



Emma: A Modern Retelling

By Alexander McCall Smith

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The summer after university, Emma Woodhouse returns home to live with her widowed father and launch her interior design business. Apart from cultivating grand career plans and managing her father's hypochondria, Emma busies herself with the two things she does best: matchmaking and offering advice on everything from texting etiquette to first date destinations.

Happily, this summer presents abundant opportunities for both, as old and new friends are drawn into the sphere of Emma's counsel: George Knightley, her principled brother-in-law; Frank Churchill, the attractive stepson of her former governess; Harriet Smith, a naïve but enchanting young teacher's assistant at the local language school; and the perfect (and perfectly vexing) Jane Fairfax. Carriages have been replaced by Mini Coopers and cups of tea by cappuccinos, but Alexander McCall Smith's sparkling satire and cozy sensibility are the perfect match for Jane Austen's beloved tale.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Perhaps the out-and-out funniest of Jane Austen's books. Telling the story of a heroine Austen feared readers would actively dislike, Emma has turned out to be a character whose creation was necessary to the development of the spoiled rich kid genre of literature, TV and movies. Since Emma knows what's best for everybody, she sets about trying to straighten the world out. It doesn't work. Fortunately, before completely screwing up everyone else's life, she gets her head screwed on straight and for the first time sees what it's all about.

From Library Journal

This is another case where a classic is being reprinted simply as a tie-in to a TV/feature film presentation. Libraries, nonetheless, can benefit by picking up a quality hardcover for a nice price.
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Review

"One of the most delightful books of the year. . . . A literary jewel, just like the original." —*Star Tribune* (Minneapolis) (Critics' choice)

"McCall Smith brings all the wit and deft characterization of his No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series to this reimagining of Jane Austen's classic. . . . The lessons and pleasures of her tale are timeless." —*People Magazine*

"With his fluent, soothing prose . . . [McCall Smith] takes Jane's characters and invites them warmly into our world. . . . We like his Emma, a contemporary small-town girl who worries over dinner parties, pours gin and tonics and drives a Mini Cooper—much to the delight of her friend Harriet. . . . Jane Austen is incomparable, but if she were still with us, I can see her hastily tucking away her handwritten notes and extending her hand to Mr. McCall Smith." —*The Washington Post*

"Alexander McCall Smith and Jane Austen? . . . A delightful match it is. . . . McCall Smith's *Emma* answers many interesting questions, such as how Miss Taylor went from governess to such an important friend, how Mrs. and Miss Bates became destitute, and what sort of car Emma might drive (a Mini Cooper)." —*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

"[A] very pleasant modern update of *Emma*. . . . McCall Smith's contemporary updates of Mr. Woodhouse's hypochondria and neuroses are particularly amusing." —*Flavorwire* (Staff pick)

"The Jane Austen we know is delicious enough on her own, but Austen filtered through the mind of Scottish author Alexander McCall Smith could be the best of both possible worlds. . . . Certainly unmistakable is Emma, Austen's heroine, a born controller who believes (with unshakable certainty in both books) that other people's happiness can be arranged for them and that she is just the one to do it. . . . This rewarding read is a fascinating pastiche of two of the most enjoyable writers in the British tradition." —*BookPage*

"[McCall Smith's] latter-day Emma possesses all the youth and beauty and a good deal of the wit of Jane Austen's heroine. . . . McCall Smith has written a delightfully droll, thoughtful novel that reflects on money's enduring role in relationships as well as on the nature of this meddling heroine's long-lived appeal." —*Kirkus Reviews*

“The keen sense of social realities and moral rightness that imbues McCall Smith’s novels is immediately evident when reading his *Emma*. . . . Surely Austen would be proud.” —*Library Journal*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Janice Oconnell:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or even goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. These are reading whatever they get because their hobby is usually reading a book. How about the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book after they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you should have this Emma: A Modern Retelling.

Brenda Fairfax:

Reading a book being new life style in this yr; every people loves to learn a book. When you learn a book you can get a wide range of benefit. When you read guides, you can improve your knowledge, due to the fact book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your research, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, this sort of us novel, comics, and also soon. The Emma: A Modern Retelling provide you with a new experience in reading through a book.

Carmen Vasquez:

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Patricia Whetsel:

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