

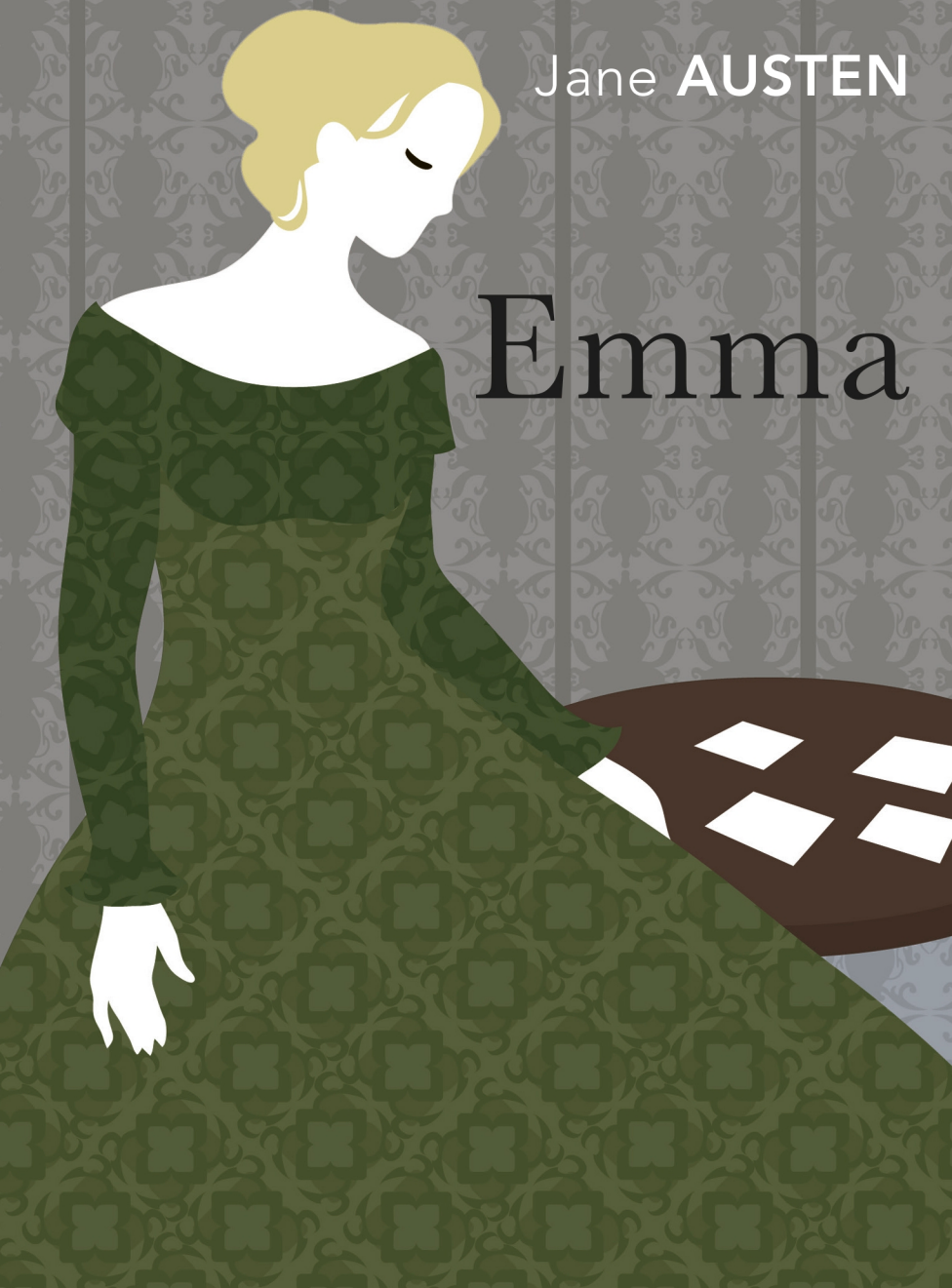
Penguin



Readers

Jane AUSTEN

Emma



Contents

People in the story	4
New words	5
Note about the story	6
Before-reading questions	6
Chapter One – A wedding and a sad change	7
Chapter Two – A new friend	12
Chapter Three – Two men in love	17
Chapter Four – A Christmas party	23
Chapter Five – A visitor to Highbury	29
Chapter Six – Another new visitor	35
Chapter Seven – A new neighbour arrives	43
Chapter Eight – Harriet is saved	48
Chapter Nine – Two summer parties	53
Chapter Ten – Two surprises	59
Chapter Eleven – Three more weddings	64
During-reading questions	69
After-reading questions	71
Exercises	72
Project work	77
Glossary	78

CHAPTER ONE

A wedding and a sad change

Emma Woodhouse was beautiful, clever and rich. She had a comfortable home and a happy **nature**, and for nearly twenty-one years had very little to **trouble** her.

She lived at Hartfield House with her loving father and her dear governess, Miss Taylor. Emma's older sister, Isabella, was married and lived in London, sixteen miles away. Their mother died when they were very young and Emma could not remember her. Miss Taylor was like a mother to the girls and later, as the years passed, was not just Emma's governess, but her dear friend. By the age of twenty, Emma always listened to Miss Taylor's **opinion**, and then did just what she wanted.

Then Emma felt her first **sadness**. Miss Taylor got married. Now she was Mrs Weston and Hartfield was no longer her home.

On the day of her dear friend's **wedding**, while her father slept after a quiet dinner, Emma sat thinking. Her friend was going only half a mile from them, to a house called Randalls, but having Mrs Weston half a mile away was very different from having Miss Taylor in the house.

"I know that I brought Miss Taylor and Mr Weston together myself, but now I'm going to lose my only friend," Emma thought. "Isabella won't visit until Christmas and now it's only October." Emma knew many people in the

small town of Highbury, but she could not call one of them a friend. The Woodhouses were the most important family there and Emma had no **equal**.

Mr Woodhouse woke up from his sleep. He was an **anxious** man, who was easily worried and hated change.

“Poor Miss Taylor!” he cried. “It’s very sad that she has gone.”

“Papa, Mr Weston is an excellent man and we must be happy that he has found a good wife. His first wife died so long ago, and he has been alone since his son was **adopted**,” Emma said. She wanted to help her father, so she was as **cheerful** as possible.

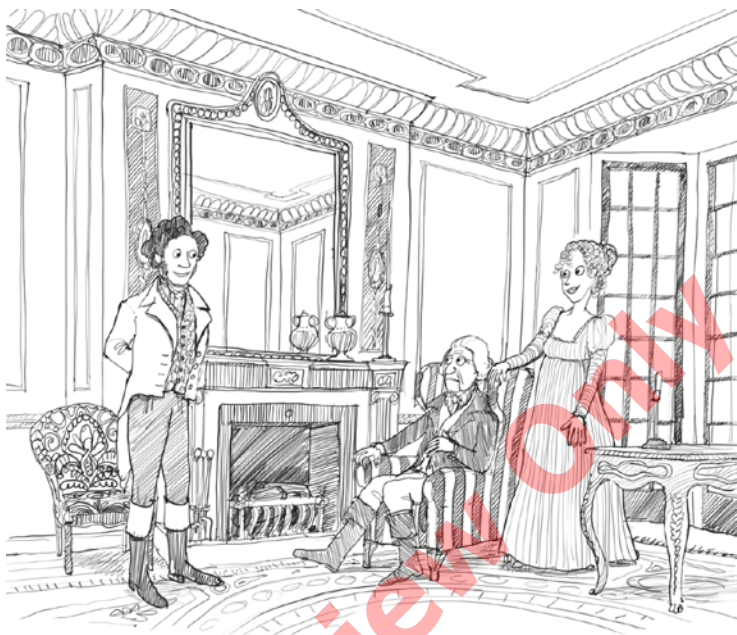
After the wedding, they were both very **pleased** to have a visit from a neighbour who was a close friend. Mr Knightley, an intelligent man of thirty-seven, was the older brother of Isabella’s husband, Mr John Knightley.

“It’s very kind of you to visit, Mr Knightley. It’s so cold and wet – I hope you won’t get ill,” said Mr Woodhouse, anxiously.

“I’m happy to come, sir. It’s a short walk from Donwell and it’s a beautiful night,” replied Mr Knightley. “I want to hear about the wedding. Did it go well? Who cried the most?”

“The wedding was **perfect** and no one cried,” said Emma cheerfully. “Randalls is so close and we will meet the Westons every day.”

“Dear Emma is very brave, but it is a great sadness for her to lose poor Miss Taylor,” said Mr Woodhouse.



“Of course, but Emma knows that her friend now has a home of her own and a good husband to take care of her,” said Mr Knightley.

“And I’m happy, too, because I made the **match** myself,” said Emma, smiling.

“You just made a lucky guess,” he said, shaking his head at her.

“It was more than luck,” replied Emma. “I **encouraged** Mr Weston’s visits here.”

“Two intelligent people like Mr Weston and Miss Taylor can safely **manage** their own lives. **Match-making** is dangerous, Emma – I think you will hurt yourself more than help other people,” said Mr Knightley.

“Dear Emma never thinks of herself if she can help others,” said Mr Woodhouse, not really understanding. “But Emma, please don’t make any more matches. They bring too much sad change to our family **circle**.”

“Not for myself, Papa, but I must make matches for other people. I must look for a wife for Mr Elton, our poor **vicar**. He has been here for a year and should not be single any longer.”

“Mr Elton is a handsome young man and I like him very much,” replied Mr Woodhouse. “But if you want to be kind to him, my dear, ask him to dinner.”

“I agree with you, sir,” said Mr Knightley, laughing. “Invite Mr Elton to dinner, Emma, but allow him to choose his own wife.”

During the quiet autumn days without Miss Taylor, Emma did her best to keep her father cheerful. Mr Woodhouse enjoyed **company**, but his circle of friends was very small. He did not often leave home, and hated both large parties and late nights.

Mr and Mrs Weston and Mr Knightley often came to Hartfield, and Mr Elton was now invited, too. A group of three ladies also visited often: Mrs Goddard, Mrs Bates and her single daughter, Miss Bates. They were brought in Mr Woodhouse’s **carriage** to drink tea and play cards. Emma was happy for her father, but her evenings with these old ladies were long and **dull**.

One morning soon after, a letter came for Emma from

Mrs Goddard, who had a school for girls in Highbury. She wanted to bring one of her pupils to Hartfield, a pretty girl of seventeen called Harriet Smith. Emma was very happy to agree.

No one knew anything about Harriet's family. She was the '**natural**' daughter of a man rich enough to pay for her school, but no one knew who he was. She was very friendly with two young ladies from school, the Martin sisters, and stayed with them in the holidays. The Martin family rented one of Mr Knightley's farms, and Emma knew that he had a high opinion of them.

Harriet was small and very pretty. She was blonde, with blue eyes, and had a very sweet nature. "Her **manners** are as lovely as her face," Emma thought, when Harriet visited Hartfield. Harriet was happy that someone as important as Miss Woodhouse took an interest in her.

During Harriet's first visit, Emma decided that she could help her. "I can teach her," she thought, "and introduce her to **superior** people. Harriet isn't clever, but I need a new friend, now that Mrs Weston is married. There's nothing I can do for Mrs Weston now, but I can do everything for Harriet."

CHAPTER TWO

A new friend

Emma and Harriet quickly became friends, and Harriet was often at Hartfield with Emma's other visitors, Mr and Mrs Weston, Mr Knightley and Mr Elton. Harriet loved to tell Emma about her summer visit to the Martins, and often spoke of her friends' brother, Mr Robert Martin.

"He's very clever and everyone has a high opinion of him," Harriet told Emma. "His mother is sure that he'll be a very good husband for someone."

Emma was surprised and worried when she heard that Robert Martin was a single man. "What does he look like?" she asked Harriet.

"He's not very handsome. Well, I thought so at first, but now I'm not so sure," Harriet answered.

"Harriet, I'm sure he's a nice young man," replied Emma. "But if he marries, you should not be friends with his wife. I don't think she will be **educated** or your equal."

"I don't think Mr Martin will marry an **uneducated** girl," said Harriet. "But, if he does, I won't visit her."

After this conversation, Emma watched her new friend carefully. "She does speak about Mr Martin very often, but I'm sure she doesn't love him," Emma said to herself.

The next day, when Emma and Harriet were walking together on Donwell Road, they met Mr Martin. Emma waited while Harriet spoke to him.