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101W Jane Austen

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Pursuit of Happiness

Condense

~~In the works of literature, there is always an underlying meaning behind the words of an author.~~ ~~Jane Austen was not a wealthy woman, and lived an entire life with no husband. She had love for her father, her brothers, and friends around her,~~ **~~but something was always missing~~**. ~~The words in her novel dictate in an indirect way that happiness does not derive from love and comfort, but rather from money.~~ ~~In her novels~~ **I argue that in Sense and *Sensibility* and *Persuasion,* Jane Austen**suggests that happiness derives from an economically comfortable existence, not from love. Although Austen’s plots seem to ~~endorse~~ **imply** that money, love, and happiness cannot coexist, Austen emphasizes the importance of a man’s estate and wealth.

Does she really suggest that the 3 are not compatible?

What makes you think so?

In “Jane Austen and Money**,**” Lisa Hopkins disagrees with the idea that money buys happiness. She states in relation to the time that *Persuasion* was written that “status and money are seen as virtually separate issues” (Hopkins, 78). Here, Hopkins has a point in the conclusion that Anne does love Captain Wentworth when he is not wealthy. However, they end up together and live a happy life only by the time he is wealthy and can take care of her. Hopkins, however, concedes tha*t Sense and Sensibility* has more **interaction with the thought of money** [???} happiness being as one by stating, “in the earlier novels it would have been madness for the heroines not to pay proper attention to money when choosing a marriage partner” (78). Her agreement to **this** [?] allows readers to assure her credibility and her broad understanding of the topic visualizing Austen’s work with an open mind. **Sentence not clear**.

Good point; straighten out the sentence.

[Transition?] An example of the deceit **money brings to a human being** is Willoughby’s desire to marry the wealthy Sophia Grey rather than marrying Marianne, who is not wealthy. Willoughby’s desire to marry Sophia stemmed from merely the fact that she was wealthy rather than from love and happiness. When he visited Marianne and Elinor and Mrs. Dashwood confront him, he explained his reason for coming to see Marrianne by offering an explanation as to why he married Sophia Grey. He defends himself by stating,

Condense

Does money create the deceit. Explain what you mean.

Every year since my coming of age, or even before, I believe, had added to my debts; and though the death of my old cousin, Mrs. Smith, was to set me free; yet that event being uncertain, and possibly far distant, it had been for some time my intention to re-establish my circumstances by marrying a woman of fortune (328).

Willoughby claims he married Miss Grey because of his financial status, which bring him happiness by the end of the novel. Willoughby needed “a woman of fortune” for his personal gain, to alleviate “[his] debts.” Willoughby married not out of love, but to secure his own financial stability. A good example. Analyze it further. Does Austen imply that the system of landowning has become corrupt or that Willoughby is corrupt?

Your Willoughby example is interesting. Let’s talk about it in class.

AJVS