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# Ophelia Joined The Group Maidens Who Don't Float: Classic Lit Signs On To Facebook



## Synopsis

Read Sarah Schmelling's posts on the Penguin Blog. When humorist Sarah Schmelling transformed Hamlet into a Facebook news feed on McSweeney's, it launched the next big humor trend: "Facebook lit. In this world, the king is the pokes, the queen, Hamlet becomes a fan of daggers, and Ophelia renounces her interest in moody princes. Now, what began as an internet phenomenon is a book. *Ophelia Joined The Group Maidens Who Don't Float: Classic Lit Signs on to Facebook* is a clever spoof of the most-trafficked social networking website and a playful game of literary who's who. The book brings more than fifty authors and stories from classic literature back to life and online, and it is sure to have book lovers and Facebook addicts alike twittering with joy. From *The Odyssey* to *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Pride and Prejudice* to *Lolita*, Schmelling brings the conventions of social networking—profile pages, status updates, news feeds, games and quizzes—to some of literature's most well-known works, authors and characters. What would Edgar Allan Poe, Jane Austen or James Joyce post on their walls? What would Gulliver, Miss Havisham or Captain Ahab say in a status update? After William Shakespeare welcomes all of these players into his network, mayhem quickly ensues: Elizabeth Bennet throws a sheep at Mr. Darcy Hamlet posts an event: *A Play That's Totally Fictional and In No Way About My Family* Jane Eyre listens to "Hard Knock Life" on repeat The Lord of the Flies boys form a reunion group Ernest Hemingway questions the validity of the "Are you a real man?" quiz Mark Twain infiltrates Oscar Wilde's profile page and challenges him to a "quip off" Oedipus works on his family tree Following everyone from Frankenstein's Monster to King Lear's Fool, Charles Dickens to Virginia Woolf, *Ophelia Joined The Group Maidens Who Don't Float* is a loving spoof of our literary favorites, and a hilarious collection for a twenty-first century generation of readers. Long live the Classics: 2.0!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jane Austen says it is a truth universally acknowledged that in the depths of a recession, people need something to laugh about. Elizabeth Bennet posted a comment: OK, Jane, but did you HAVE to tell the world about all those ridiculous gifts Mr. Collins sent me, especially that Chai Cream Frappucino? (And what is that, anyway?) William Shakespeare (through the best efforts of author Sarah Schmelling) has founded the Classics-Gone-Facebook Network. Miss Havisham, Humbert Humbert, Dr. Jekyll and Beowulf joined the network. Scrooge joined the network, but is rejecting friend requests. Huck Finn, Oscar Wilde and Ernest (call me "Papa") Hemingway have joined the network. Sarah Schmelling reports that Jane Austen is now friends with Helen Fielding, Kate Winslet, Hugh Grant, and 4,534 others, and is still wondering who all these people are and why they are all forming clubs to discuss her books. If I were one iota as clever and witty as Sarah Schmelling, I would try to write this review in the same Facebook style that Schmelling has used to celebrate and poke fun at her favorite literary figures (both authors and characters) as well as to settle scores with those she could live without. (To his disgust, Humbert's admin blocks his account for his yearnings over Lolita, while still allowing Lady Chatterley and the gamekeeper to continue with their antics.) I know my limitations, and will have to stick to the traditional format, however... Schmelling's first stab at turning literature into Facebook feeds was a hilarious reinterpretation of Hamlet that 'went viral' on the Internet a year or more ago. (The book's title comes from that.

Ophelia Joined The Group Maidens Who Don't Float: Classic Lit Signs On To Facebook, by Sarah Schmelling was a chance find for me. My husband and I stopped by the bookstore to pick up a few much anticipated purchases with coupons we'd been saving. On the way in, they had some shelves with clearance books right in the front foyer. (Isn't that how they get you?) A couple of books caught my eye, including another one I will be reviewing sometime soon. At \$2.00-\$3.00 per book, I could afford to get both as impulse purchases, even on my limited budget. Why did this one hit me? You'd have to look at the cover, which is why I posted it above, but here's the text: Virginia Woolf is afraid of Edward Albee. Hester Prynne received a piece of flair. Edgar Allan Poe will not stop looking at you that way. Ernest Hemingway took the ARE YOU A REAL MAN? quiz. At last, your favorite characters

and authors from classic literature have caved to the pressure and joined a social network. William Shakespeare, with a little help from author Sarah Schmelling, rallies together everyone from Jane Austen to Oedipus Rex to James Joyce to his online book club group. Of course, mayhem soon ensues: Mark Twain infiltrates Oscar Wilde's profile page and challenges him to a "quip off." Jane Eyre listens to "Hard Knock Life" on repeat. Hamlet becomes a fan of Daggers. Dracula wonders why this "Edward" and "Bella" are people he may know. A loving spoof of social networking conventions and a playful game of literary who's who, *Ophelia Joined the Group Maidens Who Don't Float* is sure to have book lovers and Facebook addicts alike twittering with joy. To be or not to be... on Facebook that is.

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