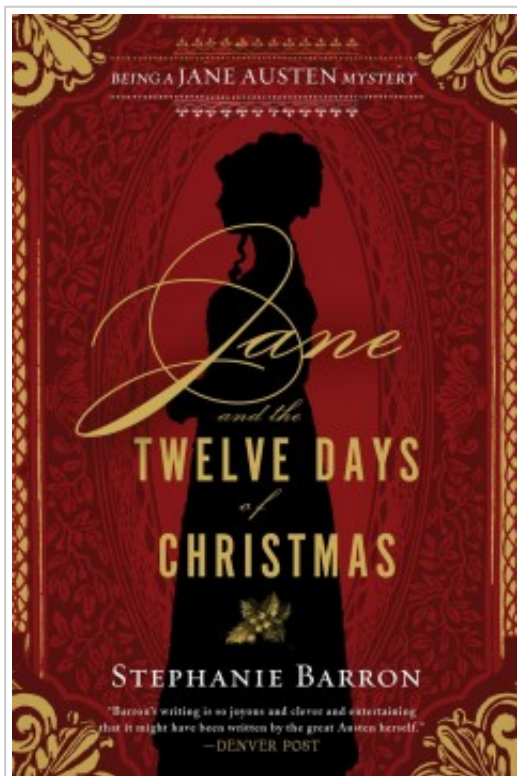


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Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas: Being a Jane Austen Mystery

by Stephanie Barron

Price: \$25.00(Hardcover)

Published: October 28, 2014

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: Jane Austen turns sleuth in this delightful murder mystery set over the twelve days of a Regency-Era Christmas party.

Christmas Eve, 1814: Jane Austen has been invited to spend the holiday with family and friends at The Vyne, the gorgeous ancestral home of the wealthy and politically prominent Chute family. As the year fades and friends begin to gather beneath the mistletoe for the twelve days of Christmas festivities, Jane and her circle are in a celebratory mood: Mansfield Park is selling nicely; Napoleon has been banished to Elba; British forces have seized Washington, DC; and on Christmas Eve, John Quincy Adams signs the Treaty of Ghent, which will end a war nobody in England really wanted.

Jane, however, discovers holiday cheer is fleeting. One of the Yuletide revelers dies in a tragic accident, which Jane immediately views...

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What We Say

Ideally, one would begin a crime series at the beginning. But such is not always possible, I fear. So here I am weighing in on "Jane Austen and the Twelve Days Of Christmas" which is the twelfth mystery (neatly enough) about the brilliant novelist's hitherto unknown second career as a puzzler of mysteries whose insight into human nature makes her an ideal detective. Author Stephanie Barron aka Francine Mathews does a credible job of capturing Austen's voice and the period, though Austen scholars and historians surely will be better judges than me. As a fan of her books -- some of the greatest novels of all time -- I was amused and intrigued at the idea of spending time with her. Toss in a murder and a stately manor and I'm sold. This time, Austen is visiting with friends when a courier bearing important documents is murdered on his way to London. Is it a French spy? Thwarted romance? Or some combination of the two? The mystery itself isn't wildly compelling -- I was more focused on Jane's intellectual flirtation with a dashing house guest who might just be a spy himself. And the finale with its reveal was not top-notch, though serviceable. Others will have to say if the series is progressing nicely or repeating itself. As a newcomer, I was diverted and enjoyed myself enough to consider heading back to 1996's "Jane and the Unpleasantness At Scargrave Manor" and start from the beginning. But since the Austen in this mystery is working on "Emma" when not examining clues, I might have to reread that first. Surely Barron would approve. -- Michael Giltz

[Less](#)

What Others Say

Praise for Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas

LibraryReads November 2014 Top Ten List

"Sings with not just a good plot but courtly language and an engaging group of characters worthy of the famed novelist herself . . . a first-rate mystery with so many twists and turns that you can hardly blame a reader who doesn't figure it out until the end."

—The Denver Post

"[A]n excellent period mystery for all historical fiction fans . . . Jane Austen devotees will especially appreciate immersing themselves in the many biographical details about Austen that accompany the fictional murder mystery."

—Library Journal, STARRED Review

"Vivid characters propel the subtle plot to its surprising conclusion. The first-person narration captures Austen's tone as revealed in her letters: candid, loving, and occasionally acerbic."

—Publishers Weekly, STARRED Review

"Barron has clearly done her homework in the language and manners of Austen's time . . . [H]er latest venture edges