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Jane Eyre- An Autobiography

Author: Charlotte Bronte

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About the Book

“Do you think, because I am poor, obscure, plain and little, I am soulless and heartless? You think wrong! From a tragic childhood when she is abused physically and emotionally by her inhuman Aunt Reed to a youth when she falls in love with Edward Rochester—her Byronic employer at Thornfield where she works as a governess—only to learn on their wedding day about his lunatic wife, the passionate and principled Jane Eyre endures many hardships and oppressions. And after she leaves Thornfield, reduced to destitution, the Rivers family becomes her benefactor. What happens when St. John Rivers, her cold clergyman-cousin, proposes to her? Will she accept his proposal or return to Rochester? Addressed to “the reader,” Charlotte Brontë’s Jane Eyre became a sensation shortly after its publication. A Bildungsroman, it follows and explores the emotions of the eponymous character while deftly stitching the motifs from Gothic fiction with romanticism to create an exceptional Victorian novel. Adapted into various art forms, this masterpiece continues to dazzle its readers.

About the Author

Author: Charlotte Bronte

Born in Yorkshire, England, in April 1816, Charlotte Brontë was the third of the six children of Patrick and Maria Brontë. The Professor, Charlotte’s first manuscript, was not accepted by publishers. It was published posthumously in 1857. Jane Eyre: An Autobiography was published in October 1847, by Smith, Elder and Co. of London, under the pen name “Currer Bell.” Jane Eyre, with its depiction of feminism, achieved immediate success. But the publication of Wuthering Heights by Ellis Bell (Emily) and Agnes Grey by Acton Bell (Anne) intensified the speculation about the identity and gender of the mysterious Currer Bell. It resulted in the critical reaction to her work. Shirley, her second novel, was published in 1849 and in 1853 appeared Villette, her fourth novel. Charlotte married Arthur Bell Nicholls in June 1854. She died in March 1855, aged thirty eight, with her unborn child. She was buried in the family vault in the Church of St. Michael and All Angels at Haworth.

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