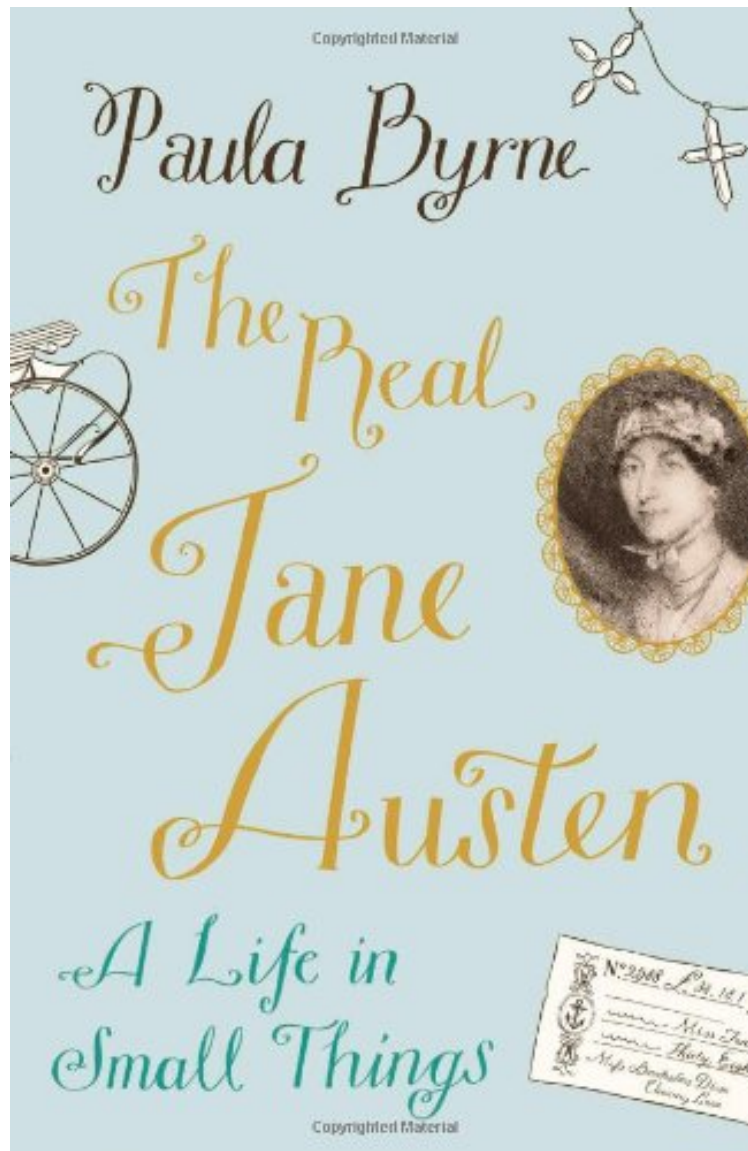


(Read free) The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things

The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things

Paula Byrne

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Paula Byrne : The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. If you read only one biography, this is the one to readBy holaThis is one of the best biographies I've read on this topic. I learned things I never knew, and my knowledge of things I did know was expanded. The author writes by topic instead of chronologically, and the mode lends itself beautifully to the life of this Jane Austen. Ms. Byrne also sticks with facts and does not extrapolate on possibilities as other biographers

have (Tormalin, e.g.). Also, there is a proposed portrait of Jane Austen which was brand new to me, and I believe it probably is an accurate portrayal, regardless of what other experts may say: why would anyone draw a woman with the Austen nose, unless it was an accurate picture? I was sorry the book ended.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. ... huge Jane Austen fan and found this biography very good. I think this book is best read by ...By Donna CreteI'm a huge Jane Austen fan and found this biography very good. I think this book is best read by someone with an understanding of all Ms. Austen's books (not just *Pride and Prejudice*), as Byrne references all the six novels. Paula Byrne explores Jane Austen and her world via the various items and interests of the author, reflecting on and deepening one's understanding of what the novelist's life and interests were. I particularly was interested in seeing and reading about the image of an older Jane (possibly) and the history around this portrait.⁸ of 9 people found the following review helpful. OK, but its no Jane Austen.By Dr.L.I happen to love the work of Jane Austen so I very much wanted to know more about the author. This book is OK, but it seems to go off on tangents talking about people other than Austen. This process can be very annoying. As a result I did not enjoy this book as much as I had thought I would...or had hoped I would. It was more academic and less personal than I would have personally liked. But as I say it is an OK read. I will leave to you the decision as to whether or not to buy this one.

In *The Real Jane Austen*, acclaimed literary biographer Paula Byrne provides the most intimate and revealing portrait yet of a beloved but complex novelist. Just as letters and tokens in Jane Austen's novels often signal key turning points in the narrative, Byrne explores the small things — a scrap of paper, a gold chain, an ivory miniature — that held significance in Austen's personal and creative life. Byrne transports us to different worlds, from the East Indies to revolutionary Paris, and to different events, from a high society scandal to a case of petty shoplifting. In this ground-breaking biography, Austen is set on a wider stage than ever before, revealing a well-traveled and politically aware writer — important aspects of her artistic development that have long been overlooked. *The Real Jane Austen* is a fresh, compelling, and surprising biography of the author of some of our most enduring classic books — from *Pride and Prejudice* to *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma* to *Persuasion* — and a vivid evocation of the world that shaped her.

[Byrne] breathes yet more life into Austen and her works by considering the objects that populated her dayshellip;. [The] thematic approach offers a revealing picture of Austen and a lively social historyhellip;. paints a fresh and vivid picture of an inimitable woman.rdqquo; (The Economist)ldquo;Byrne's aim is to show how these objects, many of them reproduced in her book in lush color plates, reveal a much more cosmopolitan awareness of the world than is commonly credited to Austen.rdqquo; (Maureen Corrigan, NPR)ldquo;A vivacious portraithellip;Byrne's Austen emerges as a worldly woman, profoundly enmeshed in a wider world than hersquo;s often acknowledged to occupy. This is an Austen with a sense for the political as well as for the finer points of sensibility.rdqquo; (Publishers Weekly)ldquo;An excellent new biographyhellip;well-researched and entertaininghellip;Byrne gives us a Jane Austen many readers may not recognize: a woman who enjoyed black humor and was well aware of the political scene of her time.rdqquo; (Bookreporter.com)ldquo;Vividly persuasivehellip;. The *Real Jane Austen* is excellenthellip; particularly on the dissonant topics of theater and slaveryhellip;Byrne's section on slavery is better still, establishing links between Austen's protagonists and contemporary figures, her pointed references and contemporary events, which highlight her supposedly oblivious fiction's sharp views on the slave trade.rdqquo; (New York Times Book)ldquo;In *THE REAL JANE AUSTEN*, Byrne's engaging prose and thoughtful, determined analysis of tangible objects from her life give us a picture of Austen as a vivid, vital woman committed to her career as a novelist, clear-eyed and part of the wider world. Well worth a read.rdqquo; (Literary Omnivore)ldquo;Biographer Paula Byrne has taken objects from Jane Austen's real life and times and used them as if we were dropping in on Austen on any given day...a dynamic new biography in which Austen lives and breathes.rdqquo; (NPR/All Things Considered)ldquo;Byrne takes Austen seriously as a writer...[she] brings to life a woman of ldquo;wonderful exuberance and self-confidence.rdqquo; of ldquo;firm opinions and strong passions.rdqquo; Little wonder that every other man she meets seems to fall in love with her.rdqquo; (Michael Dirda, Washington Post)ldquo;A fresh behind-the-scenes look at an author who, for many, stands behind only Shakespeare as the greatest English writer.rdqquo; (Shelf Awareness)ldquo;Brilliantly illuminatinghellip;rivetinghellip;Again and againhellip;Byrne opens out Austen's story with a novelist's persistent probing of the evidence.rdqquo; (Simon Callow, The Guardian)ldquo;Magnificenthellip;explodes the old view of Jane Austen. Byrne's research is wide, deep and meticuloushellip;a more vivid and memorable Jane Austen emerges than a relentlessly lsquo;straight'squo; old-fashioned narrative could deliver.rdqquo; (Times Literary Supplement (London))From the Back Cover*The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things* offers a startlingly original look at the revered writer through a variety of key moments, scenes, and objects in her life and work. Going beyond previous traditional biographies which have traced Austen's daily life from Steventon to Bath to Chawton to Winchester, Paula Byrne's portrait — organized thematically and drawn from the most up-to-date scholarship and unexplored sources — explores the lives of Austen's extended family, friends, and acquaintances. Through their

absorbing stories, we view Austen on a much wider stage and discover unexpected aspects of her life and character. Byrne transports us to different worlds—the East Indies and revolutionary Paris—and different events—from a high society scandal to a petty case of shoplifting. She follows Austen on her extensive travels, setting her in contexts both global and English, urban and rural, political and historical, social and domestic—wider perspectives of vital and still under-estimated importance to her creative life. Literary scholarship has revealed that letters and tokens in Austen's novels often signal key turning points in the unfolding narrative. This groundbreaking biography explores Jane's own story following the same principle. As Byrne reveals, small things in the writer's world—a scrap of paper, a simple gold chain, an ivory miniature, a bathing machine—hold significance in her emotional and artistic development. *The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things* introduces us to a woman deeply immersed in the world around her, yet far ahead of her time in her independence and ambition; to an author who was an astute commentator on human nature and the foibles of her own age. Rich and compelling, it is a fresh, insightful, and often surprising portrait of an artist and a vivid evocation of the complex world that shaped her.

About the Author Paula Byrne is the critically acclaimed author of five biographies, including *Belle: The Slave Daughter and the Lord Chief Justice*, *The Real Jane Austen*, and *Mad World: Evelyn Waugh and the Secrets of Brideshead*. She lives in Oxford, England, with her husband, the academic and biographer Jonathan Bate.