

JANE EYRE

THE ULTIMATE GRAPHIC RETELLING TO
GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE CLASSICS

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JANE WAKES UP IN THE NURSERY, CONFUSED AND FRIGHTENED. MR LLOYD, THE LOCAL APOTHECARY¹, IS SITTING BY HER BEDSIDE. BESSIE STANDS CLOSE BY.



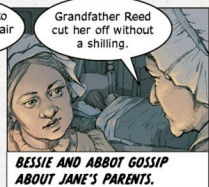
JANE SOON FEELS STRONGER, AND IS WELL ENOUGH TO GET UP TO SIT BY THE FIRE. BUT HER MIND IS STILL IN TURMOIL. SHE CAN'T STOP CRYING.



MR LLOYD GENTLY TALKS TO JANE. HE'S WORRIED; JANE OUGHT TO LOOK MORE CHEERFUL!



MR LLOYD REPORTS TO MRS REED. HE THINKS JANE SHOULD LEAVE GATESHEAD HOUSE - AND GO TO BOARDING SCHOOL!



JANE'S FATHER WAS A PRIEST, AND HER MOTHER CAME FROM A RICH FAMILY. BUT THEY DISAPPROVED OF THE MARRIAGE, AND DISOWNED HER.



BOTH JANE'S PARENTS DIED OF A KILLER DISEASE THAT THEY CAUGHT WHILE HELPING POOR PEOPLE.



SLOWLY, JANE GROWS STRONGER. BUT SHE STILL DESPERATELY WANTS TO LEAVE GATESHEAD HOUSE.



JOHN REED TRIES TO BULLY JANE AGAIN. MRS REED TELLS ALL HER CHILDREN TO AVOID AND IGNORE JANE - AND JANE LOSES HER TEMPER!



MRS REED IS FURIOUS. SHE CHASES JANE UPSTAIRS, SHAKES HER AND BOXES HER EARS.

Do you know where the wicked go after death?



MR BROCKLEHURST BECKONS JANE TO COME CLOSE, AND FIRES QUESTIONS AT HER. JANE IS FRIGHTENED, BUT DEFIANT.



JANE IS FURIOUS THAT SHE HAS BEEN CALLED A LIAR. MRS REED IS SO UNFAIR! JANE SHOUTS AT HER.



IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME, BUT JANE IS BANNED FROM ALL THE CELEBRATIONS. SHUT AWAY, ALL ALONE, SHE FEELS WICKED - AND REBELLIOUS.



AFTER CHRISTMAS, MRS REED SUMMONS MR BROCKLEHURST, A SCHOOLMASTER.



MRS REED SAYS THAT SHE IS THINKING OF SENDING JANE TO MR BROCKLEHURST'S SCHOOL. BUT FIRST, SHE MUST WARN HIM THAT JANE IS WICKED AND VIOLENT. SHE MUST BE KEPT HUMBLE, AND TAUGHT TO WORK HARD.



JANE IS SO ANGRY THAT SHE IS NO LONGER AFRAID OF HER AUNT. SHE CONTINUES TO SHOUT, PASSIONATELY.



1. apothecary: pharmacist and junior doctor.
2. civility: politeness.
3. ill-conditioned: bad-tempered.



I am fonder of you than of all of the others.

AT LAST, JANE IS TO GO TO SCHOOL. BESSIE HELPS HER TO GET READY. SHE IS VERY KIND; JANE IS SORRY TO BE LEAVING HER BEHIND.



Goodbye to Gateshead!

JANE IS TO TRAVEL ALONE BY COACH. IT'S A LONG JOURNEY - FIFTY MILES. WHEN JANE REACHES HER NEW SCHOOL, LOWWOOD, SHE IS EXHAUSTED AND NIGHT HAS FALLEN.



Jane Eyre?

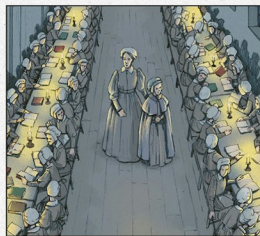
AT LOWWOOD, A SERVANT COMES TO MEET JANE.



INSIDE, JANE IS MET BY TWO TEACHERS - YOUNG, KINDLY MISS TEMPLE, AND MISS MILLER, WHO IS OLDER AND CAREWORN.¹



She is very young to be sent alone. She had better be put to bed...



MISS MILLER LEADS JANE THROUGH A CLASSROOM FULL OF GIRLS.



SHE GIVES JANE SOME SUPPER, COLD WATER AND OATCAKE,² THEN SHOWS JANE TO HER BED IN A LARGE DORMITORY.³



I'm even too tired to dream.

JANE GOES TO SLEEP, EXHAUSTED.



CLANG! CLANG!

EARLY NEXT MORNING, JANE AND THE OTHER GIRLS ARE WAKENED BY A CLANGING BELL.



Brrrrrr!

IT'S STILL DARK, BUT THEY HAVE TO GET UP AND WASH IN ICY WATER. AFTER GETTING DRESSED, IT'S TIME FOR PRAYERS. JANE FEELS WEAK FROM STRESS AND HUNGER.



Abominable!!

AT LAST, BREAKFAST IS SERVED. IT'S SLIMY, DISGUSTING AND BURNT PORRIDGE! AND IT'S TOTALLY INEDIBLE.⁴ JANE AND THE OTHER GIRLS ARE HUNGRY AND MISERABLE.

THE TEACHERS ARRIVE, READY TO BEGIN LESSONS.



MISS TEMPLE, THE HEADMISTRESS, SEEMS KIND AND CALM. BUT THE OTHER FOUR TEACHERS ARE FAR LESS FRIENDLY.



Mmmm!

THE GIRLS LOOK PALE. MISS TEMPLE ASKS WHY. WHEN SHE HEARS ABOUT THE PORRIDGE, SHE ORDERS BREAD AND CHEESE FOR THEM ALL, AND PAYS FOR IT HERSELF.



Lowood Institution
The purpose of this school is to educate the poor and destitute girls of the county. It is a place where they can learn to read, write, and sew. It is a place where they can find a home.

JANE IS CONFUSED BY THE INSCRIPTION SHE READS ABOUT HER SCHOOL.



All of us are charity children.

ANOTHER GIRL, HELEN BURNS, EXPLAINS. LOWWOOD IS A REFUGE FOR POOR, HOMELESS GIRLS. JANE IS APPALLED. WHY HAS SHE BEEN SENT HERE, AND NOT TO A PROPER SCHOOL?

1. careworn: unhappy and tired due to feeling worried for a long time.
2. oatcake: ground-up oat grains mixed with water, then baked into a hard, dry, biscuit.
3. dormitory: a large bedroom for many people.

4. abominable: revolting.
5. inedible: not fit to eat.



Will every day's fare¹ be like this?



Frozen!

JANE SOON LEARNS THAT CONDITIONS AT LOWOOD ARE HARD. THERE IS LITTLE FOOD, AND THE ROOMS ARE FREEZING COLD.



THE GIRLS ARE ALWAYS COLD, TIRED AND HUNGRY. MANY FALL ILL. THEY FAINT FROM WEAKNESS DURING LONG PRAYER MEETINGS.



ON SUNDAYS, THEY HAVE TO WALK MILES THROUGH THE SNOW TO CHURCH.



You dirty, disagreeable girl.

MISS TEMPLE ENCOURAGES THEM, BUT THE OTHER TEACHERS ARE CRUEL. THE GIRLS ARE PUNISHED AND HELEN BURNS IS BEATEN FOR THINGS THAT ARE NOT HER FAULT.



The Bible bids us return good for evil.

LATER, JANE FINDS HELEN SITTING ALONE, READING. JANE IS STILL ANGRY AT THE TEACHERS' CRUELTY AND UNFAIRNESS, BUT HELEN IS MEEK² AND PATIENT.



I could not bear it!

HELEN BELIEVES SHE MUST SUFFER IN SILENCE. OTHERWISE SHE MAY LOSE HER CHANCE TO LEARN. CORRECT HER FAULTS AND HELP OTHERS. JANE DOES NOT AGREE!



Love your enemies!

HELEN TRIES TO CONVINCE JANE THAT SHE SHOULD TRY TO PLEASE EVEN THE NASTIEST TEACHERS. THEY TALK OF MRS REED, TOO. HELEN WANTS JANE TO FORGIVE MRS REED FOR HER CRUELTY.



Would you not be happier if you tried to forget her severity?!



My mission is to mortify these girls... to teach them to clothe themselves with shamefacedness and sobriety...

ONE DAY, MR BROCKLEHURST, THE MASTER WHO OWNS THE SCHOOL, MAKES A VISIT OF INSPECTION. HE FINDS FAULT WITH EVERYTHING! WHILE HE IS DRONING ON AND ON, JANE'S SLATE² SLIPS FROM HER FINGERS...



CRASH! SMASH!



You must be on your guard against her... avoid her... punish her!



MR BROCKLEHURST ROUNDS ON JANE IN FURY. HE MAKES HER STAND, IN DISGRACE, ON A STOOL - AND TELLS THE WHOLE SCHOOL THAT SHE IS A WICKED LIAR!



JANE IS DISTRAUGHT, BUT HELEN SMILES AT HER SECRETLY. IT GIVES JANE COURAGE. AFTERWARDS, WHEN JANE CRIES BITTERLY, HELEN COMFORTS HER.

SO DOES MISS TEMPLE, WHO COMES TO FIND THEM AS SOON SHE CAN. SHE LEADS THEM BOTH TO HER COSY PRIVATE PARLOUR.



THERE, MISS TEMPLE LISTENS WHILE JANE TELLS THE WHOLE STORY OF HER SHORT, UNHAPPY LIFE.



THEN MISS TEMPLE ASKS HELEN VERY KINDLY ABOUT HER HEALTH. WITH A WORRIED LOOK, SHE TAKES HELEN'S PULSE.¹



AFTER THIS, IT'S TIME FOR TEA AND TOAST. AS A SPECIAL TREAT, MISS TEMPLE PRODUCES A SPLENDID CAKE AND CUTS GENEROUS SLICES.



WHEN TEA IS OVER, ALL THREE SIT HAPPILY BY THE FIRE. HELEN AND MISS TEMPLE TALK OF WONDERFUL FARAWAY COUNTRIES, EXCITING BOOKS AND POEMS, AND THE MARVELS OF NATURE.



LISTENING TO THEM INSPIRES JANE TO WORK HARD AT HER STUDIES. SHE WANTS TO LEARN AS MUCH AS SHE CAN!



MISS TEMPLE GIVES JANE EXTRA TIME FOR HER FAVOURITE SUBJECTS: FRENCH AND DRAWING. SHE BEGINS TO FEEL HAPPIER.



AT LAST, THE WEATHER GETS WARMER. FLOWERS GROW QUICKLY IN THE BOGGY LAND AROUND THE SCHOOL. SO DO DANGEROUS GERMS! HALF THE GIRLS FALL ILL...



... AND MANY OF THEM DIE! MR BROCKLEHURST - THE COWARD! - STAYS AWAY, BUT MISS TEMPLE BRAVELY NURSES HER PUPILS.



BUT EVEN MISS TEMPLE'S LOVING CARE CANNOT SAVE HELEN. HER DISEASE IS DEADLY!



JANE KNOWS THAT HELEN IS VERY, VERY ILL. SHE DESPERATELY WANTS TO SEE HER. HELEN'S NURSES TRY TO SEND JANE AWAY...



... BUT SHE CREEPS INTO MISS TEMPLE'S ROOM, WHERE HELEN IS BEING LOOKED AFTER.



HELEN LOOKS TERRIBLY THIN AND PALE, BUT SHE IS CALM AND SMILING. HELEN BELIEVES THAT SHE IS GOING TO GOD, WHO LOVES HER.



JANE IS HEARTBROKEN. SHE DOES NOT WANT TO LOSE HER GOOD, KIND FRIEND. SHE CLIMBS ONTO HELEN'S BED AND WRAPS HER ARMS AROUND HER.



THAT IS HOW MISS TEMPLE FINDS THEM. BOTH ARE VERY PEACEFUL. JANE IS ASLEEP BUT HELEN HAS DIED.

¹ takes Helen's pulse: counts how fast Helen's heart is beating by feeling the artery on her wrist. A fast or slow pulse can be a sign of illness.