**8.00**

**BROCKLEHURST:** Do you know, Jane Eyre, where the wicked go after death?

**JANE:** They go to hell.

**BROCKLEHURST:** And what is hell?

**JANE:** A pit full of fire.

**BROCKLEHURST:** Should you like to fall into that pit and burn there forever?

**JANE:** No sir.

**BROCKLEHURST:** What must you do to avoid it?

**JANE:** I must keep in good health and not die.

*Mrs. Reed is by the fireside in an ultra-feminine dress. She puts down her tea cup in irritation.*

**BROCKLEHURST:** What’s her parentage?

**MRS. REED:** She’s an orphan. Her mother was my husband’s sister. On his deathbed he exhorted me to care for her. I have always treated her as one of my own...

*Jane silently revolts against this lie.*

**MRS. REED:** If you accept her at Lowood school Mr Brocklehurst, keep a strict eye on her. She has a heart of spite and I’m sorry to tell you that her worst fault is that of deceit. Jane Eyre is a liar.

*Jane's eyes flash with outrage.*

**BROCKLEHURST:** You can rest assured dear lady that we mortify our girls in the sentiments of vanity and pride. They are taught to be plain and modest.

*A passion of resentment is forming in Jane.*

**BROCKLEHURST:** We shall root out the wickedness in this small, ungrateful plant.

*Mrs. Reed smiles sweetly.*

**MRS. REED:** And as for its vacations, it must spend them all at Lowood.

*Mr.s Reed rings for a servant.*

**BROCKLEHURST:** Child of wrath, I shall leave you with this:

*He thrusts a pamphlet into Jane’s hand.*

**BROCKLEHURST:** Read it with prayer, especially the sudden death of the girl addicted to falsehood. Jane Eyre, be ready to meet your judge.

*A manservant enters with Brockelhurst’s hat and coat. Brockelhurst bows to Mrs Reed and takes his leave. The manservant closes the door.*

**MRS. REED:** Go out of the room. Return to the nursery.

**JANE:** You said I was a liar. I am not a liar. If I were I should say that I loved you and I don’t. I dislike you worst of anybody in the world except your son, John Reed.

*She thrust the leaflet at Mrs Reed.*

**JANE:** It is he who should read this, for he is the liar; not I.

**MRS. REED:** How dare you!

**JANE:** I’ll never call you Aunt again as long as I live and if anyone asks how I liked you, I’ll say you treated me with miserable cruelty.

**MRS. REED:** I have cared for you since infancy -

**JANE:** I’ll remember how you thrust me back into the Red Room to my dying day! Even when you knew it was haunted and I begged to be let out. People think you are good but you’re bad and hard-hearted. I'll let everyone know what you have done!

**MRS. REED:** Children must be corrected for their faults.

**JANE:** Deceit is not my fault!

**MRS. REED:** But you are passionate.

**JANE:** You think I can do without one bit of love or kindness - but I cannot live so. My Uncle Reed is in heaven and can see all that you do and think; so can my mother and father. They know how you hate me and wish me dead. They can see. They see everything you do and they will judge you, Mrs Reed.

*Mrs. Reed has turned quite pale. Jane blazes.*