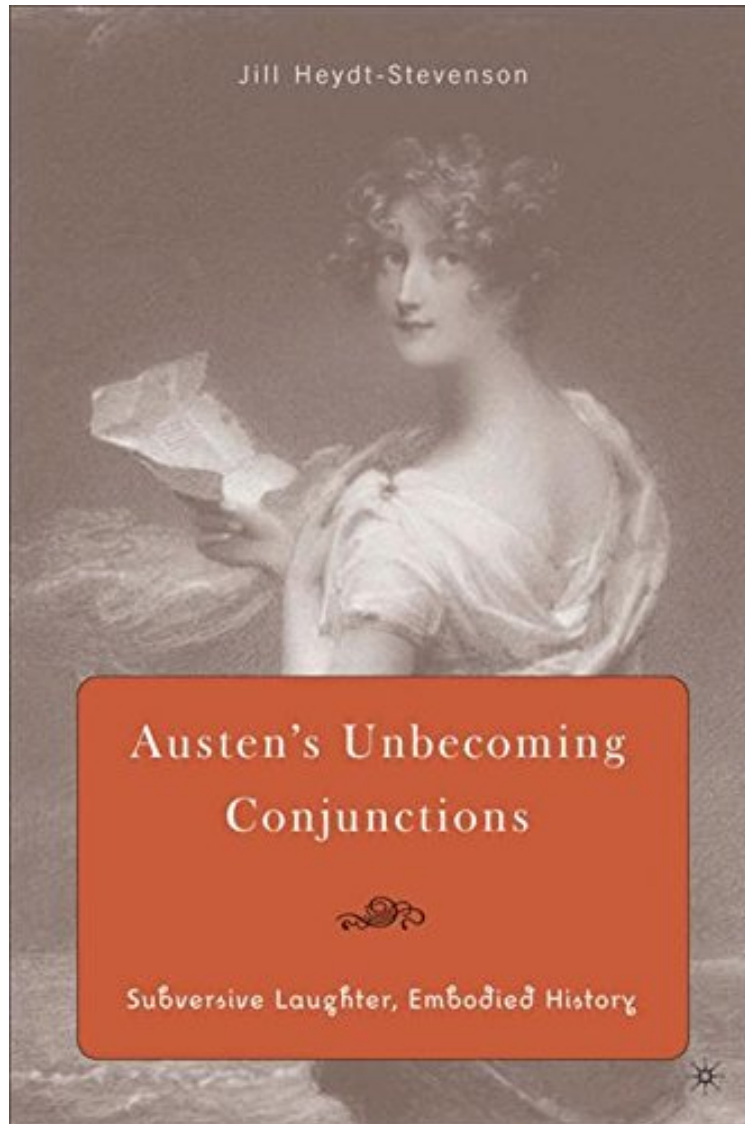


[Ebook pdf] Austen's Unbecoming Conjunctions: Subversive Laughter, Embodied History

# Austen's Unbecoming Conjunctions: Subversive Laughter, Embodied History

J. Heydt-Stevenson

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**J. Heydt-Stevenson : Austen's Unbecoming Conjunctions: Subversive Laughter, Embodied History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Austen's Unbecoming Conjunctions: Subversive Laughter, Embodied History:

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ChampionAs a former student of Heydt-Stevenson's I was most pleasantly surprised to find this - - it was a rather long time in preparation. Anyone, whether a student or a casual reader of Austen's work (say, are there any of those around?), should find this eminently readable book a delight. Heydt-Stevenson's close readings offer observations that are both comical and wry, two qualities not always immediately apparent in Austen's own work. Along with Daniel Pool's historical *What Jane Austen Ate And Charles Dickens Knew*, it's a very enlightening supplement. Yes, Heydt-Stevenson stretches some of her points pretty far in order to persuade. But what would a work of literary criticism be without stretched points? After reading this book, *Sense And Sensibility* will never be the same for you. And you can decapitalize both of those S's, by the way.

*Austen's Unbecoming Conjunctions* is a contemporary study of all Jane Austen's writings focusing on her representation of women, sexuality, the material objects, and linguistic patterns by which this sexuality was expressed. Heydt-Stevenson demonstrates the subtle, vulgar, and humorous ways Austen uses human bodies, objects, and activities (fashion, jewelry, crafts, popular literature, travel and tourism, money, and courtship rituals) to convey sexuality and sexual appetites. Through the sexual subtext, Heydt-Stevenson proposes, Austen satirized contemporary sexual hypocrisy; overcame the stereotypes of women authors as sexually inhibited, sheltered, or repressed; and addressed as sophisticated and worldly an audience as Byron's. Thus through her careful reading of all the Austen texts in light of the language of eroticism, both traditional and contemporary, Heydt-Stevenson re-evaluates Austen's audience, the novels, and her role as a writer.

This is a book that will forever change the way we read Jane Austen's fiction. In a series of compelling and well-documented analyses, Jillian Heydt-Stevenson shows us that Austen's work is replete with sexual jokes, bawdy humor, double-entendres, erotic puns. Moreover, she persuasively argues that for Jane Austen, the mind cannot be separated from the body: sense and sensibility, consciousness and physical sensations, thought and feeling, are inextricably fused.-- Anne K. Mellor, *Romantic Circles*"Austen's *Unbecoming Conjunctions* is persuasive, engagingly written, and original in both detail and general argument."Jocelyn Harris, *Nineteenth-Century Literature*