



Texts from Jane Eyre: And Other Conversations with Your Favorite Literary Characters

Mallory Ortberg , Madeline Gobbo (Illustrations)

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Hilariously imagined text conversations—the passive aggressive, the clever, and the strange—from classic and modern literary figures, from Scarlett O’Hara to Jessica Wakefield.

Mallory Ortberg, the co-creator of the cult-favorite website *The Toast*, presents this whimsical collection of hysterical text conversations from your favorite literary characters. Everyone knows that if Scarlett O’Hara had an unlimited text-and-data plan, she’d constantly try to tempt Ashley away from Melanie with suggestive messages. If Mr. Rochester could text Jane Eyre, his ardent missives would obviously be in all-caps. And Daisy Buchanan would not only text while driving, she’d text you to pick her up after she totaled her car. Based on the popular web-feature, *Texts from Jane Eyre* is a witty, irreverent mashup that brings the characters from your favorite books into the twenty-first century.

Texts from Jane Eyre: And Other Conversations with Your Favorite Literary Characters Details

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From Reader Review Texts from Jane Eyre: And Other Conversations with Your Favorite Literary Characters for online ebook

Kalena says

Thought this was an interesting idea and there were a couple I thought were quite humorous. However, the language and some of the interpretations were more crude than witty. And as Maggie Smith says, "Vulgarity is no substitute for wit."

Roxane says

Fuck you this is hilarious.

Jessica says

I'm laughing so hard right now. Ortberg has managed to capture the essence of dozens, DOZENS of works of literature and authors in a few choice texts. Everything from Jane Eyre to Fight Club can be found here. The Babysitters' Club. Medea. William Blake texting his wife is freaking hysterical. "I already have so many watercolors of flayings." Absolutely hilarious, and a must-read for anyone who considers themselves well-read!

K. says

4.5 stars.

HILARIOUS.

It's exactly what it sounds like - various classic stories (ranging from Medea to Harry Potter and everything in between) retold in text messages. I laughed out loud numerous times. I think the Medea and the Jane Eyre ones were my favourites, but they were all pretty wonderful. (Although I will admit that I skim read the handful that I didn't know of)

A really quick and easy read, and a fabulous way to start my reading for 2017!

Bonnie says

Texts From Jane Eyre: the re-imagined conversations between literary characters if they all carried a smartphone. Sounds hilarious, but I admittedly didn't have much interest in this initially because I feared far

too much of this would go right over my head considering I'm quite ignorant of the vast majority of "classics". I listened to a 60 second clip of this audiobook though and I was already cracking up so I decided to give this one a shot regardless. Texts From Jane Eyre goes beyond just Jane Eyre, portraying the likes of Odysseys and Circe, Edgar Allan Poe, Peter Pan, Harry Potter, and even the broody Achilles who contemplates the possibility of going home and being a farmer.

As I mentioned, the majority of these stories did in fact go right over my head because like hell I'm attempting to read Atlas Shrugged. Or Moby Dick for that matter. I haven't given up hope that I may actually conquer Gone with the Wind though. Despite my occasional confusion, the combined narration of Amy Landon and Zach Villa still managed to make this a vastly entertaining couple of hours (the audiobook is a mere 2h 22m long). The various different accents they implemented made this feel at times like a full cast narration. I downloaded the eBook as well in order to capture screen shots and I must say that while the passages were funny, having this read to you was an altogether different (and better) experience. A brief visit to sparknotes.com to get the gist of the classics did prove to be helpful if you wish to take the time to become quickly acquainted with the lesser known characters. As for the ones I did know that required no introduction, such as Sherlock, they were so hilariously and accurately depicted that I found myself rewinding and re-listening because I was often laughing too hard to hear the whole passage.

Face cocaine. lol Other favorites were Ron telling Hermione about the magic "credit cards" he signed up for (Harry Potter), Peeta's frosting emergency (Hunger Games), and the hilarious harassment via texting from Mrs. Danvers (Rebecca).

Suffice it to say, I thoroughly enjoyed this one and *highly* recommend the audio edition (listen to a clip [here!](#)). Mallory Ortberg successfully added a modern flair and humor to literature's most treasured characters, bringing them to life once again and reminding us what made them memorable in the first place.

Elizabeth says

Am I that easy?
I don't even care.

The Outsiders texts? **i die.**

Meet the American Girls: Meet Samantha/Meet Molly/Meet Addy/Meet Kirsten/Meet Felicity/Boxed Set texts? **i can't even.**

Emily Dickinson texts? **i think i might have giggled and/or tittered.**

And, the Atlas Shrugged texts? **i effin' cackled. then followed that up with a horselaugh.**

So fun.

Thanks for the shits and giggles, Mallory Ortberg.

I love your work on The Toast.

Punk says

Literary Humor. What if Plato had a cell phone? Or: Finally, a use for my English degree.

I love Ortberg's sense of humor. One of the best things I've read this year was a line from his Toast piece *How To Tell If You Are In A Thomas Hardy Novel* : "You saw a tractor once, and hated it."

I've never read even a single Thomas Hardy novel, and that line is still hilarious to me. It's the comma, really. I imagine if I were familiar with Hardy, the joke would be even funnier. And so it is with this book. The things I recognized were hilarious. Poe and his inability to leave the house because a bird is staring at him with its "fired up eyebirds." Emily Dickinson with her m-dashes. Circe saying Odysseus's men were turn-into-pigsable. Rochester with his grandiose ALL CAPS texts to Jane asking DID YOU LEAVE BECAUSE OF MY ATTIC WIFE—no question mark, because internet comedy scientists have determined that questions without question marks are, on average, 300% funnier.

I especially liked Ortberg's interpretation of the Romantic poets as floppy and useless and forever babbling on about clouds. Shut it, Wordsworth. You too, Byron. The Romantics weren't my jam, but in Ortberg's hands they're hilarious. Check out his treatment of Keats:

oh my god
oh my god
do you know what I LOVE
like what I am just crazy about

is it this urn

THIS
URN

Yeah, it's just that good. It pretty much makes up for every time I was forced to consider that goddamned urn. And if you don't know what urn I'm talking about, this book is going to have some dead spots for you. It mystified me in parts. Like, I've never seen or read *Gone With the Wind* and so was only able to enjoy those sections on a superficial level.

The stuff that was less familiar to me was still funny, mostly, but I was often scrambling to figure out who the characters were, who they were talking to, what they were talking about, and...well, Ortberg has great comic timing and I enjoy the way he writes, but at some point, not knowing who these people are is a considerable obstacle, but each section is short, like five pages at the most, so if you don't know what the fuck's going on, it's over quickly.

The book is broken into four parts, with the sources arranged from oldest to newest. I want to say I found the earlier sections to be better executed than the modern ones, but even as I flip back through the last section,

I'm remembering that *Rebecca* and *The Lorax* were great, and William Carlos Williams would have rocked at text messages, and *Fight Club* totally worked for me even though everything I know about *Fight Club* I picked up from cultural osmosis.

In many cases, cultural osmosis is all you need to have a basic understanding of each piece, but a background in literature, poetry, philosophy, and/or The Babysitter's Club will enhance your enjoyment and really give the dick jokes in *The Sun Also Rises* extra depth.

Four stars. Very readable, and re-readable, with some delightful illustrations by Madeline Gobbo.

Ashley says

If you're ever having a bad day, you could do worse than self-medicating with maybe a hot bath or some hot cocoa or ice cream or soft pajamas or episodes of *Gilmore Girls*, but maybe also think about adding *Texts From Jane Eyre* in there as well. There were parts of this book that made me laugh until tears squeezed out of my eyeholes.

There were also other parts, mostly to do with classics and mythology, that made me glad I have my friendly Google machine at my disposal. (I'm still not quite sure I understand the Dido joke.)

For those of you who somehow don't know of her, Mallory Ortberg is the editor of The Toast, and her "Texts From" series is what inspired this book. There are some classic ones from the website in the book, but there is also quite a bit of new material as well, so it's definitely worth checking out. I also think it's worth owning a copy just so you can have all this wonderfulness collected together in one place, which is especially handy for aforementioned self-medicating.

Probably my favorite part about this book, aside from the mangled but affectionate way Ortberg translates these characters into text form, is how delightfully eclectic the assortment of characters and stories she's put together are. We've got texts from Dido and Medea and Hamlet and John Keats and Sherlock Holmes right alongside texts from Ron and Hermione, the Babysitters Club and the Hunger Games. Some of the characters get recurring chapters because they just have so much to say (of course Hamlet is one of these, as is a surprisingly hilarious Daisy Miller, which in hindsight I shouldn't be surprised about because Henry James is THE WORST and of course Ortberg would have a field day with him).

I suppose this book wouldn't play as well for people who aren't at least marginally well-read, especially the more esoteric references (the one about John Keats being obsessed with the urn OH MY GOD). But even the ones I didn't know very well, like Medea for example, were still hilarious because Ortberg makes jokes that are funny even if you don't necessarily get what she's referencing.

And now I will close this review by quoting an obscene amount of chapters. Hopefully this still constitutes Fair Use.

Sherlock Holmes:

there's only one thing we're missing
only one thing we need that will help us solve this case

we need to question Lady Emily again

no, Watson

oh

it's not

...

COCAINE, WATSON

ah

we're going to need loads of cocaine
SCADS of it

—

JOHN

JOHN

DID YOU KNOW

THEY MAKE COCAINE

THAT YOU CAN SMOKE

good god Sherlock where have you been

you can just smoke it
it's incredible

tell me where you are and I'll come get you

they call it crack and it's marvelous

just tell me where you are and I'll come get you

I'M NEVER LEAVING

do you have any idea how much cocaine they have here

I imagine quite a lot

QUITE A LOT

you can bring me my violin if you want
and my hat

do you want anything else?

no

just the violin and my hat and a big old mess of cocaine
that's all I need

what about the mystery

hang all mysteries
the only mystery I want to solve
is how much cocaine I can fit in my face
they mystery of how much face cocaine I can have
that's the mystery for me

Lord Byron:

I wrote a poem today
do you want to hear it

okay

Near this Spot
are deposited the Remains of one
who possessed Beauty without Vanity,
Strength without Insolence,
Courage without Ferocity,
and all the virtues of Man without his Vices.
This praise, which would be unmeaning Flattery
if inscribed over human Ashes,
is but a just tribute to the memory of
BOATSWAIN, a DOG,
who was born in Newfoundland May 1803
and died at Newstead Nov. 18, 1808.
hey totally unrelated
do you remember how many children i have?
i'm trying to do a tax thing right now
and i have nooooo idea haha
like
it's for sure SOME

no sorry

fuck
i gotta write some letters
uuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuughhhh

Jane Eyre:

JANE
MY LITTLE SUNBEAM
WHERE ARE YOU
I NEED YOU BY MY SIDE

I'm taking a walk
be back for dinner

AH YES MY CAGED SPRITE
COMMUNE WITH NATURE AND UPON YOUR RETURN
RELATE TO ME THE VAGRANT GLORIES OF THE RUINED WOODS

do you really want me to describe my walk to you

MORE THAN ANYTHING YOU POCKET WITCH

it is fairly cloudy out
looks like rain soon

AHHH TO THINK THAT MY LITTLE STARLING JANE
SHOULD RETURN
TO PERCH ON MY BROKEN MALFORMED SHOULDER
SINGING A SONG OF THE GREY AND WRACKING SKIES
MAKES MY HEART SWELL TO BURST

all right

—

JANE WHERE HAVE YOU GONE
I AM BEREFT AND WITHOUT MY JANE I SHALL SINK INTO ROGUERY

i am with my cousins

WHICH COUSIN
IS IT THE SEXY ONE

Please don't try to talk to me again

IT IS YOUR SEXY COUSIN
"ST. JOHN"
WHAT KIND OF A NAME IS ST. JOHN

I'm not going to answer that

I KNEW IT
DID YOU LEAVE BECAUSE OF MY ATTIC WIFE
IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT

yes
absolutely

BECAUSE MY HOUSE IN FRANCE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE AN ATTIC
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT
IT HAS A CELLAR THOUGH SO YOU KNOW
DON'T CROSS ME
HAHA I'M ONLY JOKING

Audra (Unabridged Chick) says

Here's my one sentence review: this book is so hilarious, it's coming with me to the delivery room for when I need a laugh. (My midwife says laughing helps relieve pain and anxiety).

This deliciously irreverent volume re-imagines classic and favorite books, poems, and authors from Western literature and recasts them as a series of text messages. Featuring over sixty pieces, each just a few pages long, characters and story arcs are distilled into snarky, silly, and sublime extremes: Rochester is a passionate suitor who texts in all caps; Ned Nickerson keeps harassing Nancy Drew while she works on her investigations; Byron and Hamlet are laughably pathetic while Circe and Scarlett O'Hara are delusional divas.

Although I'm familiar with many (but not all) of the works featured, I found everything laugh-out-loud funny. My wife and I took turns reading this aloud to each other, but had to quit because we literally couldn't breathe at certain points, and I do truly intend to bring this into the delivery room with me because I can't not read Henry David Thoreau without dissolving into hysterics every time.

Ortberg takes what is absurd about our favorite characters and authors and emphasizes it in ways I think many readers already have. The inspiration for this book came from a piece on The Hairpin, when someone commented that her small town life was like *Gone With the Wind* but with cell phones. The format works because we all know people (or have read transcripts) of text messages so self-absorbed and so ludicrous, one can't help but laugh.

Fans of humor sites like Damn You Auto Correct! and The Toast will love this, as well as lit fans who don't mind their beloved classics being played with. This is a fun volume to have on hand for dinner parties or on the nightstand -- it's easy to dip into and is delicious, nerdy fun.

Ashley *Hufflepuff Kitten* says

OH.MY.GAWD.

Poe, Sherlock, Les Miserables, BSC and WCW cracked me UP! I literally couldn't breathe for a minute and was sitting here making wheeze noises. It got weird looks from 1 man + 2 cats. I feel accomplished.

But I need to read more of the classics! I didn't skip any of these but there are so many where I don't know the story that I didn't quite get the jokes all the way, you know? So I shall return to this at a later date, and probably with a full oxygen tank.

Susana says

Now this was a laugh out loud, insane as you can get, _and also educational! _ combination of hilarious

dialogues between characters of some literary famous masterpieces....and other literary oddities! ;)

For instance, we have some dialogues between Medea and Glaucé (Jason's second wife...or better yet, second wife of his harem..since he was still married. The bastard!):

*you probably already have a million plans, it's your wedding
it was just my favorite part of my wedding
(except for the part where I married Jason!!!)
(he is so fun to be married to)
(tell him I say hi!!!)*

*sorry
who is this*

*So I know we got off on the wrong foot
it's Medea!! save my number okay*

Then there's an almost impossible to refuse wedding proposal!
(Gilgamesh is his name, and he has some slight doubts about...Ishtar proposal.)

*how about all your other boyfriends
still horribly dead
or turned into wolves?*

*you know what
never mind*

*i'm just super curious
since you've murdered exactly all of them
if maybe you were planning
on doing that to me too*

i hope you get eaten by dogs

there it is

Then there's Aquilles story...he's a little depressed. Poor guy..also, he could use a dictionary.

Talking to one's family is sometimes hard, and Plato knows all about that.
Turns out his brother isn't the sharpest tool in the shed...

Circe and Odysseus discuss the probability of going out for dinner, but I am afraid things don't look good:

Circe I'm not coming over for dinner

whyyyyy

King Lear and his daughters also make an appearance, as does William Blake.

John Donne continues to use the same old pick up line. You know, the one with the flea?

*don't get mad at me
get mad at the flea for making me have sex with so many people*

Hamlet...OH MY GOD, HAMLET IS THE CUTEST THING EVER!
Except if you're his mother..
Or his uncle!! It sucks to be his uncle...

*let me just come in for five minutes so I can vacuum for you
I promise I won't get in the way of your project*

DON'T COME IN MY ROOM

*okay
okay I won't
I'm sorry honey
Hamlet?
honey?*

Then we find out why is not advisable to leave Don Quixote all alone in a kitchen o_O

I WILL SLAY THEM ALL

please do not stab my tea kettle

Then there's Mr. Rochester and Jane Eyre

*JANE
JANE I BOUGHT YOU A DRESS MADE OF TEN
THOUSAND PEARLS AS A BRIDAL PRESENT*

where on earth would I wear that

YOU COULD WEAR IT ON THE MOON

*that seems impractical
how would i even breathe on the moon?*

*I WOULD BREATHE FOR YOU MY JANE
JANE WHERE HAVE YOU GONE (..)*

There's Sherlock Holmes and Watson dialogues....

Emily Dickinson as well..she really liked her White shawl.

Oliver Twist, and his politeness in face of his hard life.

Lord Byron and his: *Ughhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh, my life!*

John Keats who apparently was crazy about URNS.

I am afraid Jane Fairfax still isn't Emma's favourite person:

*One new voicemail from Jane Fairfax
Press 7 to save your message
Press 8 to delete your message*

888888888888888888

Command not recognized
8

Mrs Bennett discusses her future with her daughters...at least with the ones she remembers having...

Guess who this is!
yes, it is your favourite obsessive southern belle!

*ashley
ashley
ashley r u there
ashleyyyyyyyy
(im DRUNK (from brandy))
remember that time we made out in the barn*

Then there's Nancy Drew and her juggling semantics:

N: do you think you could come get me?

are you tied up again?

N: i'm just over at the cave by the old mill

so you're tied up

N: in a cave

you know

near the burned-down orphanage

please just answer the question

*N: you should probably bring some scissors with you
for the rope?*

N: there appears to be some rope here, yes

We come to realize that the Lorax cares for other things other than trees..like, you know, tampons:

*TAMPONS CAN'T EVER TALK
THEY DON'T HAVE MOUTHS
THAT'S WHY I SPEAK FOR THEM*

okay

Rebecca

oh my God

that is your SALAD fork

this is the fish course

what is wrong with you

The Hunger Games

And Peeta's priority's....

Harry Potter

So...how did Hermione end up with Ron again? o_O

No

No, honey, credit cards aren't magic

And many, many others...the Wuthering Heights dialogues are particularly good! ;)

god i love you cathy

i love you too

i love you so much

god

it hurts how much i love you

i love you so much

let's break each other's hearts

oh my god let's

i love you so much i'm going to marry edgar

And you know what's the wonderful thing about this book?

The fact that even if you are not familiar with some of its characters, or with what is being discussed, there's this wonderful thing called Google that allows you to figure it out!
yay ;)

Ron Charles says

If your kids are ignoring your messages, you can take some comfort in Mallory Ortberg's LOL parody, "Texts from Jane Eyre" (Henry Holt, \$23). In these pages, Ortberg offers us cellphone conversations with Plato, Harry Potter, Emily Dickinson and others. Each dialogue is catnip for English majors, and many of them are FOTFL. Imagine receiving a prank text from Ahab, or trying to get Nancy Drew's attention when she's on a case.

In the spirit of these witty dialogues, I interviewed Ortberg about her new book — by text, of course.

To read our texts "interview," go to *The Washington Post*:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/s...>

Alex says

READ MALLORY ORTBERG'S BOOK
who

MALLORY ORTBERG
yeah who is that
MALLORY ORTBERG PERFECT AMAZON TRAIN GODDESS
that doesnt answer my question
perfect amazon train goddess is not actually a thing
IT IS A THING
no
IT IS A THING BECAUSE I SAY IT IS A THING
IT IS A THING BECAUSE IT IS A THING
your logic is unsound
YOUR FACE IS UNSOUND
...
I'M SORRY I'M JUST EXCITED
YOUR FACE IS SOUND
A VERY SOUND FACE
THE SOUNDEST FACE I KNOW
you still havent told me who she is
SHE IS MALLORY ORTBERG
jesus fuck okay lets try something else
whats the book about
PERFECTION
thats not...
THE MODERN AGE
LOVE
LOSS
THE BREADTH OF HUMAN EXISTENCE
wow mallory ortberg covered a lot
YES SHE DID
whats it actually about
I JUST TOLD YOU
more specifically
LITERARY CHARACTERS TEXTING EACH OTHER
that wasnt so hard was it
STOP TRYING TO PUT LABELS ON EVERYTHING
I DON'T NEED THAT IN MY LIFE
YOU'RE TYING ME DOWN
omg is she a cult leader??????
GOODBYE

Raeleen Lemay says

SOLID. My only problem was that I had only read about 25% of the books mentioned, so a ton of the jokes went right over my head. However, the ones I did understand were hilarious, and some that I didn't get were still funny too. I'll definitely be keeping this on hand so when I do read those books in the future, I can come back to this and have a good laugh.

Sara says

This...wasn't that funny. I admit I giggled a bit when Emily Dickinson madly texts her sister(?) from the yard yelling that everyone is snakes and its kind of stupid funny when Hamlet texts his mother about not putting "crunchy stuff" in his tuna fish sandwich but its also kinda pointless.

I'm just not really sure what the take home is here. While funny for the first ten or so pages eventually all these "characters" sound like the same pretentious hipster you're stuck talking to at a college party who's "so over" all those modern authors and wants to talk about, you know, *real* literature, cause that's like, totally about reality man. Like those guys knew how to write about, like, life. And stuff. Hey you wanna check out my Vegan friendly loafers man?

I can't even tell if Ortberg has read half of what she's making fun of because she certainly doesn't seem to actually understand *Hamlet* or *Medea* or even the frickin' *Babysitters Club* which is in here for some reason. None of its especially funny its just one character snarking at another one for a couple of pages and then its on to the next book or movie or whatever. Absolutely everyone sounds exactly the same there isn't even an attempt to define differences in individual characters and I *get* that that's probably kind of the point because its texting but again not very funny or engaging for 100+ pages.

Yes ha ha ha Hamlet's really whiny and Ron Weasley doesn't know what credit cards are because he's a wizard, hardy har har. The only thing Ortberg really manages here is to make me relieved I don't have to talk about literature with her. This isn't funny or terribly original. Frankly its mean and pretentious as hell.

Mike says

Texts from Jane Eyre takes a nice poke at some of literature's greatest characters and works, re-imagining them in a world with texting. Ortberg does a lovely and loving job magnifying the flaws of great literary characters through this medium. Here are some of my favorites:

Medea:

Medea: anyhow so to SHOW YOU how soft my feelings are

I got you guys a wedding present!!!!...

Glaucé [Jason's new bride]: oh! you must mean the box that came on Thursday

Medea: yessssss I TOTALLY MEAN THAT

Glaucé: it's a dress

Medea: It's a wedding dress

Glaucé: thank you

I mean, I already have a wedding dress picked out
but this is very sweet

Medea: do you know what you should do though

you should put it on

you should put it on your skin and wear it for just a minute

(be sure to put it on your skin)

:~):~):~)

~~

Medea: I sent you guys something

Glauce: I don't think we have anything

Medea: look outside

Glauce: it's another box

Medea: THE BOX IS FROM ME

(are you surprised)

Glauce: a little bit

how did you know where we live

Medea: i mean

how does anyone know anything right

you should open the box right now

Glauce: it's a cake

Medea: for your wedding!

so just

go ahead and eat some right now

to make sure that it's normal and good

for the wedding

and tell me if you like it!!

Glauce: Medea

Medea: are you eating it

how does it taste

Glauce: Medea I'm not eating this cake

Medea: oh sorry can you not eat processed flour

i should have asked

do you have allergies

Glauce: Medea

I'm not going to try on the dress or eat this cake

Medea: why not???

Glauce: you know why

they're both full of poison

Medea: whaaaat

Glauce: the cake is black and the icing ate through the box

Medea: how would poison even get in there

Glauce: the dress caught on fire

that's how much poison was on it

Medea: well i'm going to

i'm going to have a very stern talk with that seamstress

ill get you another present to make up for it

Glauce: please don't

~~~

Rudyard Kipling

**Rudyard Kipling:** I'm bored

Let's shoot something

**Friend:** okay

What

**Rudyard Kipling:** i don't care

a tiger

or a Boer

**Friend:** what was that last one?

**Rudyard Kipling:** I mean a bear

**Friend:** oh

OK

**Rudyard Kipling:** haha must have been a weird typo

it's illegal to hunt men

but exhilarating

**Friend:** what?

**Rudyard Kipling:** I said it was illegal

and also

execrable

execrable was the second word I said

~~~

Les Misérables

Enjolras: where are you?

Marius: I am so there

this barricade is going to be an absolute HAPPENING you guys

don't start without me

I am on my way in like five minutes

Enjolras: Marius

I'm concerned that you don't really understand

the reason for our movement

Marius: oh my god

what do you mean

Enjolras: I sometimes question your commitment to the cause

Marius: how could you possibly even question that

Enjolras: I don't know Marius

maybe it's because you have missed every one of

our clashes with the police

because you were still studying for the bar

Marius: to bring down the system from within!

Enjolras: Marius

your father is a baron

He's an actual baron

Marius: well

only a Napoleonic baron

Enjolras: That's still a baron

Marius: well when you say it like that

~~~

The Sun Also Rises

**Jake:** Brett

Brett did you get that picture I sent you

**Brett:** I did, yeah

**Jake:** the picture of my penis I mean

**Brett:** yes

**Jake:** Brett

guess how much of my penis I still have left

you know

after my accident

after my penis accident

**Brett:** I don't really want to play this game, Jake

**Jake:** come on, guess

**Brett:** I don't have unlimited texting

these messages are kind of expensive for me

**Jake:** I'll give you a hint

it's definitely SOME

~~~

Sherlock Holmes

Holmes: this is quite a puzzle, Watson

Watson: damned right, Holmes

hell of a puzzle

what I want to know is how did the vicar know the archbishop's

Pekingese had developed an immunity to snake bites?

Holmes: there's only one thing we're missing

only one thing we need that will help us solve this case

Watson: we need to question Lady Emily again

Holmes: no, Watson

Watson: oh

it's not

...

Holmes: COCAINE, WATSON

Watson: ah

Holmes: we're going to need loads of cocaine

SCADS of it

~~~

As you can see no cow is sacred and there is more than a little truth in these portrayals (especially Marius, man do I loathe that guy).

I will say that, even though I am somewhat well read, there were many references that went right over my head. Overall though, this was a brisk and entertaining read. I would certainly checkout a sequel if one was written and if you are familiar with the classics you will also enjoy the heck out of this book.

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## Allie says

**Highly recommended!** I was cackling like a maniac when I read this on the bus. I think it should be mandatory reading for all librarians and bookish types!

All of these texts are so on point! Most of these are books I haven't even read, but have merely a passing familiarity. Mallory Ortberg's work (read the Toast!) is so bitingly funny, she perfectly distills these characters, authors, and conflicts to their petulant teen essentials. I died (DIED!) when I read the section on the American Girl books, especially Addy's conversation with Harriet. I also just about died any time "new phone who dis" was used.

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## Tiff at Mostly YA Lit says

I'm calling it now: **This book is your go-to Christmas or birthday present for anyone bookish.** It's the kind of book that I would probably never buy for myself - but I would definitely grab it for a literature-obsessed friend....and I would be delighted if someone got it for me.

The concept is simple - what if your favourite literary characters had cell phones and were able to text each other? What would they say? Would they use emoji? (Answer: YES).

As you can probably tell, this book is **chock full of inside jokes**. Most of the books that Ortberg turns into text form are classics - you'll see everything from Odysseus to Pride & Prejudice to The Great Gatsby here. But there are also a few newer adult and YA books, like The Hunger Games, where Ortberg has spun into a hilarious story of Peeta and his obsession with baking (note: the illustrations in this book are great and I'm pretty sure that the final version will be much prettier than my ARC!)

This is just a small sample of the HG section - it's SO good.

Ortberg has clearly read a lot more classics than I have, so there were definitely some "chapters" that I skimmed through simply because I didn't know the book. But for the books, authors and poets that I have read and loved, she pretty much hits the nail on the head and had me rolling on the floor. **I definitely snorted out loud a few times**, because of COURSE Catherine and Heathcliff would be texting overwhelmingly scary "I love yous" to each other.

Of COURSE John Keats would be obsessing over the prettiness of an urn. =P

And of course, Frank Churchill would be texting Emma about how much he doesn't like reserved people.

There are a ton more books that have been "textified" - some of which are REALLY fun (Babysitters Club, anyone?).

The Final Word:

The best way to experience Texts From Jane Eyre is to read it a text conversation at a time - it's not one where you'll sit on your couch and read straight through (well, you might. I did!) - instead, it's the kind of book you'll leave on your coffee table and leaf through when you need a quick laugh, and pull out for your other literary-minded friends at a party so that you can giggle out loud together.

Review originally posted at Mostly YA Lit

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### **Kaethe says**

Ortberg is genius. Her text conversations as distillations of famous works of literature are brilliant, especially of classics which don't have a clear plot line. Not that The Hunger Games isn't mighty amusing as well. Not recommended for anyone who isn't at least passing familiar with the books being parodied, because they're just not very funny if you don't get it.

Library copy

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### **karen says**

**this is the time of year i float reviews of fun books that would make nice presents. not for me, i already have them. i'm just being a kindly readers' advisory holiday angel.**

so, it's probably more like a 3.5, but i'm in a good mood.

two words of warning - 1) if you have the ARC of this, like i do, know that the formatting is frequently all kinds of jacked up, with missing words, text-bubbles on the wrong side of the conversation, attributed to the wrong character and etc etc. but you're a smart kid, you'll figure it out.

2) some of these are better than others. duh, right? but the byron one? i don't even understand what that one is all about. okay, i *understand* it, but i just think it's a little soft, and that's not just my byromania talking. okay, it kind of is, but it is just a little sad for me to see byron reduced to some emo kid, which is NOT how i see byron in my heart:

*uuuuuuugghhhh my life*

what is it?

what's wrong?

uuuuuuuuugh

is there something specific that's the matter?

or anything I can do to help?

uuuugh

my liiiiife

do you want me to come over?

uuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuughghghghhhh

and yet, despite it basically being the same joke, and despite my love for Hamlet being about as strong as my love for byron, it is WONDERFUL to see the continuing teen-trumps of hamlet running throughout this book.

the good thing about this is that you don't have to have read the source material to get the jokes; i haven't read Atlas Shrugged or any of the *harry potter* books, but again - we're smart kids - we can figure out what is being gently mocked.

for example, i have also never read an *american girl* book in my life, but this made me laugh pretty hard:

Harriet -

*Addy.*

Mother wanted me to ask you

if you'd like to go to the fair tomorrow with us

*Did she now*

since we'll be working at the same booth together

all afternoon

Father's offered to give us a ride in his wagon

*oh, his milk wagon?*

yes

his milk wagon

He only has the one wagon

you know that

*Like father like daughter I suppose*

*he only has one wagon*

*and you only have one dress*

You can just say no, Harriet

if you don't want to come with us

you can just say no

*Addy*

*do you even know how many dresses I have*

I'm sorry if I insulted you

you don't have to come

*Addy*

*I have **seven dresses***

*I have a dress for every day of the week*

*I have a dress for Monday*

look I'll see you tomorrow

*I have a dress for Tuesday*

*on Wednesday I have a different dress*

and on Thursday you have a fourth

I get it

*do you though*

I think I grasp the principle of the thing

*oh my God*

*Addy Walker*

how DO you spell principle, Harriet?

is it with an S?

or a C?

*you are going to be so sorry that you ever -*

Maybe we should ask a spelling expert

Maybe we should ask someone who won

*that you EVER -*

a spelling

medal

for spelling the word principle correctly

I only have the one dress so you can see the medal every day

and yet, sometimes it's the attention to detail in books i am all-too-familiar with that make the joke even funnier. like this *baby-sitter's club* giggler:

Hey Claudia

I know math is really tough for you

but even you should know

that two dollars an hour

for six hours

means we're at least twelve dollars short

of what should be in the treasury



*i know how much twelve is, Kristy  
and i didn't take your stupid money*

look  
all I'm saying  
is that someone that good at hiding candy in her room  
probably has a few great places to hide twelve dollars  
like maybe in an incredibly ugly macrame wallet with velvet appliqués

*yeah well  
at least my dad still lives at home  
unlike some people's dads  
unlike your dad  
Kristy*

however, my favorite FAVORITE section was probably the one for The Outsiders, even though it's basically just repeating the same joke over and over. i don't care, though, because it is spot-fucking-on. warning - may contain spoilers for a 47-year-old children's book.

1

*hey how do you pronounce "Soc"*

What?

*i mean is it like "sock"  
because it looks like that's how you'd say it  
but in my head I think of it as being pronounced "soash"*

huh

*like rhymes with cloche*

I guess that makes sense

*why do I even know what a cloche is  
what kind of a gang is this*

what do you mean

*i mean i feel like we're different from other gangs*

different how

*i don't know i guess*

we're just a bunch of regular beautiful guys who like to read poetry and get in knife fights

*yeah*

yessir  
nothing like putting your hair in place  
stabbing a rich guy  
then talking about Robert Frost in an attic with another guy  
if that's different, then i guess i'm different

*no you're right*

2

*man you know who i hate*

who

*guys with green eyes  
or i guess  
MOST guys with green eyes  
would you say my eyes are greenish-gray, or grayish-green*

i don't know

*your eyes are icy blue, so they're always icy blue  
but sometimes my eyes are more greenish-gray than grayish-green  
which i think is better*

huh

*hey do you want to come over and watch the sunset*

yeah okay  
i guess so

*okay great  
i mean it's the same sunset as the one at your house  
so don't expect anything big*

i won't

*i really think they're more grayish-green right now than anything else*

yeah maybe

*not green like Darry's anyhow  
they're green like ice, but bluer than that  
I really need to update my eye color journal*

your what?

*see you soon for the sunset!!!*

*so what did you think ?*

what did i think of what?

*what did you think of all the drawings of Dally i sent you ?*

oh yeah?

*do you think he'll like them??do you think they're any good*

?there sure are ?a lot of them

*?do you think i made his eyes look enough like blue ice?*

*that was really what i was going for*

*?because his eyes look like blazing blue ice*

?i definitely think you did?

*oh good*

*?i was kind of worried? that they didn't look enough like blue ice that's blazing?*

no, they're--?you did a really good job?

they're really nice?

*well i wanted to do something special for his birthday?*

*and it was either this or a switchblade*

*?and i figured everyone else was already getting him a switchblade*

?right?

*what's a guy gonna do with six switchblades, you know??*

yeah?

*such a thing as too many switchblades*

*?anyhow i'm glad you think they're good*

?yeah?

*you want one?*

?oh ?i think i'm okay?

*i can draw you one real fast*

*?it won't take two minutes*

?no i'm okay?

*i'll draw you one just in case?  
his eyes look like blue ice?  
blue ice!*

4

*you awake? ?*

*yeah?*

*what's wrong??*

*i had that dream again*

*?oh*

*?that dream where i got the haircut?  
that was the worst day of my life, the day Johnny cut my hair?  
remember??*

*yeah i remember?*

*if a guy doesn't have his silky reddish-blond hair that's just a little redder than Soda's and swirls just right?  
well what kind of a guy is he?*

*?i don't know?*

*plus it was real sad when Johnny died, too?*

*yeah*

*?died before his hair could even grow back*

*i remember*

*his hair looked terrible when he died  
i was embarrassed to even go to the funeral*

*yeah me too*

all of the above are available online: <http://the-toast.net/category/textsfrom/>

so i didn't feel bad reproducing them here, because there are still bazillions that are book-only and some that are site-only, so it all works out in the end.

to save review-space, i am going to link to a couple of others i giggled at parts of, but not with as much as force as i did for The Outsiders.

emily dickinson

little women

william blake

and because i am a maniac, and this one isn't available online (that i could find), i am going to wear my typing fingers to the bone just so you can enjoy the Wuthering Heights texts i liked so much, and which reads like the most melodramatic pseudo-sexting ever. super hot.

WARNING - MASSIVE, MASSIVE SPOILERS for a 167-year-old book

god i love you cathy

*i love you too*

*i love you so much*

*god*

*it hurts how much i love you*

i love you so much

let's break each other's hearts

*oh my god let's*

*i love you so much i'm going to marry edgar*

i love you so much i'm going to run away

*i love you so much i'm going to make myself sick*

good

good that's so much love

*i love you so much i'm going to get sick again*

*just out of spite*

*i'll forget how to breathe*

i'll be your slave

*i'll pinch your heart and hand it back to you dead*

i'll lie down with my soul already in its grave

*i'll damn myself with your tears*

i love you so much i'll come back and marry your sister-in-law

*god yes*

and i'll bankroll your brother's alcoholism

*i always hoped you would*

uuuuuuugh

*i love you SO MUCH*

*i'm going to write your name all over my books and then*

*i'm going to have someone else's baby and then DIE*

yes

cathy yes that's perfect

i'm going to kidnap your daughter someday

and i won't let your nephew learn to read

because of how much i love you

and scream at your grave

and i'll rent your room out

to some guy from London

*oh my god thank you*

*thank you so much*

*i'm going to love you so much*

*i become a ghost*

i'm so glad to hear that

i was hoping you'd say that

*but i'm never going to haunt you*

*just that guy who's visiting from london*

that sounds perfect

i'm so excited to hear him tell me about what your ghost looks like

*oh my god*

*what are you going to scream at my grave*

oh man

what aren't i going to scream at your grave

i'll scream everything

i'll scream your soul

*good good*

i'll scream about what a bitch you were

*i am so excited*

*i am going to just*

*ruin heaven with my screaming back at you*

that is so sweet of you to do that

*i'll just murder everyone's heart*

i hope your ghost drives me crazy :)

*i love you like how rocks love forests*

i totally know what you mean

*i love you like i love the inside of my own brain*

oh my god that's so much love

*i knooooow*

*do you want to make out right now*

god no

i want to wait until you're dead

and then rip up the earth over your grave

and crawl inside

:)

so, yeah, at the end of the day it's just a silly little humor book, but for people like us who are booky, it's one of the good ones.

i will leave you with this:

*i have eaten the little red wheelbarrow*

*that was in the icebox*

*and upon which so much depended*

*forgive me*

*i don't even know why i did that*

*i guess i thought it was one of those little ice cream cakes*

*you know the kind that they shape to look like cars or whatever*

*that shit was disgusting*

*hey do we have any ice cream cakes though*

-wcw

come to my blog!

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