



Ophelia Joined the Group Maidens Who Don't Float: Classic Lit Signs on to Facebook

Sarah Schmelling

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When humorist Sarah Schmelling transformed *Hamlet* into a Facebook news feed, it launched the next big humor trend-Facebook lit. This hilarious book is the first to bring more than fifty authors and stories from classic literature back to life and online. Schmelling uses the conventions of social networking-profile pages, status updates, news feeds, and applications-to retell everything from *The Odyssey* to *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to *Lolita*.

Every day 150 million active users of Facebook log on to reconnect with old classmates, add pictures, share quizzes, and post news stories, notes, and videos. In Schmelling-s network, Satan and Beelzebub connect using the *fiend* finder, Don Quixote vows vengeance against Superpoke, Jane Eyre listens to Jay-Z-s -Hard-Knock Life- on repeat, Ernest Hemingway completes the -Are you a real man?- quiz, and Oedipus works on his family tree.

A loving spoof of the most-trafficked social networking website in the world and a playful game of literary who-s who, *Ophelia Joined the Group Maidens Who Don-t Float* will have book lovers and Facebook addicts alike twittering with joy.

Ophelia Joined the Group Maidens Who Don't Float: Classic Lit Signs on to Facebook Details

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Author : Sarah Schmelling

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From Reader Review Ophelia Joined the Group Maidens Who Don't Float: Classic Lit Signs on to Facebook for online ebook

Mrs.soule says

Entertaining and often laugh-out-loud funny, at least for the books I've actually read or read about.

Favorite Parts -

Pride & Prejudice Page:

Elizabeth sent **Happy Feelings** to **Mr. Darcy**.

Mr. Darcy: I don't receive gifts from people who are obviously beneath me.

Elizabeth: Yes, and it must be hard to see with your head so far up your butt.

Mr. Darcy has changed his privacy settings.

James Joyce's Profile:

James Joyce is.

Mark Twain: Is...what?

Charles Dickens: Yes, why not finish your sentence? You have to think about your readers. What will they make of this?

William Faulkner: He's breaking boundaries with his status updates. He's flouting conventional wisdom!

Jane Austen: Are you sure he didn't just hit "Post" too soon?

Joyce, Faulkner, & Hemingway play Scrabulific:

Hemingway: And what the hell is a *muchsias*??

Joyce: You know, *muchsias*, or "thanks." Like *muschsias* *gracias*.

Hemingway: That does not count.

Christine says

This was amusing, but not quite as funny overall as I hoped it would be. I did chuckle at the sections on Jane Austen and the Brontes. My favorite part was Oscar Wilde's profile page, which devolved into a quip battle between Wilde, Mark Twain, and William Shakespeare. (I'm glad I just read *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, which helped me appreciate that section a lot more!) I also appreciated the arguments between Joyce & Faulkner and Hemingway. :-)

Jessamyn Leigh says

Wow, I forgot what Facebook used to be like, lol.

This wasn't as funny as I hoped, but it had its moments. Gatsby was especially good.

C.O. Bonham says

This was a really funny book. And I firmly believe that you don't have to be a bookworm to get the jokes. I have only read about half of the books that Schmelling Spoofs. This is not a book club book (though I guess you could start a book club with it by trying to read every book it mentions) that is to say don't sit down and treat it like a novel (there is no plot) but you will get the same enjoyment if you read it cover to cover or if you just skip around. Though please do read it all because some profiles play off of each other.

The most important thing though is to be a Facebook user because it makes the experience much more enjoyable.

Wendy says

A must read for anyone who loves literature and uses Facebook. Hysterically funny.

Eustacia Tan says

A Very Short Review:

This book is perfect for lovers of literature. Provided, of course, you have a healthy sense of humour about the classics. If you think that *Pride and Prejudice* and *Zombies* is a travesty and that *Android Karenina* should be thrown into flames, you probably won't like this book. But if you like to make jokes about the various books (litmus test: watch *Huck Finn* in 4 minutes. If you laugh, the odds are you'll like it).

My literature (English A1 HL) class and I loved this book. We were passing it around during lectures(:

Melissa says

Very funny, particularly to me as I'm a Facebook addict (but a fan of the old-style Facebook feed - which is the format used in this book) and a fan of classic literature.

Kathryn says

This book is such a hoot! My husband (an English major) and I both really enjoy it. (The part on Jane Austen's Profile and the News Feed with "*Pride and Prejudice*" characters is my especial delight!) It's a book that is just great fun to skim over now and then when you want a good chuckle; it's very clever and witty and pays homage to the greats in literature. I love that it brings them current with "Facebook" without demeaning the actual stories/characters themselves. I haven't read all the entries yet (some just were more engaging for me than others; and some books I haven't read yet so I don't "get" the entries) but so what I've read, I've enjoyed. Recommended for literature lovers who know their way around the Classics shelves--and their Facebook page ;-)

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

This is such a fantastic book, I had a great time reading it! It's absolutely hilarious and although I loved every section of the book my all-time favourites have to be Oscar Wilde's and James Joyce's profiles. Here's a small excerpt from Oscar Wilde's which I find irresistible:

Oscar Wilde thinks we live in a age when unnecessary things are our only necessities.

Oscar Wilde: Arguments are to be avoided; they are always vulgar and often convincing. Whenever people agree with me I always feel I must be wrong. Life is far too important a thing ever to talk seriously about.

William Shakespeare: Oscar, you're going to hurt yourself quipping. Also, you'll never win in a quip-off against me. We know what we are, but not what we may be. Neither a borrower nor a lender be. Frailty, thy name is woman!

Mark Twain: The coldest winter I ever spent was summer in San Francisco.

William Shakespeare: Har har.

Oscar Wilde: Who would even care about that quip unless they were in San Francisco?

Ernest Hemingway: How do you fellows find the time to quip so often? No one ever quotes my quips?

Charles Dickens: They do have bad writing contests in your honour, however, as well as those look-alike contests. No one does that for me.

Ernest Hemingway: You get built-in publicity every damn Christmas!

Charles Dickens: True.

Dorothy Parker: I hear you're quipping over here? I don't care what is written about me so long as it isn't true.

Oscar Wilde: Can you all take this somewhere else? This is my page. My quips.

William Shakespeare: Sure

Charles Dickens: Of course.

Dorothy Parker: Certainly.

Ernest Hemingway: Damn right.

Mark Twain: Okeydoke.

I also loved the smack talk when authors play Scabulific together! "Faulkner: Muchsias grapias my sautril little meise. Hemingway: I hate you." Hilarious I tell you:)

Anna Francesca says

This book was great at first, but it went on too long. Also, while I have read many of the books parodied, some I have not. Most of those jokes went over my head, and I bet this is a common occurrence. I still like the idea of this text and think it could be a jumping-off point for student projects. I am also impressed by how well-versed the author is in both classic literature and online formats. One amusing section, for example, is a quiz of whether a situation came from a Shakespearean comedy or *Three's Company*. This book is precious for those gems, but I wouldn't suggest it for many as a cover-to-cover experience.

Renee says

So I picked up the book *Ophelia Joined the Group Maidens Who Don't Float* mainly because I love anything

Hamlet and anything Ophelia.

What I got was WAY more than I expected. First off this book is hilarious. It goes through a number of the classics by making them all like facebook.

So each novel has clubs they join, news feed updates, games they play, apps they add, friend request and comments, and this is how the author tells their stories.

She also added some author input and some sarcastic snark that I really enjoyed. Basically this was seriously clever and made me literally laugh out loud during several moments.

So what, pray tell, is the reason this is getting four stars instead of five? I will tell you. I got bored with some of the "books." I haven't read them all so the ones I have not read and honestly have no idea what they were about and didn't care, started to bore me. I basically read the ones I wanted to and skipped the rest. Now there are 9 chapters and she covers about six books in each section. So out of roughly 54 books/author works I only skipped about eight of them. So I feel pretty good reviewing this.

The novel starts out first person Shakespeare creating a group for those who have been deemed worthy of the title *Classic Author*. He puts forth rules and regulations for everyone who joins and writes between a mixture of his original prose and modern day English.

Note worthy items and passages to give you a funny example of how this book worked:

Hamlet:

The King poked The Queen
The Queen poked the King Back

Dante's Inferno was written entirely in an online quiz

Every so often writers or character would play a game called **Scrabulific** (scrabble) and engage in smack talk.

Wuthering Heights:

Heathcliff now owns Cathy's house via Fathering a Frail and Wimpy Son Application.

Jane Eyre:

Jane added "Lowood School" to her Education Info
Rochester's bed is smokin' and not in a good way

Anna Karenina and several others like Lolita have ADMIN notes. Anna Karenina's is all about how long the novel is and do we really want to read pages up pages of how Levin feels about Agriculture. While Lolita's ADMIN notes are warnings about inappropriate subjects and content.

Other stories like Romeo and Juliet show inboxes of emails. In Romeo and Juliet it shows how Friar L's first email to Romeo about how Juliet is faking her death didn't send and how he hopes this second email makes it in time.

To Kill a Mocking Bird is told by Scout Finch in one of those annoying if you are tagged you must fill this out and tag other people kind of way. *Five Random Things About Boo Radley*. She starts making things up and other characters from the book scold her, it ends with actual facts about Boo Radley.

With Edgar Allan Poe the author basically just covers all his poems and stories in one crazy section.

Edgar Allan Poe just received a ROLF Catz: iz in ur wall (wit ur ded wife)

Dracula was pretty funny, one of the more humorous lines:

Renfield found Dracula's new house and is now humping the door.

Pride and Prejudice

Elizabeth: Yes and it must be hard to see with your head that far up your butt" to Mr Darcy

Little Women's section was very brief and full of Louisa May Alcott complaining how tired she was of "all this moral pap."

Over all I had a GREAT time reading this, laughed, was entertained and it was a fast easy read. I highly recommend this if you enjoy different takes on the classics (you know different takes that are not adding a vampire or a werewolf and calling it a novel.)

Enjoy.

Like this? More at: <http://hauntedgravebooks.blogspot.com/>

Rach says

Pretty darn funny, especially if you've read the books and authors parodied inside. And are a facebook user, of course. Some, of course were funnier than others. I think my favorites were *Romeo and Juliet* with its teen over-exaggeration and angst ("Juliet OMG hooked up with random guy! Don't even know his NAME"), *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* with its differing font sizes and comments from a wide range of characters and authors (Morpheus and Neo from the Matrix, Charlie, Jack, Kate and Sawyer from Lost, Dorothy Gale, Harry Potter, Gregor Samsa, Dr. Jekyll, Peter Pan, James Joyce), and *Lord of the Flies* with its 20th Reunion page (Jack still pisses me off, for the record). It definitely got slow in places, though, and I would say this is more of a book to leave around the house and flip through every once in a while instead of reading straight through.

Snail in Danger (Sid) Nicolaides says

I first learned about this in a First Reads giveaway, and was intrigued by the title. Who wouldn't be? (Besides, of course, people who don't care for black humor.) I didn't win, alas; and since my library didn't get the book and I wasn't interested enough to buy it, I sort of let it sit on my to-read list for a while. Then, one day, I saw it sitting in the remainder bin at a Borders, and snagged it.

Verdict: the introduction is amusing, and the gimmick/premise is promising. The Facebook adaptations have little top notes of black humor, but as a rule they're all right but not grippingly funny.

Jenny says

Several years ago, a "Hamlet on Facebook" floated around the internet... Well, the author has published a book, presenting many of literature's classics through the medium of Facebook. We get a newsfeed of Shakespeare's history plays... we can take a "What sort of adulterous woman are you" quiz and read Hester Prynne's and Madame Bovary's squabbings about it... or see famous authors argue on someone-or-other's profile... It's like one giant in-joke for English majors.

The book is best taken in small doses, and there are certainly better sections than others. I particularly enjoyed most of the depictions of Shakespeare's works... not as thrilled about the Pride and Prejudice newsfeed.

Certainly worth picking up for lovers of classic lit. Even my mother (who has yet to give in to facebook and doesn't understand all the formatting or phrasing decisions) highly enjoyed it.

So go, all of you English majors and closet classic lovers--you know who you are--and pick it up. =)

Ash says

It's no secret that I love classic lit, and I love literary jokes (I think it's safe to say this to other book lovers) so when I saw the book Ophelia Joined the Group Maidens Who Don't Float: Classic Lit Signs on to Facebook by Sarah Schmelling I had to buy it. Literally had to, I couldn't wait to get it. And let me tell you my friends, it was worth full-price. Let me sum up the book for you the short way: Classic Lit characters and authors on Facebook. Status updates, groups, poking and all. This book at me laughing for a week.

I loved the passage on Jane Eyre, obviously. I'll give you a little taste of Jane's News Feed so you get an idea of what this book is like:

Read the rest of this review at [English Major's Junk Food](#)
