

# Jane Austen's *Pride and prejudice*: a sourcebook

Morrison, R, ed. (2005) *Jane Austen's Pride and prejudice: a sourcebook*. Routledge, Abingdon. ISBN 9780415268509

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## Abstract


Robert Morrison sets 'Pride and Prejudice' within the social contexts of female conduct books and political tales of terror and traces criticism of the novel from the nineteenth century to the present, including material on the 1995 film adaptation. Extensive introductory comment and annotation complement extracts from critical and contextual texts. The book concludes with fourteen widely studied passages from *Pride and Prejudice*, reprinted with editorial comment.


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*Pride and Prejudice* is a romantic novel of manners written by Jane Austen in 1813. The novel follows the character development of Elizabeth Bennet, the dynamic protagonist of the book who learns about the repercussions of hasty judgments and comes to appreciate the difference between superficial goodness and actual goodness. Its humour lies in its honest depiction of manners, education, marriage, and money during the Regency era in Great Britain. Austen's finest comedy of manners portrays life in the genteel rural society of the early 1800s, and tells of the initial misunderstandings (and mutual enlightenment) between lively and quick witted Elizabeth Bennet and the haughty Mr. Darcy. Book Excerpt. Bennet," as she entered the room, "we have had a most delightful evening, a most excellent ball. I wish you had been there. Jane was so admired, nothing could be like it. Reading "*Pride and Prejudice*" a short while after "*Cecilia*," the Fanny Burney novel that inspired the title, I'm struck by how much funnier Burney's novel is. Austen's subtle irony at the expense of her society and its views of gender roles provides humor, but Burney's pungent satire is hilarious. Austen's characters are annoying; it's easy to become frustrated with them.