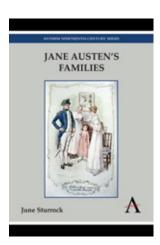
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Jane Austen's Families

June Sturrock

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Description

Jane Austen's Families provides insight into family dynamics in Jane Austen's six novels, focusing particularly on interaction between parents and children.

"Writing within the resurgent ethical tradition of Jane Austen criticism, June Sturrock reveals in 'Jane Austen's Families' how important a role family dynamics, more even than romantic encounters, play in the achievement of her novels. This well-informed, perceptive and wise book is a notable reminder that through her own attention to minute moral choices, Austen creates an ethics of ordinary life." —*Professor John Wiltshire, School of Communication, Arts and Critical Enquiry, La Trobe University*

'Sturrock's pseudo-sociological study almost has a "naturalist's eye" worthy of Austen herself. [...] She deftly links Austen's writing process with the development of characters.' —Mika Ross-Southall, 'Times Literary Supplement'

'Sturrock writes with elegance and ease. But more than that with sympathy and compassion for both the fictional characters and for the hand that created them. [...] [A] concise but convincingly argued study.' — *Joceline Bury, 'Jane Austen's Regency World'*

Jane Austen's Families focuses on family dynamics in Jane Austen's six novels. After a general introduction, which places its approach in the context of ethical criticism, it divides into two sections. The first, "Family Dynamics," consists of three chapters — "The Function of the Dysfunctional Family," "Spoilt Children" and "Usefulness and Exertion." The three chapters of section two, "Fathers and Daughters," look at father—daughter relationships in *Mansfield Park*, Emma and Persuasion.

Readership

Though directed towards an academic audience of Austen scholars and able undergraduates, the style of *Jane Austen's Families* will make it accessible to all Austen enthusiasts.

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Acknowledgements; References and Abbreviations; General Introduction; PART I: FAMILY DYNAMICS: Introduction; Chapter One: The Functions of the Dysfunctional Family: "Northanger Abbey," "Sense and Sensibility," "Pride and Prejudice"; Chapter Two: Spoilt Children: "Pride and Prejudice," "Mansfield Park" and "Emma"; Chapter Three: "Usefulness and Exertion": Mothers and Sisters in "Sense and Sensibility," "Mansfield Park," "Emma" and "Persuasion"; PART II: FATHERS AND DAUGHTERS: Introduction; Chapter Four: Money, Morals and "Mansfield Park"; Chapter Five: Speech and Silence in "Emma"; Chapter Six: Dandies and Beauties: The Issue of Good Looks in "Persuasion"; Conclusion: "Creative Attention"; Notes; Select Bibliography; Index

About the Author

June Sturrock is Professor Emeritus of English at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada.

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