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内容简介

The earliest of her six major novels, NorthangerAbbey remained unpublished until after Jane Austen 's death. A deliciously witty satire of popular Gothic romances, it is perhaps Austen 's lightest, most delightful excursion into a young woman 's world. Catherine Morland, an unlikely heroine—unlikely because she is so ordinary—forsakes her English village for the pleasures and perils of Bath. There, among a circle of Austen 's wonderfully vain, dissembling, and fashionable characters, she meets a potential suitor, Henry Tilney. But with her imagination fueled by melodramatic novels, Catherine turns a visit to his home, Northanger Abbey, into a hunt for dark family secrets. The result is a series of hilarious social gaffes and harsh awakenings that for all of Austen 's youthful exuberance nevertheless conveys her mature vision of literature and life—and the consequences of mistaking one for the other.

作者简介

Though the domain of Jane Austen's novels was as circumscribedas her life, her caustic wit and keen observation made her theequal of the greatest novelists in any language. Born the seventhchild of the rector of Steventon, Hampshire, on December 16, 1775, she was educated mainly at home. At an early age she began writingsketches and satires of popular novels for her family's entertainment. As a clergyman's daughter from a well-connectedfamily, she had an ample opportunity to study the habits of themiddle class, the gentry, and the aristocracy. At twenty-one, shebegan a novel called "The First Impressions" an early version of Pride and Prejudice. In 1801, on her father's retirement, thefamily moved to the fashionable resort of Bath. Two years later shesold the first version of Northanger Abby to a London publisher, but the first of her novels to appear was Sense and Sensibility, published at her own expense in 1811. It was followed by Pride and Prejudice (1813), Mansfield Park (1814), and Emma (1815).

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媒体评论

?Jane Austen is the Rosetta stone of literature.? ?Anna Quindlen From the Trade Paperback edition. -- Review

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