



Sense and Sensibility (Oscar Winner, Acclaimed Motion Picture, Classic Romance Novel Bestseller, Illustrated Classic Edition)

Jane Austen

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***Oscar Winner for Best Screenplay Adaptation ***

***Seven Academy Award Nominations**

Sense and Sensibility is the most thought-provoking of the classic romantic novels by Jane Austen (1775-1817). The book unerringly captures the moral flaws of a bygone English society, and does so with humor and wit.

In recent times, movie and television adaptations of the novel have been critically acclaimed. The 1995 movie version was nominated for seven Academy Awards. The celebrated actress Emma Thompson won an Oscar Award for Best Screenplay Adaptation, and costarred with Kate Winslet (later of *TITANIC* fame) and Hugh Grant. The film also won several awards from Golden Globe, the New York and Los Angeles Film Critics.

In *Sense and Sensibility*, Ms. Austen explores the faults and foibles of the “landed Gentry,” the elite upper-class landowners of late eighteenth-century England. Men dominate with appalling insensitivity; women are exceptionally disadvantaged. Empty promises, suspect motives, and overt exploitation of vulnerable women are major themes of this morality tale.

At the time, only men could inherit land, and a treacherous half-brother ejects the sisters Elinor and Marianne Dashwood from their childhood home. The pressures of downward mobility falls heavily on older sister Elinor. She is the de facto caregiver for not only teenage Marianne, but also an adolescent sister, Margaret, and their doting mother.

Big sister Elinor becomes toughened and untrusting. In the novel, she represents hard-nosed practicality, or “sense,” as in common sense. By contrast, younger sister Marianne is trusting and sentimental, possessing an abundance of “sensibility,” that borders on romantic infatuation. As various male suitors enter and exit their lives, the two sisters struggle against each other, as much as with the men.

Like life itself, the tale is resolved in an unexpected fashion. For generations, readers and critics alike have pondered the ending: Did “sense” or “sensibility” triumph?

Regardless, *Sense and Sensibility* remains a poignant portrayal of romance in an imperfect world that is neither all bad, nor all good.

This classic edition of *SENSE AND SENSIBILITY* features:

- specially formatted text for Kindle e-readers;
- digitally restored antique ink engravings; be sure to download a free sample of text and images from this webpage.
- full Kindle electronic navigation, e.g., interactive table of contents and word search.

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What people say about the book or movie versions:

“grandly entertaining. ...in Austen’s novels, patience and decency make for a winning hand. ... the most gratifying of happy endings. ... this material is ageless.” --NEW YORK TIMES

“SENSE AND SENSIBILITY just about glows with the old-fashioned belief that all you need, indeed, is love.” --ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

“a story that keeps its force as a study of class and money and character” --THE GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER (U.K.)

“rapturous romance” --WASHINGTON POST

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Ruth Davis:

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