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End Matter

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Other examples could be cited, but those mentioned should suffice to demonstrate that *Emma* has serious deficiencies. The book is, however, not without redeeming value. For example, the authors often present controversial material without being defensive or apologetic. In discussing Joseph Smith's use of a peepstone and his treasure-hunting activities, they forthrightly present the truth. Their material on plural marriage (chaps. 12 and 13) is relatively up-to-date and honestly presented. In some cases, they do tell us something very meaningful about Emma. Her relationship with Joseph, the family's lack of roots and a home of their own, and her life with her second husband are effectively and sympathetically presented.

But these strengths are outweighed by the major flaws. What concerns the serious student of Mormon history is that the Emma Smith portrayed in this work is not the real Emma Smith. Emma was not the romanticized, dramatized figure presented in the pages of this biography. To understand the real Emma, or to find the truth about Emma, much more is required. In short, we need a definitive, accurate, honest biography of Joseph Smith's wife.

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