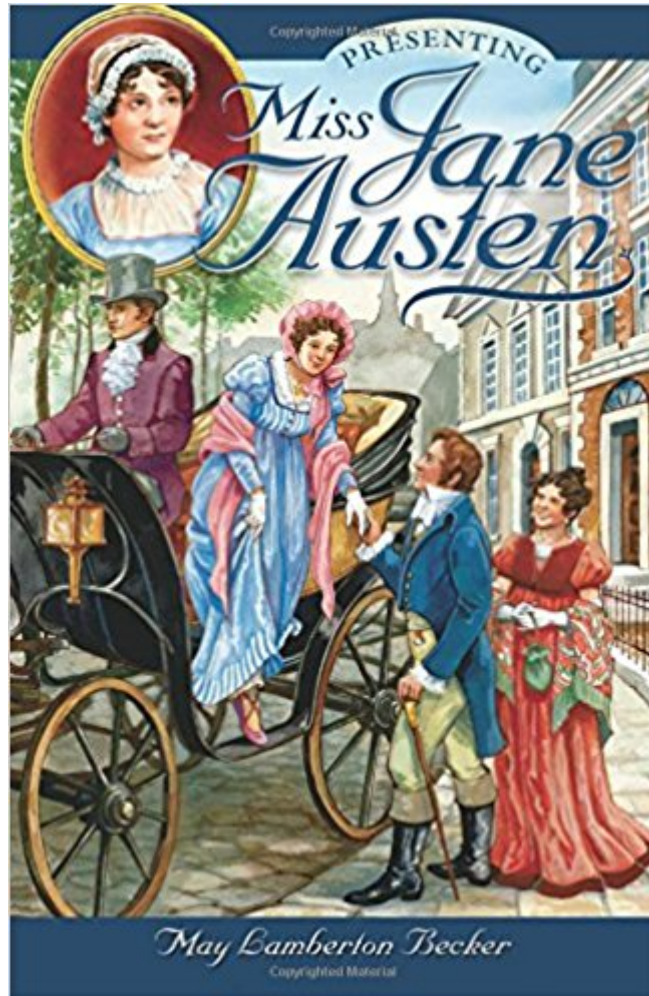




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PRESENTING MISS JANE AUSTEN



Synopsis

This outstanding biography of a well-beloved novelist catches the spirit of Jane Austen herself. May Lamberton Becker enjoyably introduces us to the 18th and early 19th century world Miss Austen lived in—her family, her friends, her varied settings and her many keen interests—as we are given insight to the personal background of all the Austen novels. Enlivening her narrative with many quotations from Jane Austen's own correspondence, Miss Becker puts her own enthusiastic appreciation of one of the world's most delightful writers at our disposal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

May Lamberton, born in 1873 in New York City, was destined to live a long life passionately dedicated to the world of books; she would generously share her interests with American and eventually English readers until her death in Epsom, England, in 1958. Perhaps an outstanding devotion to literature was May's mother's default—for young May received her earlier education at home from her mother; and later, May Lamberton Becker made sure that her own daughter was also taught at home by this fine educator-grandmother. May Lamberton, upon graduation from high school, immediately began writing for the Jersey City News. She became its music and drama critic. Her husband, Gustave Becker, was a gifted musician; their daughter Beatrice Warde would win recognition as a leading advocate and educator for fine typography and printing both in the United States and in England. Mrs. Becker wrote influential columns in the Saturday Evening Review of Literature and the New York Herald Tribune, but it was for her ÆBooks for Young People department in the Herald Tribune that she became most known. It

established her, in her daughter's words, as "that famous 'Reader's Guide' whose advice on the choice of books was sought by thousands in every part of America and in other lands. The secret of that long success is not simply wide reading and a remarkable memory. It is her sure and almost uncanny understanding of readers and what they want from books." • In 1948 Mrs. Becker was awarded the Women's National Book Award for her outstanding contribution as a Book Reviewer. Most of Mrs. Becker's writing career had involved book reviews and editorial work, but in 1940, as member and sometime president of the New York Dickens Fellowship, she turned her keen interest and years of experience into writing a book for young people called *Introducing Charles Dickens*. Just over a decade later, with Mrs. Becker now residing in England, a similar enthusiasm for the very dissimilar "but incomparable" author Jane Austen inspired May Lamberton Becker to write a second book of this type. In these two works she gives not only biographical insights, but also greater understanding about the literature the authors created and the times in which they were written. *Presenting Miss Jane Austen* was Mrs. Becker's last book for the young people she served for so many years before her death in 1958.

If you like to read Jane Austen or just watch movies based on her novels, you will enjoy learning more about her family life and background. Although her family is not particularly famous, they are interesting to learn about, because they offer a peek into the many characters in her novels. Just like her characters, her family is portrayed as real, having faults, yet endearing. It is fascinating to see the comparison between the real people and characters in her novels. She really did experience in her family a fairy tale romance like Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth Bennett. We also find out how many years she patiently wrote and rewrote *Pride and Prejudice*. Maybe that is why it is still read today. If you want to learn more about Miss Jane, this book is sure to please.

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