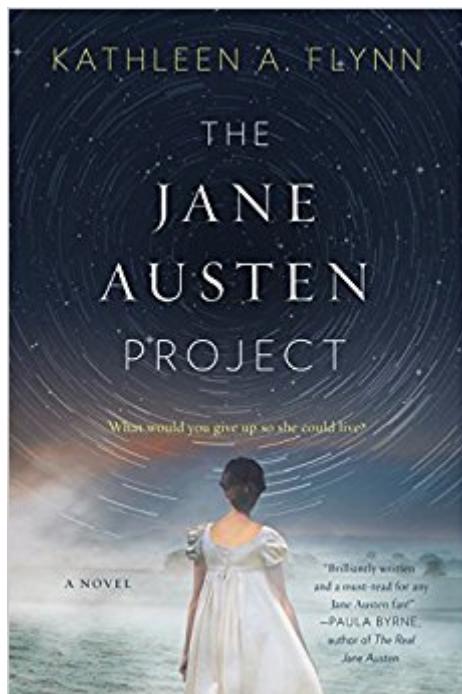


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The Jane Austen Project: A Novel



Synopsis

Perfect for fans of Jane Austen, this engrossing debut novel offers an unusual twist on the legacy of one of the world's most celebrated and beloved authors: two researchers from the future are sent back in time to meet Jane and recover a suspected unpublished novel. London, 1815: Two travelers—Rachel Katzman and Liam Finucane—arrive in a field in rural England, disheveled and weighed down with hidden money. Turned away at a nearby inn, they are forced to travel by coach all night to London. They are not what they seem, but rather colleagues who have come back in time from a technologically advanced future, posing as wealthy West Indies planters—a doctor and his spinster sister. While Rachel and Liam aren't the first team from the future to "go back," their mission is by far the most audacious: meet, befriend, and steal from Jane Austen herself. Carefully selected and rigorously trained by The Royal Institute for Special Topics in Physics, disaster-relief doctor Rachel and actor-turned-scholar Liam have little in common besides the extraordinary circumstances they find themselves in. Circumstances that call for Rachel to stifle her independent nature and let Liam take the lead as they infiltrate Austen's circle via her favorite brother, Henry. But diagnosing Jane's fatal illness and obtaining an unpublished novel hinted at in her letters pose enough of a challenge without the continuous convolutions of living a lie. While her friendship with Jane deepens and her relationship with Liam grows complicated, Rachel fights to reconcile the woman she is with the proper lady nineteenth-century society expects her to be. As their portal to the future prepares to close, Rachel and Liam struggle with their directive to leave history intact and exactly as they found it—however heartbreakingly that may prove.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Flynn skillfully delves into the later years of Austen's life in a way that is sure to please admirers of the 19th-century novelist, as well as providing a fascinating dollop of plot invention and a heartbreakingly romantic romance between the two protagonists." *Library Journal*, Starred Review "A creative and entertaining novel that addresses some interesting ideas while at the same time telling a cracking good story. " *All About Romance* "This story had me spellbound from the first page." *Austenesque Reviews* "It's a truth universally acknowledged that one novel couldn't possibly succeed as Austen pastiche, science fiction, romance, and satire all at once, but Flynn has achieved this feat, and has written an excessively diverting tale." *Historical Novel Society* "Rachel's wry, observant narrative voice teaches readers the delights and hardships of life in 1815 with rich historical detail." *Shelf Awareness* "Kathleen Flynn spins an entertaining story of time travel, complicated romantic connections and Austenalia in her debut novel, *The Jane Austen Project*...Witty, well-researched and thought-provoking, Flynn's debut is a fun and unusual addition to the canon of Austen tributes and pastiche." *Shelf Awareness* "Written in an engaging Austen style, full of witty dialogue, a secret engagement, and a delightful clan of loving siblings." *(Booklist)* "What lover of literature hasn't dreamed of going back in time to meet Jane Austen? In her debut novel, Kathleen A. Flynn brings this dream to life, creating a vivid portrait of Regency England in all its glory and squalor. Flynn illuminates the stark contrasts between that era and our own, and movingly depicts the heartbreak of those who might try to travel between the two." *(Lauren Belfer, author of *AFTER THE FIRE* and *A FIERCE RADIANCE*)* "THE JANE AUSTEN PROJECT is clever, captivating, and original. I loved it and couldn't put it down! It's been a long time since I've been so engrossed in a novel, or lost so much sleep reading it. Who wouldn't want to travel back in time and meet Jane Austen? Flynn's depiction of Jane Austen is wonderful, exactly as I imagine she must have been. The ending is a shocker and one of the strengths of the novel. It presents a view of time travel—and history—you won't soon forget. A keeper on my Austen shelf." *(Syrie James, author of *JANE AUSTEN'S FIRST LOVE*)* "I loved THE JANE AUSTEN PROJECT. Brilliantly written and a must-read for any Jane Austen fan!" *(Paula Byrne, author of *THE REAL JANE AUSTEN*)*

Two researchers from the future are sent back in time to meet Jane Austen and recover a suspected unpublished novel. ENGLAND, 1815: Two travelers—Rachel Katzman and Liam Finucane—arrive in a field, disheveled and weighed down with hidden money. They are not what they seem, but colleagues from a technologically advanced future, posing as wealthy West Indies planters—a doctor and his spinster sister. While Rachel and Liam aren't the first team from the future to "go back," their mission is by far the most audacious: meet, befriend, and steal from Jane Austen herself. Carefully selected and rigorously trained by the Royal Institute for Special Topics in Physics, disaster-relief doctor Rachel and actor-turned-scholar Liam have little in common besides the extraordinary circumstances they find themselves in—circumstances that call for Rachel to stifle her independent nature and let Liam take the lead as they infiltrate Austen's circle via her favorite brother, Henry. But diagnosing Jane's fatal illness and obtaining an unpublished novel hinted at in her letters pose enough of a challenge without the continuous convolutions of living a lie. While her friendship with Jane deepens and her relationship with Liam grows complicated, Rachel fights to reconcile her true self with the constrictions of nineteenth-century society. As their portal to the future prepares to close, Rachel and Liam struggle with their directive to leave history intact and exactly as they found it . . . however heartbreakingly that may prove. A

This stunning debut novel from author Kathleen Flynn delivers a deliciously entertaining respite from whatever is stressing you out. It has everything you want in a sanity break: delightfully clever dialogue, a page-turning plot, and likeable characters you will actually enjoy spending your precious reading time getting to know. The excellent cast of characters we meet are not just the heroine, Rachel, and her time-traveling companion, Liam, but also a charmingly imagined Austen family, including Jane, herself. I often feel forced to choose between novels that are well-written, but filled with depressing themes and brutal realities, or trashy "beach" books that are insufferably bad. Remarkably, Flynn manages to avoid both these traps. The Jane Austen project combines all the literary rigor you'd expect from an author whose day job is editor at the New York Times, with all the fun of a novel that draws on the witty sensibility that has made Austen one of the most beloved novelists of all time. It's actually hard to believe this is Flynn's first novel. I cannot wait to read her next.

Utterly captivating! It's rare for me to find a book that sweeps me into its spell as completely and joyously as *The Jane Austen Project* did. Reading it gave me the same deep,

addictive pleasure as Jasper Fforde’s The Eyre Affair, another all-time favorite of mine. Not only for Austen fans, this is a novel for anyone who enjoys a good old-fashioned yarn with a dash of magic and mystery, threaded through with wit and sophistication. Thank you, Kathleen Flynn, for these lovely hours of enchantment and pure escapism.

I loved this book! I confess I adore most stories involving Jane Austen, but this story was unique. Kathleen Flynn is a skilled writer and her prose flowed beautifully. The time travel elements were fascinating and the obvious attention to detail and historical accuracy was excellent. I love to escape into a book and The Jane Austen Project did just that. I highly recommend it!

Oh how I would love to be Rachel and get to meet Jane Austen. I wish the novel had concentrated a bit more on Jane and her family instead of Rachel and Liam’s love affair. Also, I wish Rachel’s return had included some info on what if any historically was known about Jane and her family’s interactions with Rachel and Liam. Still, very worth the price. Terrifically creative.

Fans of Jane Austen will enjoy an easy historical portrait of life in Chawton, but readers have to suspend reality to get there --- and accept time travel. It’s a fun trip. Flynn’s dialogue between the Austens and her time travelers is natural and informative, and the quest for a new manuscript takes a few unexpected turns.

A very fun book for Jane Austen & history lovers. It’s a cross between historical fiction and a romance novel. Very witty writing and a lot of suspense and humor. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and was sad when it ended.

I really enjoyed this time-travel book and the look it gave at life in regency England. It was suspenseful and well written. The most successful of this genre since Jack Finley’s Time and Again.

What a novel idea, to use time travel to 1815 to meet Jane Austen. I couldn’t put this book down, especially since this period is so interesting, and I am such a fan of Jane Austen.

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