

Discussion Questions
A Jane Austen Encounter
By Donna Fletcher Crow

1. How much experience do you have with reading Jane Austen's novels or seeing movies of her books? Which is your favorite Jane Austen novel? Why?
2. If you don't have much familiarity with Jane Austen were you still able to enjoy this "encounter"? Did it make you want to read more of Jane Austen?
3. There are a great many Jane Austen spin-off novels, both historical and contemporary. How did you feel about this contemporary exploration of "Jane Austen Country"?
4. Elizabeth and Richard follow the Jane Austen Trail to Bath, Chawton, Winchester and Godmersham. Which of these places would you most like to visit? If you have visited some— or all— of them, share your experience.
5. The novel opens with Elizabeth looking back over their 20 years of marriage. She says, "Even the bad times were good because they made us who we are." Do you agree with that about your own past experiences?
6. Whose view of Bath do you prefer reading— Catherine Morland's enthusiastic youthful embrace, or Anne Wentworth's mature, somber approach?
7. Several theories are given as to why Jane abandoned the manuscript of *The Watsons*. Which do you think most likely?
8. The novel contains lots of quotations, especially from *Northanger Abbey*, *Persuasion* and *Emma*. Did reading the lines out of context help you see them in any new way?
9. One of my goals as a writer is to give my readers a "you are there" experience. Were there any descriptive passages you particularly noticed? Or any places you would have liked more description?
10. Do you have a favorite character in the story? If so, who and why?
11. What did you learn about Jane Austen or her books from reading this book?
12. With so many movies and television adaptations of Jane Austen novels available do you still enjoy going back to read the originals? Do you feel that the screen adaptations increase your appreciation of the originals or do they get in the way of your reading experience?
13. Do you have questions you would like to ask the author? If so, please write to:
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