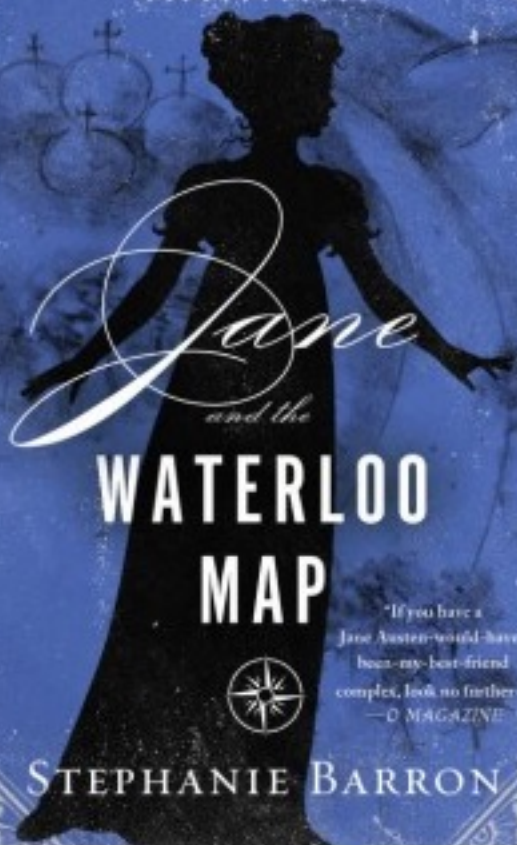


BEING A JANE AUSTEN MYSTERY



Jane
and the
**WATERLOO
MAP**

"If you have a Jane Austen-would-have-been-my-best-friend complex, look no further."

—O MAGAZINE

STEPHANIE BARRON

Jane Austen has such a small -- if impeccable -- body of work, it's only natural we'd want to spend more time with her. In the latest Jane Austen mystery by Stephanie Barron (lucky 13, to be exact) that's exactly the main pleasure. *Waterloo Map* is stronger on character and setting than an actual mystery, though there's plenty of intrigue when Austen finds herself stumbling over a dying man in the library of the Prince Regent's Carlton House. What most will savor is her budding romance (presumably doomed unless propriety goes out the window) between Austen and a man who works quietly for the government as a spy. (Read *Jane and the Twelve Days Of Christmas* for his introduction.) Barron also has fun with her siblings, Austen's impatience with society expecting an old maid like her to sit quietly in a corner with some needlework and the self-admiring admission that she has a gift for epigrams. (Indeed.) If the mystery seems almost beside the point and Austen does little to actually solve it, no matter. As one character says, she is always more concerned with "why" a person would kill another than "when, where and how." -- Michael Giltz