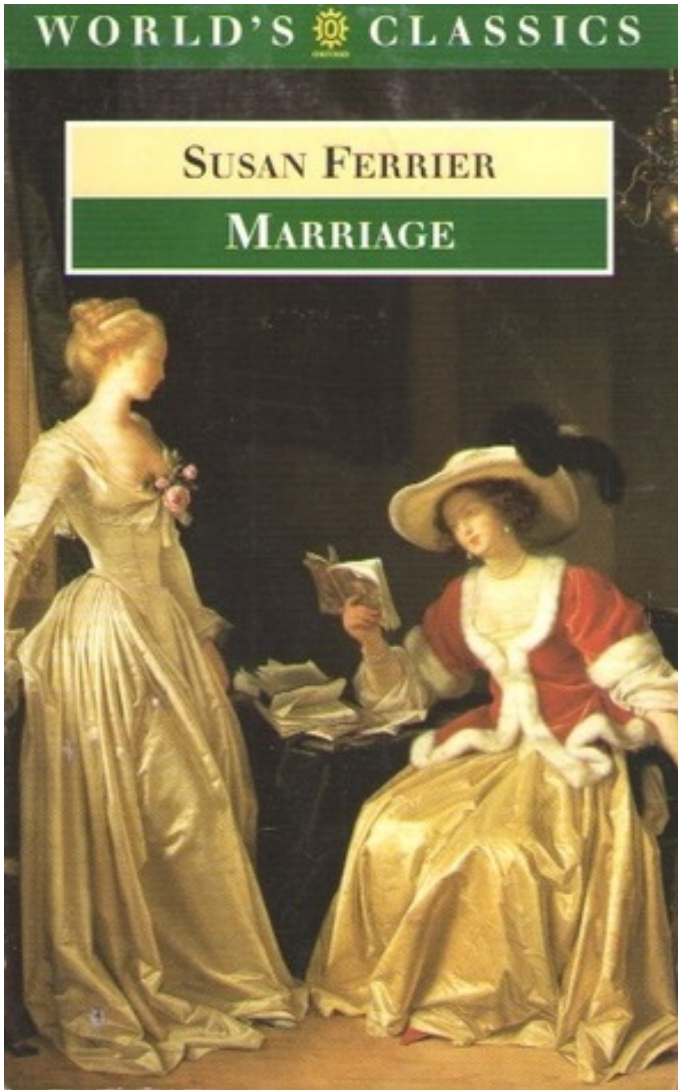

Susan Ferrier

Marriage



Title: Marriage

Author: Susan Ferrier

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Description

Marriage (1818) is the shrewdly observant tale of a young woman's struggles with parental authority and courtship. Like her contemporaries, Maria Edgeworth and Jane Austen, Susan Ferrier adopts an ideal of rational domesticity, illustrating the virtues of a reasonable heroine who learns to act for herself. This new edition features an introduction incorporating recent critical work on national identity and gender, and firmly situating the novel within the context of both Scottish literature and women's writing.

Insightful reviews

Catherine Siemann: The first half of this book has some of the funniest satire on consumer culture ever to exist -- seriously -- and the second shifts into a reasonably witty, though also sentimental, take on the marriage market, where the good sister, the bad/selfish sister, and the witty and goodhearted but insufficiently self-controlled cousin meet their appropriate fates. I know the author was pulling for Mary-the-good-sister, but I actually liked Emily (the cousin) best.

Pam: I needed a break from Harry Bosch; this had been a Recommended book from the Goodreads site based on my other reads.

It was ok...quite typical of the genre, however, and a bit heavy-handed w/ the story of the good 'sister', the caricature 'aunts, the selfish and EXTREMELY ego-centered Juliana. ..quite repetitive on that afterwhile. Balzac is better.

Helen Kitson: It's unfair, I think, to make comparisons between Ferrier and Jane Austen. Whilst there are areas of similarity (and Ferrier was known to admire Austen), the comparison does Ferrier no favours. It's true that she can seem 'coarse' after reading Austen, but there is much in this novel to admire.

It is, apart from anything else, wonderfully entertaining. Lady Juliana, a refined English girl, elopes at the age of seventeen with her penniless lover. It's an ill-fated love match - the romance quickly wears off and, bored with each other's company, they go to the Scottish Highlands in an attempt to persuade his father to help them out financially.

Glenfern, in its wild and rugged setting, with its assortment of eccentric relations, is most definitely not to Juliana's taste. Although the reader has some sympathy for this girl whose fairytale has so quickly turned sour, this evaporates completely when she gives birth to twin daughters. She is indifferent to both babies, and leaves one of them behind to be brought up by a relative when her fortunes change and she and her husband are able to leave Scotland for civilised (read frivolous, in Juliana's case) London.

The bulk of the rest of the story contrasts the different upbringings and natures of the two girls, Adelaide who is brought up in London, and Scottish-raised Mary. We are clearly meant to empathise with Mary, whose goodness can become cloying to the point of priggishness. More likeable, perhaps, is her friend Lady Emily, who is far less perfect but much more human.

Oddball characters like Mr and Mrs Gawffaw and Lady Maclaughlan are reminiscent of some of Trollope's more grotesque creations.

There is, of course, a happy ending and a marriage. The reader is left in no doubt that Mary's marriage will be happy, but other marriages for love are shown in a less positive light - the 'marry in haste, repent at leisure' marriage of Juliana herself, which leads her to hope that her daughters will not marry for so foolish a reason as love. Adelaide's marriage to a Duke is shown to be hollow from the start, but her elopement with the man she loves is no more successful. We hope that Mary's marriage will turn out well, but in marriage - as in life - there are no guarantees. [Nov 2005]

Anna: An unforeseen used bok shop find. I simply begun yet am liking this one so far.

Anne Holly: referred to as the "Scottish Jane Austen" (a identify that most likely riles enthusiasts of both), Susan Ferrier's paintings may perhaps allure those that have fun with the subjects in Austen's paintings - the lives of women, the politics of marriage and the family, wealth and love, and lots of follies of human nature. All of those definitely abound in Marriage. While i am not willing in comparisons, i must suggest, while a devotee of Austen, that Ferrier's variety may well truly surpass the extra well-known novelist in a few aspects. whereas Austen's writing can be, in places, flawed*, Ferrier's writing is clean, tidy and relatively snappy for 1817. the place Austen can sometimes learn as dry or clunky, the prose in Marriage approximately flickers with care and rolls very nicely, adorned via marvelous humour. Marriage is, at times, liable to mawkishness and puritanical zeal, in addition to over the top recording of pointless dialog and detail, however the prose itself is sort of fine. Nevertheless, whereas Ferrier could be a more advantageous technician (in my opinion), Austen nonetheless basically prevails in perception, characterization, and imagination, which makes her paintings go beyond time and position as successfully because it does. (A reliable reminder that mechanics isn't the sum overall of this game!) Marriage is a completely powerfuble novel that is still compelling nearly 2 hundred years later, that's a superb feat. From 1817 to 2014, we know the folks who inhabit this book, even though the captivating kind of writing frequently make their quirks even more relaxing at the web page than in genuine lifestyles (for the main part; these spinster aunts have been lovely worn skinny by way of the end, for me). while society changes, there continues to be a lot to consider in Marriage, even if you settle with its assertions or not. This ebook has been on my cabinets for nearly 15 years, via 3 moves, awaiting me to get to it. It was, within the end, worth reading. suggested for enthusiasts of the period and genre, in addition to these looking reliable family sketches and morality photographs of the time.*Example: I dearly love feel and Sensibility, however the commas are under the influence of alcohol therein.

Rebecca Jenkins: Susan Ferrier used to be Scotland's Jane Austen. First released in 1818, Marriage was once her first novel and have become very hot between contemporaries. it's a comedy a manners with a few gorgeous vignettes of characters that Susan Ferrier saw round her genteel social circle concentrated on Edinburgh. To my very own surprise, regardless of our distance from the manners of 2 hundred years ago, I learn it via with out ever being tempted to save it for a rest. The reviews of Mary Douglas and her buddy woman Emily on males and marriage are unusually ordinary - so the early 19thc model of Chick Lit& amusing, regardless of

the gulf of time.

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