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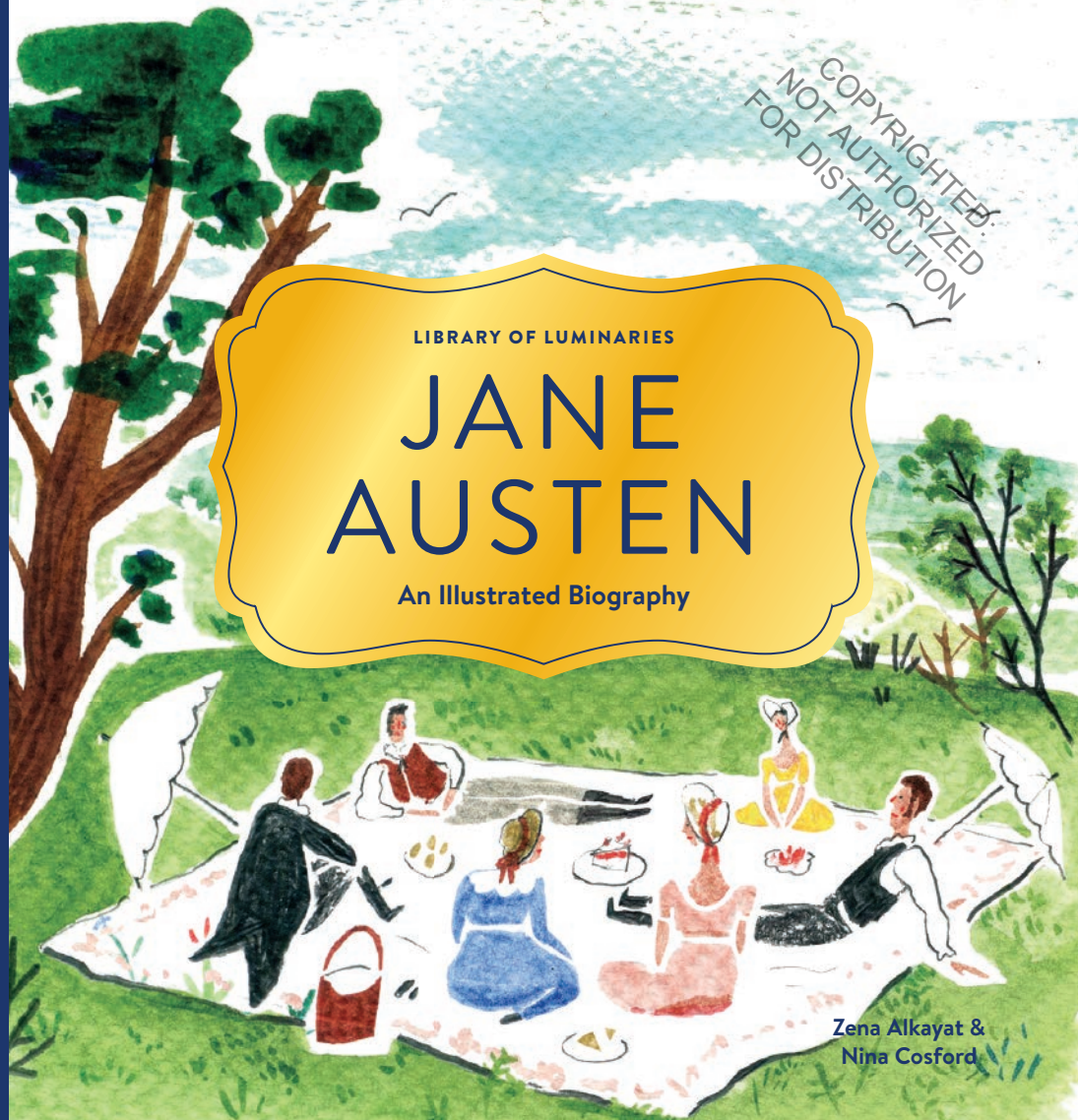
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**JANE
AUSTEN**
An Illustrated Biography

Zena Alkayat &
Nina Cosford



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JANE AUSTEN

by Zena Alkayat and Nina Cosford



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*“Which of all my important nothings
shall I tell you first?”*

Letter, 1808

JANE AUSTEN WAS BORN ON
DECEMBER 16, 1775, IN STEVENTON,
HAMPSHIRE. SHE LIVED IN THE
VILLAGE RECTORY WITH HER FATHER,
GEORGE, AND MOTHER, CASSANDRA.



THE RECTORY WAS ALSO A
WORKING FARM, COMPLETE WITH
COWS, CHICKENS, AND DUCKS, AS
WELL AS WHEAT, BARLEY, AND HOPS.
JANE GREW UP WITH SIX BROTHERS
AND ONE SISTER.



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The Austen Family Tree

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Rev. George Austen



Cassandra Leigh



James
Austen



George
Austen



Edward
Austen



Henry
Austen



Cassandra
Austen



Francis "Frank"
Austen



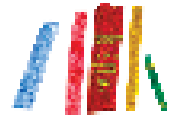
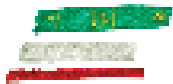
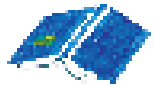
Jane
Austen



Charles
Austen

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JANE'S FATHER WAS A PARSON AND
A FARMER, BUT TO SUPPLEMENT
HIS FAMILY'S INCOME, HE AND MRS.
AUSTEN TURNED THE RECTORY INTO
A SMALL BOYS' BOARDING SCHOOL.



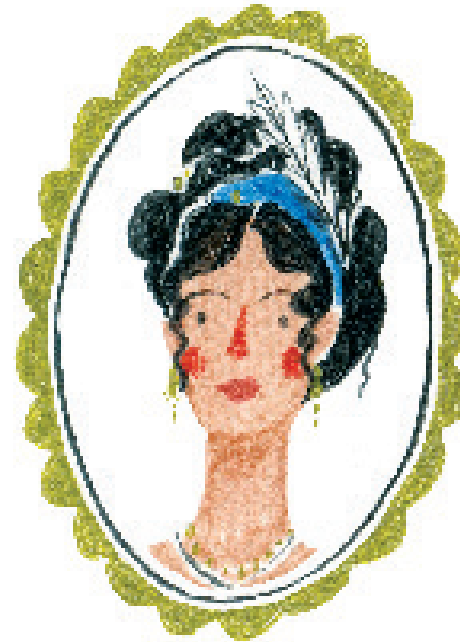
SO JANE WAS USED TO
BEING AROUND MALE COMPANY —
AND LOTS AND LOTS OF BOOKS.

AS YOUNG CHILDREN, JANE AND
CASSANDRA WERE INSEPARABLE.
THE SISTERS WENT TO BOARDING
SCHOOL TOGETHER WHERE THEY
LEARNED SPELLING, FRENCH, MATH,
NEEDLEWORK, AND DANCE.



WHEN JANE WAS ELEVEN, HER
COUSIN ELIZA CAME TO SPEND
CHRISTMAS AT STEVENTON. ELIZA
WAS MYSTERIOUS AND STRIKING,
AND HER LIFE WAS AS FANTASTICAL
AS FICTION. SHE WAS MARRIED
TO A EUROPEAN COUNT, SPOKE
FLUENT FRENCH, AND WORE
CONTINENTAL FASHIONS.

HER GLAMOUR CAUSED A STIR: THE
AUSTEN BOYS FLIRTED, AND JANE
FOUND A LIFELONG FRIEND.

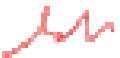
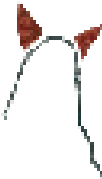


Eliza

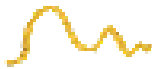
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THE AUSTENS LOVED TO
PUT ON PLAYS.



THEY INVITED FRIENDS TO TAKE ON
ROLES AND PAINTED SETS AND PROPS
FOR THEIR PRODUCTIONS.



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THEY ALSO LOVED TO WRITE.
JANE'S MOTHER WROTE VERSE,
AND HER BROTHER JAMES WAS
A SKILLED POET. JANE PREFERRED
PROSE AND FILLED NOTEBOOKS
WITH WILD AND WITTY STORIES.

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ALL AROUND HER, PEOPLE WERE
GETTING MARRIED. AND THE SUBJECT
OF MONEY WAS NEVER FAR AWAY.

JANE HEARD HOW COUSIN ELIZA
WAS BORN IN INDIA AFTER HER
MOTHER WENT THERE DETERMINED
TO FIND A HUSBAND AMONG
THE ENGLISH TRADERS.

