



Reason and Romance

Debra White Smith

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First Impressions revealed the soul of Austen's Pride and Prejudice, Now, echoing the themes in Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility, Debra White Smith crafts a delightful, contemporary story about passion and love. When Ted arrives, Elaina assumes he can't be interested in her. But Ted surprises her. Attracted by his charming personality, Elaina dreams about love. But then comes shocking news. Has she made a mistake? The handsome Willis hints at engagement...and Elaina's sister, Anna, is delighted. But when he is called away, he doesn't leave a forwarding address. Brokenhearted, Anna falls into depression. Will she love again? Readers will be enraptured by this story about the joys and follies of infatuation and how faith in God reveals true love.

Reason and Romance Details

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Author : Debra White Smith

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From Reader Review Reason and Romance for online ebook

Elizabeth says

Impressively close to Sense and Sensibility in plot and cleverly updated. This has been the second most enjoyable to read in the series.

Resa says

Our November Jane & Friends bookclub selection, this was a quick, fun read...and, of course, since it was a retelling of S&S, I knew what was going to happen, but it was engaging and unique enough to entertain. I liked how she integrated the characters' faith and presented a Biblical view on purity in modern times.

Julynn says

I enjoyed Ms. Smith's retelling of Sense and Sensibility. She has creativity with her characters of modern day while holding true to the spirit of the original. I enjoy her journeys of faith and overcoming as well as the love stories.

Debbie says

The story itself is very enjoyable. I started this series out with Central Park, which sticks to the heart of the Jane Austen story a bit more closely than Reason and Romance does. However, the only changes that kind of miffed me were that the hero, Ted, was a little less honorable than Austen's Edward and that she switches lines from one character to another in one of the famous scenes. Otherwise, this story stays very close to the heart of the Jane Austen characters and storyline and preserves their interactions closely despite the modern setting. Overall, a very good book and clearly based on Sense and Sensibility.

Michele says

Although I have read some of Jane Austen's books, I have not read Sense & Sensibility. So, I read this book without any preconception of the story line. It revolves around Elaina (a new professor at Southern Christian Univ) and her sister Anna. Elaina wants to succeed in her career and be her own person and love has not played a role in her life thus far. Anna, on the other hand, dreams of finding her Prince Charming and getting married.

Following these two women through the ups and downs of their romantic relationships was a bit unreal. I found it hard to relate because of all the twists & turns. It just never engaged me.

I did like the underlying Christian themes and, because of that, the absence of offensive elements.

Teri says

I am really enjoying this Austen Series. This is the third one I have read. Really, really liked this one! These are Christian romance books inspired by the works of Jane Austen and the time frame is current day. Computers, cell phones, etc. This one takes on Sense and Sensibility and the author did such a good job with it. Loved it!

Monica says

This story is based off of Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility. Even though Sense and Sensibility is not my favorite of Jane Austen's book I still like the dynamics of the characters and how true to life the events in the story can be. Debra Smith does a great job setting up a parallel with Austen's book while still keeping this story her own.

Melanie says

I read this book for the second time over the weekend. It is a light read, a modern day version of Austen's Sense and Sensibility.
Fun read for any girl/woman that enjoys Austen and a good love story.

Meredith (Austenesque Reviews) says

This book is a modern version of Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility with some Christian undertones. The characters have different names, such as Marianne Dashwood is now Anna Woods and Edward Ferrars is Ted Farris. Some characters are completely missing like the Palmers and Margaret Dashwood. But the theme of Sense and Sensibility and a lot of the plot are still there although slightly adapted to fit modern times.

Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility is such a masterpiece and a wonderful story. It is great to see an author like Debra White Smith, who admires Ms. Austen take her masterpiece and try something very original and unique with it. Where some sequel writers are including sex scenes and portraying the characters very differently than Jane Austen intended, it is nice to see an author write a modern adaption of S&S without profanity and wild behavior. Instead, she focused on the very central themes of love that Jane Austen did she just portrayed them in a contemporary style. For example some events in the plot of S&S would not have the same result or affect if they happened today. Like breaking engagements in Jane Austen's time would be a huge social blunder, but in our time period it would not. Furthermore, if you were disinherited in Jane Austen's time there is little you could expect marry someone for their money, in our time period you would have to get a job.

The scenario: Elaina (Elinor) and Anna's (Marianne) father passed away, and their mother needs to move out of their family home because of their prenuptial agreement. Elaina's half brother Jake (John Dashwood) and his wife Faye (Fanny) obtain the estate and the bulk of his father's worth. Elaina is an English professor at a

Christian University where one of her students is her sister-in-laws brother! They flirt with each other and definitely have some chemistry, but then Ted breaks things off with no explanation. Anna on the other hand falls in love hard with a model named Willis Kenney (Willoughby) who is romantic and a dream come true to her. But then he breaks things off with her with no explanation. These poor sister battle their grief over disappointed love, placing others before God, and learn life lessons about trust and integrity.

I enjoyed reading a modern adaption of Sense and Sensibility. I loved the portrayal of the characters in contemporary times (e.g. Elinor as a professor, Colonel Brandon as a doctor, Edward Ferrars as a pianist). In addition, I loved how Debra White Smith tied God into S&S without it becoming to heavy and preachy. Could the story have been stronger? Yes it could have, there are some typos and perhaps a little weakness in the development of events. However, there is no one else attempting to adapt Jane Austen's books in to Modern Christian stories so this to me is worth 5 stars!

The good news is this is a series of books called the Jane Austen Series. Here's all 6:

1. First Impressions (The Austen Series, Book 1)
2. Reason and Romance (The Austen Series, Book 2)
3. Central Park (The Austen Series, Book 3)
4. Northpointe Chalet (The Austen Series, Book 4)
5. Amanda (The Austen Series, Book 5)
6. Possibilities (The Austen Series, Book 6)

If you liked any of Debra White Smith's books and are interested in keeping a good and loving relationship yourself you may like: What Jane Austen Taught Me About Love and Romance

Valerie McCoy says

A book worth a read. . . heck, it's even worth a few re-reads. I enjoyed a new spin on a great author, Jane Austen. Debra White Smith took to this book and the rest in her series with a goal and in my opinion, succeeded. Reason and Romance is based upon Sense and Sensibility, which has never been my favorite Austen novel. But, I read this book and had to re-read Sense and Sensibility. I had a new found appreciation for the characters and the plot line. I would recommend these books to anyone who has a want for a good religious Austen re-take.

Aerykah says

Tried and tried to read this & just never could get into it..... :/

Megan says

Butchered the characters! :/

Diana says

A very accurate and well-done retelling. I'll definitely try and get my hands on the rest of the series.

Melanie says

Meh. Kinda cute. Kinda corny.

I actually wondered how she would handle Edward & Lucy's secret engagement, in spite of his being in love with Elinor, in a (modern) time when people break engagements and marriages with hardly a second thought. I guess it worked.

At the beginning of the book, where she provides the character list and the Jane Austen characters they are based on, she's got "Robert Farris: based on Charles Ferrars," Edward's brother. Um, in Sense & Sensibility, Edward's brother *was* Robert. Who in the world is Charles Ferrars?

Strange.

Liz Fox says

More enjoyable than expected. There was never any doubt that this was more fun than insightful, but Smith's prose is extraordinarily colorful. She did veer on the side of caricature in some places, as her versions of Elinor and Marianne were a little too extreme in demeanor; however, her take on them is better than other variations I've seen.

Having not known Smith's Nazarene background going into this, I wasn't pleased with the preachiness in this novel. Austen herself was a very faithful woman, but even she didn't go out of her way to mention that Elinor and Marianne probably went to service every Sunday (nor did she take several unsubtle opportunities to chastise pre-marital sex in the dialogue). It happens frequently enough that the book almost has an agenda, and as an open non-Christian, it's the only off-putting part of an otherwise good read. If I decide to move forward with her take on Northanger Abbey, I'll proceed with caution.

A solid 3 or 3.5 if you're looking for something casual and don't mind the absence of Margaret. I personally missed her and her atlas.
