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# Jane Austen: A Life

*By Claire Tomalin*



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## Jane Austen: A Life By Claire Tomalin

Jane Austen is the celebrated biography by bestselling author Claire Tomalin 'A perfect biography: detailed, witty, warm. Tomalin involves us so deeply that Austen's final illness and death come almost as a personal tragedy to the reader' Dirk Bogarde, Daily Telegraph, Books of the Year 'Truly marvellous. I cannot think that a better life of Jane Austen than Claire Tomalin's will be written for many years. Her readings of the novels are full of brilliant insights. She often seems to be standing behind Austen's desk, observing her writing' Philip Hensher, Mail on Sunday 'As near perfect a Life of Austen as we are likely to get: intelligent, feeling, suggestive. Tomalin presents Austen as remarkably clever; sensitive, but sentimental; tough, yet observant; guarded; and a woman with the devil of a genius in her' Carmen Callil, Daily Telegraph 'Tomalin has written a biography that reflects Austen's own exacting standards, a book that radiates intelligence, wit and insight' Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times 'Of all the Austen biographies, this is the best ... leaves the reader with a much deeper appreciation of the circumstances and motivation behind the creation of those six perfect novels' Harpers & Queen From the acclaimed author of Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self, Charles Dickens: A Life and The Invisible Woman, this virtuoso biography is invaluable reading for lovers of Jane Austen everywhere. Claire Tomalin is the award-winning author of eight highly acclaimed biographies, including: The Life and Death of Mary Wollstonecraft; Shelley and His World; Katherine Mansfield: A Secret Life; The Invisible Woman: The Story of Nelly Ternan and Charles Dickens; Mrs Jordan's Profession; Jane Austen: A Life; Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self; Thomas Hardy: The Time-Torn Man and, most recently, Charles Dickens: A Life. A former literary editor of the New Statesman and the Sunday Times, she is married to the playwright and novelist Michael Frayn.



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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

"Brisk and sparkling—a page turner, in fact." - *The New Yorker*

"A biography that reflects Austen's own exacting standards, a book that radiates intelligence, wit, and insight." - *The New York Times*

"Unusually absorbing and acute... Tomalin has a novelist's imagination and playful insight." - *The Atlantic Monthly*

### **About the Author**

Claire Tomalin was literary editor of the *New Statesman* then the *Sunday Times* before leaving to become a full-time writer. Her first book, *The Life and Death of Mary Wollstonecraft*, won the Whitbread First Book Award, and she has since written a number of highly acclaimed and bestselling biographies. They include *Jane Austen: A Life*, *The Invisible Woman*, a definitive account of Dickens' relationship with the actress Ellen Ternan, which won three major literary awards, and *Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self* was Whitbread Book of the Year in 2002. In the highly acclaimed *Charles Dickens: A Life*, she presents a full-scale biography of our greatest novelist. She is married to the writer Michael Frayn.

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