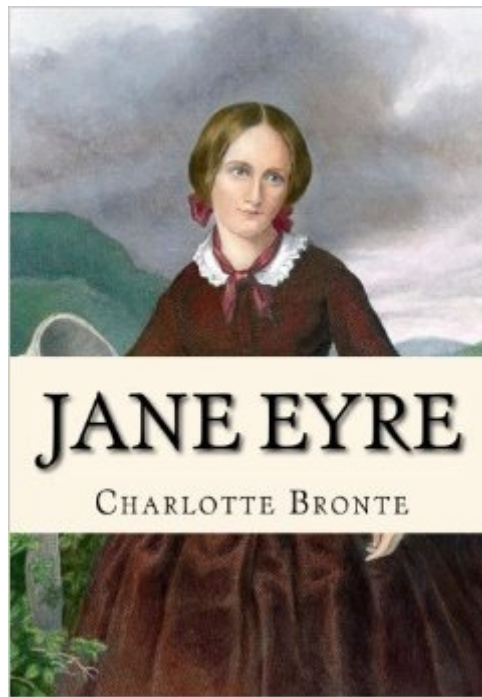


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Jane Eyre



Synopsis

Jane Eyre (originally published as *Jane Eyre: An Autobiography*) is a novel by English writer Charlotte Brontë. It was published on 16 October 1847 by Smith, Elder & Co. of London, England, under the pen name "Currer Bell." The first American edition was released the following year by Harper & Brothers of New York. Primarily of the bildungsroman genre, *Jane Eyre* follows the emotions and experiences of its title character, including her growth to adulthood, and her love for Mr. Rochester, the byronic master of fictitious Thornfield Hall. In its internalisation of the action the focus is on the gradual unfolding of Jane's moral and spiritual sensibility and all the events are coloured by a heightened intensity that was previously the domain of poetry. *Jane Eyre* revolutionised the art of fiction. Charlotte Brontë has been called the 'first historian of the private consciousness' and the literary ancestor of writers like Joyce and Proust. The novel contains elements of social criticism, with a strong sense of morality at its core, but is nonetheless a novel many consider ahead of its time given the individualistic character of Jane and the novel's exploration of classism, sexuality, religion, and proto-feminism.

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Customer Reviews

I'm a guy and I'm the only guy in a single ladies' book club. We read this and I was more into it than they were. Jane has a great heart for the choices she had to make.

If you haven't read it in a while, it might be time for a re-read. *Jane Eyre* is modern in that she is remarkably strong-minded, she loves passionately, and she learns to accept her less-than-perfect

looks. She makes something of herself despite tremendous obstacles, in a time when educated women of the peasant class were not at all common. All this and the book has a delicious dark mystery to savor. I had to take off a star, though, for the dismissive treatment of mental illness. Of course, that is the way things were in those times, but it is painful to be reminded of how mental illness strains the capacity to be and to be treated as human.

Jane Eyre is a classic that I have enjoyed rereading for, literally, decades! My first read of Jane Eyre was when I was in high school. My most recent reread occurred this past month! I am as captivated by the characters and events now as I was in the late 1950's!

This is one of my favorite stories. Jane Eyre is a beautifully written and inspirational story about hardships, sacrifice, love, and loss. Narrated by the most resilient heroin I know. If you want to sit down with a truly good book this is it!

It's hard to imagine a better gothic romance than "Jane Eyre" -- gloomy vast houses, mysterious secrets, and a brooding haunted man with a dark past. In fact, Charlotte Bronte's classic novel has pretty much everything going for it -- beautiful settings, a passionate romance tempered by iron-clad morals, and a heroine whose poverty and lack of beauty only let her brains and courage shine brighter. And it's all wrapped in the misty, haunting atmosphere of a true gothic story -- madwoman in the attic and all. Jane Eyre was an orphan, abused and neglected first by relatives, then by a boarding school run by a tyrannical, hypocritical minister. But Jane refuses to let anyone shove her down -- even when her saintly best friend dies from the wretched conditions. But many years later, Jane moves on by applying to Thornfield Hall for a governess position, and gets the job. She soon becomes the teacher and friend to the sprightly French girl Adele, but is struck by the dark, almost haunted feeling of her new home. Then she runs into a rather surly horseman -- who turns out to be her employer, Mr. Rochester, a cynical, embittered man who spends little time at Thornfield. They are slowly drawn together into a powerful love, despite their different social stations -- and Rochester's apparent attentions to a shallow, snotty aristocrat who wants his wealth and status. But strange things are happening at Thornfield -- stabbings, fires, and mysterious laughter. Jane and Rochester finally confess their feelings to each other, but their wedding is interrupted when Rochester's dark past comes to light. Jane flees into the arms of long-lost family members, and is offered a new life -- but her love for Rochester is not so easily forgotten... "Jane Eyre" is one of those books that transcends the labels of genre. Charlotte Bronte spun a haunting gothic romance around

her semi-autobiographical heroine and Byronic anti-hero, filling it with brilliant writing and solid plot. It has everything all the other gothic romances of the time had... but Bronte gave it depth and intensity without resorting to melodrama. Bronte wrote in the usual stately prose of the time, but it has a sensual, lush quality, even in the dank early chapters at Lowood. At Thornfield, the book acquires an overhanging atmosphere of foreboding, until the clouds clear near the end. And she wove some tough questions into Jane's perspective -- that of a woman's independence and strength in a man's world, of extreme religion, and of the clash between morals and passion. And Bronte also avoided any tinges of drippy sentimentality (Mrs. Reed dies still spewing venom) while injecting some hauntingly nightmarish moments ("She sucked the blood: she said she'd drain my heart"). She even manages to include some funny stuff, such as Rochester disguising himself as an old gypsy woman. The story does slow down after the abortive wedding, when Jane flees Thornfield and briefly considers marrying a repressed clergyman who wants to go die preaching in India. It's rather boring to hear the self-consciously saintly St. John prattling about himself, instead of Rochester's barbed wit. But when Jane departs again, the plot speeds up into a nice, mellow little finale. Bronte did a brilliant job of bringing her heroine to life -- as a defiant little girl who is condemned for being "passionate," as an independent young lady, and as a woman torn between love and principle. Jane's strong personality and wits overwhelm the basic fact that she's not unusually pretty. And Rochester is a brilliantly sexy Byronic anti-hero with a prickly, mercurial wit. Of Charlotte Bronte's few novels, "Jane Eyre" is undoubtedly the most brilliant -- passionate, dark and hauntingly eerie. Definitely a must-read.

Well, I'm another reader who rates this 5 stars. I remember reading this as a young girl and enjoying it immensely but I got so much more out of it this classic the second time around. I admired Jane's integrity, her strength and her ability to forgive in a world that was by no means "kind." I've been on a roll lately with my "classics" reading, there have been some very good reads and Jane Eyre is among "the best". A novel with a strong and resilient heroine, a dark and brooding hero, wonderfully gothic tones and an air of sinister malevolence.....what's not to love?

I've heard about "Jane Eyre" for years. It's a definite classic. But though I told myself that I'd read it one day, all kinds of other books popped up to be read first. But when I discovered this was free on the Kindle, I finally got a copy. And after reading it, the book seemed to say "What took you so long?" This is well deserved of the description "classic". The words just flowed easily (and those I didn't quite get, I could easily look up using the Kindle's dictionary feature) and the story pulled me

along, wanting to find out what happens next. I like how she involved me in the story, at times talking directly to me and making points so that I would see what she was getting at. The only thing I didn't like was that she would name different places, but never actually give their names, just the first letter and a dash, such as "The coach dropped me off at S-, as I had no money to go further." It's like that all through the book. If you don't want to put any real names to places, so that your story can't be found on an actual map, at least make something up. Other than that, I really liked the book. I never thought I'd find myself really going for a romance book, but this surprised me. It started when Jane was but a small child and takes her through growing up and falling in love, then the story changes, of course, and everything gets mixed up. I highly recommend this one.

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