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Jane Eyre

简·爱

Charlotte Brontë

Syllabus designer: David Foulds

[注释] 薛 浩

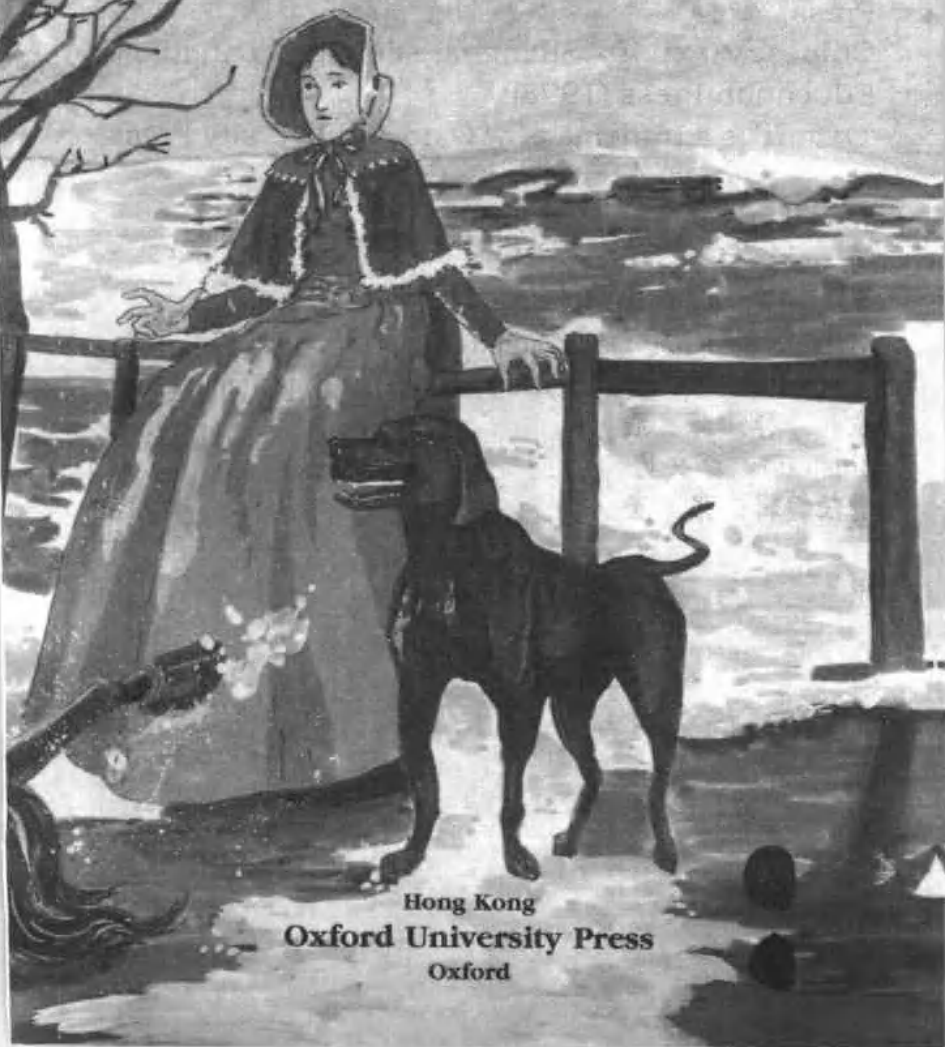
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Jane Eyre

Charlotte Brontë



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GATESHEAD

An unhappy life

My name is Jane Eyre. When I was very small, my father and mother died, and I was alone. I was very poor. My parents left me no money. I had no brothers or sisters to look after me.

5

My mother's brother, my Uncle Reed, came to take me to stay with him. He lived in a large house called Gateshead with his wife and three children. There were two girls, Eliza and Georgiana, and a boy called John. They were all older than me.

10

Uncle Reed was kind to me, but after a while he died, too. Then my life became very unhappy. My aunt and my cousins were cruel to me. John was the worst. He was much bigger than me. He was always trying to make me cry. I only had one friend at Gateshead. That was the servant girl, Bessie.

15

'Just a poor relation'

One cold, wet afternoon my aunt would not let me sit by the fire with the other children. She said I was too bad. I went into another room where there were some books. I took one and began to read it.

20

John Reed came into the room, looking for me. At that time he was a schoolboy. He was fourteen years old. I was only ten and very small for my age.

'What are you doing here?' he asked.

25

'Reading,' I answered.

'Show me the book.'

I gave him the book I was looking at.

'This is one of our books,' he said angrily. 'You must not read our books. You are not the same as us.'

5 You are just a poor relation. I am going to punish you for taking our things. Go and stand by the door.'



Murderer!

I was afraid of John. I always obeyed him. I went to the door. When I turned round, John threw the book straight at me. It was a big, heavy book. It hit me and I fell. I banged my head against the door.

The pain made me forget that John Reed was bigger and stronger than me. I was not afraid of him any more. I became very angry with him.

'Wicked boy,' I shouted loudly. 'You are like a murderer. You are like one of the cruel Roman emperors!'

25 'What! what!' he cried. 'Did she say that to me? Did you hear her, Eliza and Georgiana? I shall tell mother what she said. But first —'

30 He ran straight at me with his head down. I felt him hit me. He started to pull my hair. But John Reed did not know how angry I was. I really thought he was a cruel murderer. I thought he was going to kill me. I began to fight for my life. I cannot remember what I did to him, but I heard him calling me 'Rat! Rat!' He cried out with pain.

Locked in the red room

When his mother heard the noise, she came to see what was happening. She brought Bessie and another servant with her.

My aunt never thought her own children could do anything wrong. When she saw John and me fighting, she wanted to punish me. 'Take her to the red room,' my aunt said to the servants, 'and lock her in there.'

Four hands took hold of me. I was carried upstairs. I fought back, but I was too small to get free. I was locked in the red room and left there all on my own.

The red room was large, dark and cold. My uncle had died there. I thought he would not like to see how cruel my aunt and cousins were to me.

I thought my uncle would be angry. I thought his ghost would come back into the room. I was very frightened. Then I saw a strange light moving along the wall. Perhaps it was a light outside, but I was too small to think clearly. I thought it was really a ghost.

I tried to get out. The door was locked. I shouted very loudly and banged on the door. The servants came to let me out, but my aunt made them lock me back in again.

She said I was not really frightened.

It was too terrible for me. I shouted and cried and banged on the door so much that I became ill.



Mr Brocklehurst

My aunt called a doctor. He was a kind man. I told him that my parents were dead and that I was unhappy at Gateshead.

5 The doctor told my aunt that I should go away to a boarding school. He told me that the children at a boarding school live at the school all the time. They do not go home at the end of each day. The doctor thought I would be happier at a boarding school.

10 Later a tall, dark man came to visit. My aunt made me stand beside her when she spoke to him.

'Mr Brocklehurst, this is Jane Eyre,' my aunt said.

'Are you a good girl, Jane?' asked Mr Brocklehurst.

I did not know what to say. Everyone at Gateshead
15 always said I was very bad.

'She's bad and she tells lies,' said my aunt.

'What a terrible thing,' said Mr Brocklehurst. 'I will tell Miss Temple, the headmistress, all about her. Now Mrs Reed, the girls at Lowood School eat simple food
20 and wear simple clothes. They all work very hard. Are you sure you want Jane to go there?'

'That is what Jane needs,' said my aunt. 'She can stay at Lowood all the time. I don't want her to come home for her holidays. I never want to see Jane Eyre
25 again.'

'I shall ask Miss Temple to do everything as you wish, Mrs Reed. I shall also tell her that Jane Eyre will be coming to stay at Lowood School very soon,' said Mr Brocklehurst. Then he went away.

30 I was very hurt and sad. Why should my aunt tell a visitor that I told lies?

'I do not tell lies,' I said to my aunt. 'I hate you and John. You are unkind to me. You are bad and cruel.'

LOWOOD

I go to school

I left Gateshead one cold morning in January. I went in a coach with four horses pulling it. It took me all day to reach Lowood.

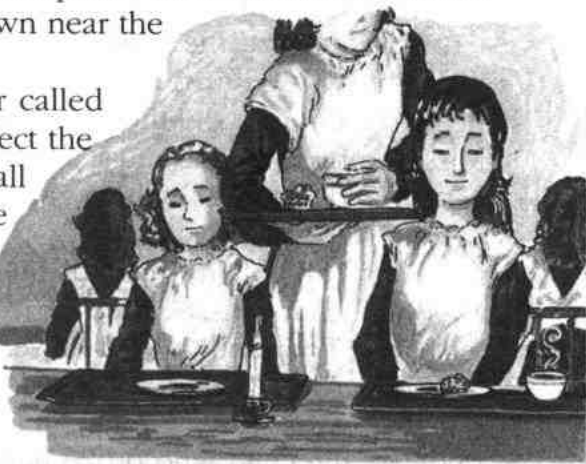
I arrived at Lowood at night. In the dark I could see a large building with many windows. There were lights on in some of the windows. 5

A servant took me to meet Miss Temple, the headmistress. She spoke to me kindly, and I liked her at once. After that, one of the teachers took me to a large room. The teacher's name was Miss Miller. 10

In that room, there were eighty girls sitting at four long tables. There were candles on the tables. The girls were working at their lessons. They were not all the same age. Some were as young as nine while others were as old as twenty. They all wore simple brown dresses with aprons over them. Miss Miller asked me to sit down near the door. 15

Then Miss Miller called out, 'Monitors, collect the lesson books!' A tall girl from each table got up and put away the books.

'Monitors, fetch the supper trays!' called Miss Miller again.



The tall girls came back with our trays. On each tray there was only a small piece of cake and a cup of water. I was too tired to eat, but I drank some water.

After supper, we said our prayers. Then we went to
5 bed. The bedroom was a long room with beds on each side of it. The beds were put very close together.

Two girls had to sleep on each bed. I had to share a bed with Miss Miller for the first night. As I was very tired, I soon fell asleep.

10 We got up early the next morning. We had a Bible lesson before breakfast. The food was terrible. I could not eat it even though I was hungry.

At first, I was not happy at Lowood. Most of the time I was cold and I did not get enough to eat.

15 **Mr Brocklehurst visits Lowood**

One day Mr Brocklehurst came. We were all working in the classroom. When he came in, everyone stood up — the girls, the teachers, and even Miss Temple.

He began to talk quietly to Miss Temple. At first I
20 was afraid that he was telling her about me.

I was sitting at the front of the class. I could hear what he was saying. He said the girls' stockings needed mending, and their hair was too long. He told Miss Temple that she must not give us too much to
25 eat. He did not say anything about me.

I felt happier. I was writing on a slate. I held the slate in front of my face because I did not want Mr Brocklehurst to see me. Then the slate slipped. It fell to the floor with a loud noise, and broke in two.

30 Mr Brocklehurst looked at me and said something quietly to Miss Temple. Then, in a very loud voice, he said, 'Let the child who broke her slate come here!'

Two large girls who sat near me made me stand up. They pushed me towards Mr Brocklehurst.

'Fetch that,' said Mr Brocklehurst. He pointed to a very high stool. Someone took it to him.

'Place the child on the stool.' Someone, I do not remember who, helped me to stand on the stool.

Everyone could see me. Mr Brocklehurst said that I told lies. He said the other girls must not play with me, or talk to me. He said the teachers must watch me carefully all the time. He told everyone how kind my aunt was and how bad I was. He said I must stand on the stool for half an hour, and no one must talk to me for the rest of the day.



Helen Burns

When Mr Brocklehurst left, all the girls went to tea. I got down from the stool and cried. Just then an older girl called Helen Burns came up to me. She was very kind to me. She brought me something to eat. She told me that the girls and teachers did not like Mr Brocklehurst. She said the girls would not hate me because of the things he said. Most of them felt sorry for me. Helen's words made me forget how sad I felt.

Later, Miss Temple came and took us to her room. She was kind to me, too, and she gave us tea.

I told Miss Temple about my life at Gateshead. I told her how cruel my Aunt Reed and my cousin John were to me. I told her about the kind doctor.

She believed me. She said that she would write to the doctor to ask him about me.

A week later Miss Temple received a letter from the doctor. She then told everyone at Lowood that what
5 Mr Brocklehurst said about me was not true.

Everybody was pleased. It made me very, very happy. From then on I liked Miss Temple even more.

Saying goodbye

Spring came after the cold winter. The sunshine was
10 bright and warm, but Lowood was not a good place to live. It was too wet.

In May, most of the girls were ill. Some went home, but some were too ill to travel. The girls who were not ill were allowed to play outside by the river.

15 There were no lessons. The teachers were too busy looking after the girls who were ill.

I was not ill. I was small for my age, but I was quite strong. I was happy to play outside, but I often wished that Helen was with me. She was very ill.

20 One night I went very quietly to see her. No one was allowed to see her. She was in Miss Temple's room, but Miss Temple was not there.

'Helen,' I called to her softly.

She heard me. She was very weak and thin.

25 'Have you come to say goodbye?' she said. Then I knew she was going to die. I tried not to cry.

'Don't leave me, Jane,' she said. So I climbed into bed with her and soon we fell asleep.

30 Next morning I woke up in my own bed. Someone told me that Helen had died in the night. They had found me with her, and carried me back to my own bed. I was very sad to lose my friend.

Looking for work

I stayed at Lowood for eight years. Later I became a teacher there. All through that time, Miss Temple was my friend as well as my teacher. She taught me and helped me a lot. I was happy while she was there. 5

At the end of only my second year as a teacher, Miss Temple got married to a clergyman. When she left Lowood, I felt very sad. I wanted to leave too. I did not want to work at Lowood any more.

I wrote a notice and sent it to a newspaper. The notice said that I was a teacher, and that I was looking for work. A week later a reply came. It said: 10

'We need a governess to teach a little girl of about ten years old. The governess will receive thirty pounds a year. Please send your name and address to Mrs Fairfax, Thornfield Hall, North Millcote.' 15

Thirty pounds a year seemed a lot of money to me. At Lowood I was only getting fifteen pounds a year.

I asked if I could leave Lowood. I had to write to my Aunt Reed first to ask if she agreed. My aunt wrote back to say she was not interested in me. She said I could do anything I wished. 20

A visitor

Two weeks later I packed my bags. I put all my clothes in a big box. Then I was ready to leave Lowood. 25

I was sitting in the hall, waiting for the coach. A servant came and told me someone wanted to see me. I thought the coachman wanted to ask me something. I ran downstairs to see what he wanted.

5 I hurried past the teachers' sitting room. I heard someone say, 'It is her, I am sure.' A woman stood in front of me. She was young and good-looking, with black hair and eyes. 'Well,' she said to me, smiling, 'Who am I, then? I hope you have not forgotten me,
10 Miss Jane!' The next moment I had my arms round her and was saying, 'Bessie! Bessie! Bessie!' Then we went into the teachers' sitting room to talk.

Someone had told Bessie that I was leaving Lowood. Bessie wanted to see me before I went
15 away. She told me she was married and had two children — a boy called Bobby, and a girl called Jane.

I wanted to know about my aunt and my cousins. 'Georgiana is now a very pretty young woman,' said Bessie. 'She went up to London with her mother. A
20 rich young man fell in love with her. They wanted to marry, but his relations would not agree. Then they planned to run away together. But Eliza found out, and stopped them. Now Eliza and Georgiana are always quarrelling.'

25 'What about John Reed?' I asked.

'He is not doing so well,' said Bessie. 'He is tall and quite good-looking, but he never works very hard. He is always spending too much money. His mother worries about him a lot.'

Bessie wanted to know all about me and what I could do. She made me play the piano for her, and said

I played much better than Eliza or Georgiana. She made me show her some of my paintings. When she saw them, she said they were beautiful. She said they were better than anything Eliza's art teacher could do. I told her I could read French, and speak it too. 5

'You are quite a lady, Miss Jane,' said Bessie. 'I knew you would be. Your relations take no notice of you, but I know you will do well.'

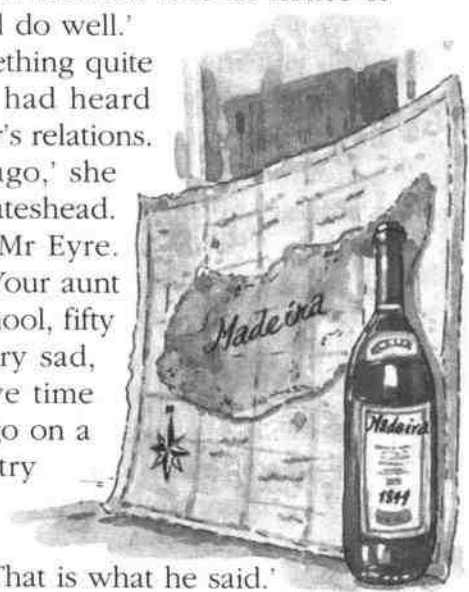
Then Bessie said something quite strange. She asked if I had heard anything about my father's relations.

'Almost seven years ago,' she said, 'a man came to Gateshead. He said his name was Mr Eyre. He wanted to see you. Your aunt told him you were at school, fifty miles away. He was very sad, because he did not have time to visit you. He had to go on a ship to a foreign country where they make wine.'

'Madeira?' I asked.

'Yes,' she answered. 'That is what he said.'

Bessie and I talked about old times for an hour longer. Then she had to leave. I, too, left Lowood soon after that, to start my new life as a governess. 25



Thornfield Hall

Thornfield was six miles from a small town called Millcote. A servant came to meet me at Millcote. He put my box on top of a coach, and we drove very slowly towards Thornfield Hall. It was dark when we arrived. 30