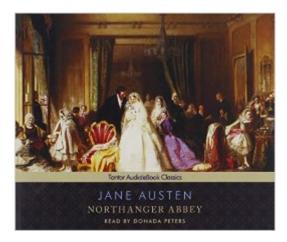
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# Northanger Abbey, With EBook (Tantor Unabridged Classics)





## Synopsis

Jane Austen's Northanger Abbey is both a perfectly aimed literary parody and a withering satire of the commercial aspects of marriage among the English gentry at the turn of the nineteenth century. But most of all, it is the story of the initiation into life of its naive but sweetly appealing heroine, Catherine Morland, a willing victim of the contemporary craze for Gothic literature who is determined to see herself as the heroine of a dark and thrilling romance. When Catherine is invited to Northanger Abbey, the grand though forbidding ancestral seat of her suitor, Henry Tilney, she finds herself embroiled in a real drama of misapprehension, mistreatment, and mortification, until common sense and humor-and a crucial clarification of Catherine's financial status-puts all to right. Written in 1798 but not published until after Austen's death in 1817, Northanger Abbey is characteristically clearheaded and strong, and infinitely subtle in its comedy.

### **Book Information**

Series: Tantor Unabridged Classics Audio CD Publisher: Tantor Audio; Unabridged CD edition (February 23, 2009) Language: English ISBN-10: 1400110785 ISBN-13: 978-1400110780 Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 5.3 inches Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (757 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #8,295,226 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( A ) > Austen, Jane #2724 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Classics #7859 in Books > Books on CD > Romance

### **Customer Reviews**

I approached this book somewhat warily, knowing that Northanger Abbey was to some degree a satirical take on the immense popularity of Gothic romances such as Ann Radcliffe's The Mysteries of Udolpho, a book I dearly love. Happily, Austen's means of poking fun at Gothic horror literature are far from mean-spirited and, as a matter of fact, can be delightfully humorous indeed. Her heroine, Catherine Morland, is by no means the type of heroine to be found in the giant tomes of Radcliffe and her indulgent imitators, as Austen tells her reading audience directly from the very start. "Almost attractive" on a good day, this unintellectual tomboy has reached her fifteenth year

without inspiring a young man's fancy, nor would she be able to delight him with musical skill or even draw his profile in her secret notebooks if she had. Having encountered no strangers who would prove to be a lord or prince in disguise, her heroic ambitions seem stymied at best until fate steps in and grants her a stay of several weeks in the delightful town of Bath. Making her transition from  $na\tilde{A}f\hat{A}$  ve girl to equally  $na\tilde{A}f\hat{A}$  ve young lady, Catherine almost immediately falls quite in love with young Henry Tilney, while at the same time she becomes intimate friends with an older young lady named Isabella, whose inconstancy as both friend and intended beloved of Catherine's own brother eventually brings her much pain. To her intense delight, however, Catherine is invited by General Tilney, Henry's father, to spend some few weeks in his home, Northanger Abbey. Her joy at spending such private time in the company of her beloved and new best friend Eleanor Tilney is immense, but equally exciting to her is the chance to spend time in a mysterious former abbey of the sort she has read so much about.

" "I see what you think of me," said he gravely--"I shall make but a poor figure in your journal tomorrow.""My journal!""Yes, I know exactly what you will say: Friday, went to the Lower Rooms; wore my sprigged muslin robe with blue trimmings--plain black shoes--appeared to much advantage; but was strangely harassed by a queer, half-witted man, who would make me dance with him, and distressed me by his nonsense.""Indeed I shall say no such thing.""Shall I tell you what you ought to say?""If you please.""I danced with a very agreeable young man, introduced by Mr. King; had a great deal of conversation with him--seems a most extraordinary genius--hope I may know more of him. That, madam, is what I wish you to say."

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