

## Jane Austen's Friends & Family on *Emma*

Selected Opinions of Emma "collected and written out by Jane Austen, probably in 1816"

"Capt. Austen. – liked it extremely, observing that though there might be more Wit in P&P - & an higher Morality in MP – yet altogether, on account of its peculiar air of Nature throughout, he preferred it to either."

"Miss Sharp – better than MP. – but not so well as P.&P. – pleased with the Heroine for her Originality, delighted with Mr K - & called Mrs Elton beyond praise – dissatisfied with Jane Fairfax."

"Cassandra – better than P&P. but not so well as M.P. –

"Fanny K – not so well as either P.&P. or MP. – could not bear Emma herself. – Mr Knightley delightful. – Should like J.F. – if she knew more of her. –"

"Edward – preferred it to MP. – only – Mr. K. like by everybody."

"Miss Bigg – not equal to either P&P. – or MP. – objected to the sameness of the subject (Matchmaking) all through. – Too much of Mr Elton and H. Smith. Language superior to the others. – "

"My Mother – thought it more entertaining than M.P. – but not so interesting as P.&P. – No characters in it equal to Ly Catherine & Mr Collins. – "

"Miss Bigg – on reading it a second time, liked Miss Bates much better than at first, & expressed herself as liking all the people of Highbury in general, except Harriet Smith – but could not help still thinking her too silly in her Loves."

"Mr & Mrs Leight Parrot – saw many beauties in it, but could not think it equal to P.&P. – Darcy and Eliz had spoiled them for anything else. – Mr K., however, an excellent Character; Emma better luck than a Matchmaker often has. Pillites Jane Fairfax – thought Frank Churchill better treated than he deserved. – "

"Mrs Digweek – did not like it as well as the others, in fact if she had not know the Author, could hardly have got through it. – "

"Mr B Lefroy – thought that if there had been more Incident, it would be equal to any of the others. – The Characters quite as well drawn & supported as in any, & from being more every day ones, the more entertaining. – did not like the Heroine so well as any of the others. Miss Bates excellent, but rather too much of her. Mr & Mrs Elton admirable & John Knightley a sensible Man."

"Capt. C Austen wrote – 'Emma arrived in time to a moment. I am delighted with her, more so I think than even with my favourite Pride & Prejudice, and have read it three times in the Passage.'

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