



## Visuality in the Novels of Austen, Radcliffe, Edgeworth and Burney

By Jessica A. Volz

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**Visuality in the Novels of Austen, Radcliffe Edgeworth and Burney offers new insights into vision, fiction and depiction by exploring how the visual details in women's novels published between 1778 and 1815 are more telling about gender politics than scholars have previously acknowledged.**

'This wonderful and scholarly book shows us with lively examples how women in the age of Jane Austen were allowed to perceive themselves and how four great women writers responded creatively and spiritually, through their use of the visual imagination in their writing. I read it with huge pleasure.' —Edward Rutherford, bestselling author of *Sarum, London, New York and Paris*

'Jessica Volz makes an important contribution to the field of eighteenth-century gender studies. Finally, the "female gaze" is getting her due.' —Dr Amanda Foreman, historian and bestselling author of *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire*

'We've long understood that late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century British culture was structured around seeing and being seen, but it's taken Jessica Volz's fine book to reveal how four famed women novelists of the era used visual patterns and cues to promote social change [...] *Visuality in the Novels of Austen, Radcliffe, Edgeworth and Burney* is a compelling study of a surprisingly under-examined set of narrative patterns that have been hiding in plain sight.' —Devoney Looser, Foundation Professor of English, Arizona State University

'Volz looks at how these women novelists dealt with questions of gender politics, the Gothic imagination and other "optical allusions" — a compelling read.' —*Jane Austen's Regency World Magazine*

### About the Author

Dr Jessica A. Volz is an independent British literature scholar and international communications strategist whose research focuses on the forms and functions of visuality in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century women's novels.

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