.

Abstract:

Summary: A revealing portrait of the beloved novelist, drawn from the most up-to-date scholarship and unexplored sources, presents a modern take on the woman and the world that shaped her.

Notes:

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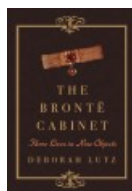
REVIEWS

PW Reviews 2013 February #1

Just in time for the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (first published in January 1813), comes Paula Byrne's vivacious new portrait of its author. The approach Byrne (*Jane Austen and the Theatre*) takes is refreshingly material-based and the book is experimental in structure; each chapter unfolds from the biographer's description of a small object associated with Austen's life (chapter titles include "The East Indian Shawl", "The Cocked Hat" "The Card of Lace", "The Crimson Velvet Cushions", and "The Topaz Crosses"). This technique serves two functions: firstly, it honors the precision for which Austen was famed by drawing attention to the material artifacts of her life; secondly, it challenges the "'official' family biography of Jane Austen," which stresses the novelist's "enclosed, sequestered world", coloring Austen's life with the same "ivory miniature" quality she famously ascribed to her fiction. Byrne's Austen, as revealed through this archive of objects, emerges as a worldly woman, profoundly enmeshed in a wider world than she's often acknowledged to occupy. This is an Austen with a sense for the political as well as for the finer points of sensibility—and one who will be unfamiliar (though never unrecognizable) to many readers. (Feb.)

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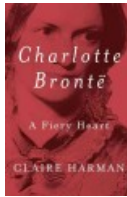
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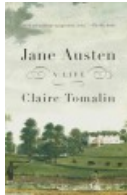
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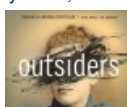
Not just Jane: rediscovering seven amazing women writers who transformed British literature

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The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things is a biography of novelist Jane Austen by the writer Paula Byrne first published in 2013. The biography does not follow her life chronologically; rather her story is told around events or objects in Austen's life as the starting point to describe the famous English author. It received several positive reviews after first publication. Who was the real Jane Austen? A spinster who sat in a vicarage confining her novels to the small canvas of village life? Or a woman who knew the turbulent world around her and who took the bold decision to remain unmarried and fashion herself as a professional writer? In this new biography, best-selling author Paula Byrne (*Perdita, Mad World*) explores the forces that shaped the interior life of Britain's most beloved novelist: her father's religious faith, her mother's aristocratic pedigree, her... It was the only thing approaching to a letter which she had ever received from him; she might never receive another; it was impossible that she ever should receive another so perfectly gratifying in the occasion and the style.