

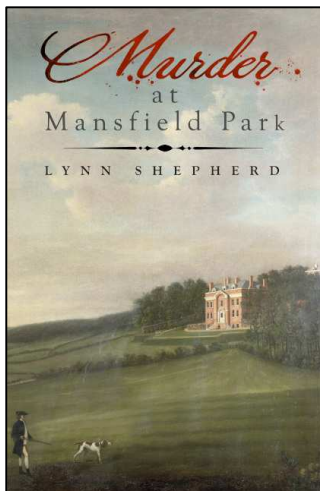
Chawton House Library

27th April 2010

Mayhem and murder at *Mansfield Park*

Murder At Mansfield Park

By Lynn Shepherd



Austen fans and critics alike have over the years wondered about *Mansfield Park*: why did Austen write it? Many have questioned Austen's choice of a lead character who is so unlike Emma or Elizabeth Bennet (Austen's own mother described Fanny as "insipid" while Kingsley Amis is more forthcoming in his description of the character as "morally detestable").

Lynn Shepherd replies to the criticism of Austen's work with this wonderful tribute and celebration of *Mansfield Park*. She says, "What intrigues me about *Mansfield Park* is how *unlike* Jane Austen it actually is. One of the reasons so many readers are dissatisfied with the novel Austen *did* write is that they find her heroine at best insipid, and at worst,

downright irritating." That certainly couldn't be said of the Fanny Price of *Murder at Mansfield Park*: ambitious, scheming and relentlessly focussed, unlike the sweet and gentle Mary Crawford who suffers great indignities from her mean neighbour. In fact, anyone would think that Lynn Shepherd's Fanny Price deserved to be killed...

A hugely entertaining homage, *Murder At Mansfield Park* offers readers a very different view of Mansfield Park, but retains the distinct style, eloquence and subtlety of Austen's best writing. More mature than other literary adaptations, and yet still a wildly entertaining whodunit, Lynn Shepherd offers readers the *Mansfield Park* they always wanted.

Lynn Shepherd is a successful copywriter and academic. Her DPhil Oxford University thesis, '*Clarissa's Painter: Portraiture, Illustration, and Representation in the Novels of Samuel Richardson*', was published by Oxford University Press in late 2009. This is her first novel.

There will be an opportunity to purchase the book at this event.



Lecture Tickets: £10 (£7.50 for students)

6.30pm Reception with wine & canapes

7.00pm Lecture



To book, or for more info, call 01420 541010 or email info@chawton.net.