


NAXOS
AudioBooks

Jane Austen
Mansfield Park

Read by **Juliet Stevenson**

**CLASSIC
FICTION**



NA306712D

1	Sir Thomas Bertram of Mansfield Park	7:58
2	Fanny Price comes to Mansfield Park	9:07
3	The death of Mr Norris	9:24
4	Mr and Miss Crawford arrive	6:27
5	Mr Rushworth aims his attention at Miss Bertram	4:11
6	Edmund Bertram offers his mare to Miss Crawford	10:03
7	The party arrives at Sotherton	7:47
8	Fanny is left on her own	8:11
9	Fanny's first ball	11:06
10	The play – <i>Lover's Vows</i>	5:08
11	Fanny – an actress?	6:00
12	Preparations for the play progress	5:56
13	'You will find Fanny everything you could wish'	8:26
14	Fanny – the only young woman in the drawing-room	5:05
15	Crawford's barouche	5:13
16	Henry Crawford plots a diversion	5:21
17	Crawford presses his attentions	6:09
18	Jewellery for a ball	13:35

19	The day of the ball	7:26
20	Tranquillity and vexation after the ball	4:17
21	Henry Crawford returns to Mansfield Park	7:51
22	Sir Thomas intervenes	3:55
23	Fanny stands her ground	4:32
24	Edmund returns to many surprises	11:01
25	Miss Crawford presses her brother's suit	7:16
26	The Crawfords depart	4:22
27	Fanny returns home	7:03
28	A review of the two houses	3:35
29	A surprise visitor	5:29
30	Another appearance	3:34
31	A letter from Edmund	8:21
32	Edmund comes	10:11
33	A happy conclusion	12:31

Total time: 3:56:43

Jane Austen

Mansfield Park

Jane Austen was born in Hampshire in 1775, the seventh of eight children. Her father was a clergyman who ensured that his children were very well educated. After a brief spell at boarding school when they were very young, Jane and her sister, Cassandra, were educated at home. In 1801 Mr Austen retired and the family moved to Bath. Although Jane Austen never married, she is reputed to have had a romance in 1802, but she parted from her lover, who died the following year. In 1803 she was proposed to by a wealthy Hampshire landowner, and after initially accepting his proposal, she refused him the following morning. In 1805 her father died, and she moved with her mother to Southampton and in 1809 to the village of Chawton.

In 1816 Jane Austen became seriously ill, and was taken to Winchester in search of a cure. She died there in 1817. She is remembered by six great novels: **Sense and Sensibility** (1811), **Pride and Prejudice** (1813), **Mansfield Park** (1814), **Emma** (1816), **Northanger Abbey** (1818) and **Persuasion** (1818).

Mansfield Park was written in Chawton, Hampshire. It was begun in February 1811 and finished in June 1813. The main action of the book takes place in 1808. At this time Napoleon was at the height of his power in France and was at war with England, and the Industrial Revolution was soon to change the face of Britain. Although none of these events seems to impinge on the seclusion of Mansfield Park, the themes of stability and change are never far from the surface.

Superficially this is the story of two families, living in rural prosperity at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Sir Thomas Bertram of Mansfield Park is the bastion of old established values: stability, order, propriety. The Crawfords, who join this world, bring with them the gloss and sophistication of London. Fanny, however, is a bystander, belonging to neither world but, able to see and indeed to suffer from the selfishness and hypocrisy of both, she embodies virtue and constancy and above all moral strength in a world which becomes wracked by change and scandal. Although, therefore, there are no direct references to

actual historical events, there is no doubt that Jane Austen was aware that the nation stood on the brink of cataclysmic change with all the threat to established values that the term implies.

By keeping the frame of **Mansfield Park** small and domestic, Jane Austen was able to give a universality to the events and emotional crises which she portrayed. Even though the social context is far removed from the world of today, the moral dilemmas are as relevant and recognisable as they were when she wrote them. But this is only one reason for Jane Austen's enduring popularity. Perhaps her greatest achievement was her style. Her faultless eye for detail in

her characterisation, and her ear for dialogue are unparalleled. Vladimir Nabokov wrote of **Mansfield Park**:

“There is no such thing as real life for an author of genius: he must create it himself and then create the consequences. The charm of **Mansfield Park** can be fully enjoyed only when we adopt its conventions, its rules, its enchanting make-believe.”

It is a testament to Jane Austen that new generations of readers continue to enjoy this “enchanting make-believe”.

Notes by Heather Godwin

The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS catalogue

BEETHOVEN PIANO TRIO IN E FLAT Stuttgart Piano Trio	8.550948
BEETHOVEN SEPTET	8.553090
MENDELSSOHN PIANO QUARTET NOS 2 & 3 Bartholdy Piano Quartet	8.550967
WEBER INTRODUCTION, THEME AND VARIATIONS FOR CLARINET AND STRING QUARTET Kálmán Berkes, clarinet/Jenő Jendó, piano/Auer Quartet	8.553122

Jane Austen

Mansfield Park

Read by **Juliet Stevenson**

At the tender age of ten, Fanny Price is 'adopted' by her rich relations and is removed from the poverty of her home in Portsmouth to the opulence of Mansfield Park. The transplantation is not a happy one.

Dependent, helpless, neglected and forgotten, Fanny struggles to come to terms with her new life until, tested almost to the limits of endurance, she assumes her rightful role...



Juliet Stevenson has worked extensively for the RSC, the Royal National Theatre, and other major theatre companies. She won an Olivier Award for her role in *Death and the Maiden* at the Royal Court, and a number of other awards for her work in the film *Truly, Madly, Deeply*. Other film credits include *The Trial*, *Ladder of Swords*, *Drowning by Numbers* and *A Secret Rapture*. Among her prominent TV appearances is *The Politician's Wife*. She also reads Woolf's *To The Lighthouse* and Austen's *Northanger Abbey* for Naxos AudioBooks.

"This production moves with the grace of a minuet, guided through its abridgement by elegant music. Stevenson's dulcet voice perfectly suits the drawing-room atmosphere."

AUDIOFILE

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Abridged by Heather Godwin. Produced by Nicolas Soames
Post-production: Simon Weir, The Classical Recording Company
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