



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.

Contents

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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