

The ART of PERSUASION

by SUSAN MIDALIA

ABOUT THE BOOK

Completely compelling. Here is a rarity: a witty and tender comedy of manners that also has political bite. Michelle de Kretser

If Jane Austen was twenty-five today would she be a greenie or a member of the Young Liberals? Probably neither. But for twenty-five-year-old Hazel, reading the classics starting with A is a way to pass the time while jobless and plotless.

A chance encounter with an irresistible older man provides a much needed distraction. When Hazel is partnered with him on a political campaign, her attraction is deepened by the strength of his convictions. Adam seems to be attracted to her too – but why can't she persuade him to embark upon romance? And what does Jane Austen have to teach a young woman about life, love and literature in the 21st century anyway?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Susan Midalia grew up in the Western Australian wheatbelt and has lived in Perth for most of her adult life. She is the author of three collections of short stories, *A History of the Beanbag*, *An Unknown Sky* and *Feet to the Stars*. Her collections have been shortlisted for the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards and twice for the Western Australian Premier's Book Awards. She retired from teaching in 2007 to become a full-time writer and freelance editor. *The Art of Persuasion* is her first novel.



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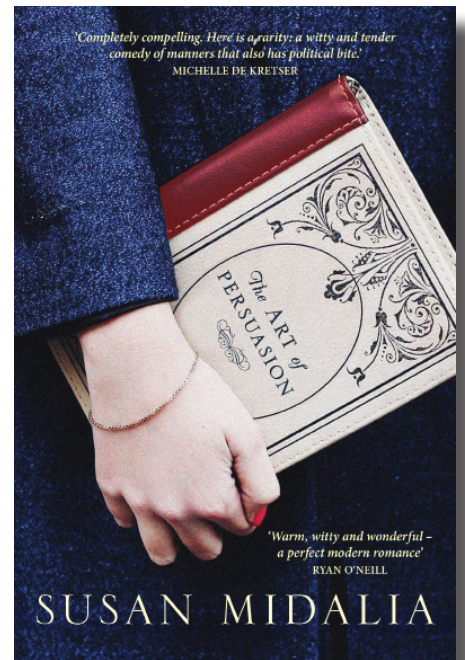
- Susan's short stories have been published in *Westerly*, *Southerly*, *Island*, *Review of Australian Fiction*, *Wet Ink* and two anthologies. Her academic work has been published in *Australian Literary Studies*, *Westerly* and *World Literature Written in English*.
- *The Art of Persuasion* is a heart-warming read that will appeal to lovers of romance and literary fiction alike. 'It explores in a light-hearted and relatable manner the question of what makes a meaningful and socially productive life.'

PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR

'Midalia's skill at presenting big ideas through everyday experience demonstrates how powerful good writing can be.' *The West Australian*

'Midalia is a master of inference drawn from detail ... all readers will find quirky compassion and unfailing engagement.' *Australian Book Review*

'Works of rare lucidity, integrity and sureness of style.' Gail Jones



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