***Jane Eyre***

***Vol-3 Chapter 12***

***Chapter 38***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Summary:***

* Jane tells the Rivers siblings about her wedding; St. John doesn’t write to her for six months.
* Adèle goes to one boarding school and then another because Jane doesn’t have time to teach her; the English schools seem to take the French-ness out of her and she becomes less frivolous.
* Jane and Rochester live happily ever after; the Jane telling the story has been married to Mr. Rochester for ten years.
* Rochester gets his sight back after two years of marriage.
* Jane and Rochester have a son.
* Diana and Mary Rivers each get married.
* St. John Rivers goes to India alone and works himself to death there. The novel ends with a quotation from one of his letters in which he anticipates his own death.

***Synopsis:***

Jane writes of her marriage to her three cousins, and though St. John never mentions her marriage, they do resume their friendship. Jane takes Adèle home to Ferndean and enrolls her in a more appropriate school and keeps a close eye on her. As Adèle matures, she and Jane become great companions. After 10 years of marriage, Jane reflects that her married life has been the greatest blessing of her life. Two years after their marriage Rochester recovers partial sight in one eye, so he is able to see his first-born son. Diana and Mary are married also and happy in their unions. St. John is steady and firm on the missionary path he has set for himself. From the news in his last letter, however, Jane feels St. John will not live on earth much longer. Jane is happy St. John will soon be with his Maker in eternal paradise.

The light, happy tone of this final chapter differs greatly from the dark tone of the rest of the book. It is here that Bronte departs from her Gothic timbre. Jane has finally found happiness in marriage with Mr. Rochester. Those she knows and loves are also happy, making her joy complete. Through all that Jane has suffered in her life and all that she has lost, these losses have finally been repaid. Note the use of biblical phrases in this last chapter, specifically that the final lines of the novel echo the final lines of the book of Revelation in New Testament.***Short Study(Ch36-38):***

Jane and Rochester marry with no witnesses other than the parson and the church clerk. Jane writes to her cousins with the news. St. John never acknowledges what has happened, but Mary and Diana write back with their good wishes. Jane visits Adèle at her school, and finds her unhappy. Remembering her own childhood experience, Jane moves Adèle to a more congenial school, and Adèle grows up to be a very pleasant and mild-mannered young woman.

Jane writes that she is narrating her story after ten years of marriage to Rochester, which she describes as inexpressibly blissful. They live as equals, and she helps him to cope with his blindness. After two years, Rochester begins to regain his vision in one eye, and when their first child—a boy—is born, Rochester is able to see the baby. Jane writes that Diana and Mary have both found husbands and that St. John went to India as he had planned. She notes that in his last letter, St. John claimed to have had a premonition of his own approaching death. She does not believe that she will hear from St. John again, but she does not grieve for him, saying that he has fulfilled his promise and done God’s work. She closes her book with a quote from his letter, in which he begs the Lord Jesus to come for him quickly.

Another problem that troubles some critics is the fact that Jane finds happiness in the novel only through marriage, suggesting that marriage constitutes the only route to contentment for women (after all, the “happy ending” for Diana and Mary, also, is that they find husbands). It could be argued that, in returning to Rochester, Jane sacrifices her long-sought autonomy and independence. Another way of looking at Jane’s marriage is that she doesn’t sacrifice everything, but enters into a relationship in which giving and taking occur in equal measure. Indeed, in order to marry Rochester Jane has had to reject another marriage, a marriage that would have meant a much more stifling and suppressed life for her. Moreover, in declining to marry St. John, Jane comes to the realization that part of being true to “who she is” means being true to her emotions and passions; part of what makes her herself is manifested in her relationships with others—in the giving of herself to other human beings. By entering into marriage, Jane does indeed enter into a “bond,” but in many ways this “bond” is also the “escape” that Jane has sought all along.

In providing a happy ending for Jane, Brontë seems to suggest that individuals who manage to navigate the pressures and hypocrisies of established social and religious structures can eventually enter into lasting love. A woman who refuses to bend to class and gender prejudices, or to accept domination or oppression, might still find kindred hearts and a sense of spiritual community. Lastly, Brontë seems to suggest a way in which a woman’s quest for love and a feeling of belonging need not encroach upon her sense of self—need not restrict her intellectual, spiritual, and emotional independence. Indeed, Brontë suggests that it is only after coming to know oneself and one’s own strength that one can enter wholly into a well-rounded and loving relationship with another.

***Analysis:***

Rochester and Jane finally marry with a quiet ceremony. Immediately, Jane writes to the Rivers, explaining what she has done. Diana and Mary both approve of her marriage, but Jane receives no response from St. John. Not having forgotten Adèle, Jane visits her at school. The girl is pale, thin, and unhappy, so Jane moves her to a more indulgent school. Adèle grows into a docile, good-natured young woman.

At the writing of this story, Jane has been married for ten years. She feels blessed beyond anything language can express, because she and Rochester love each other absolutely. For two years, Rochester remained almost completely blind, but slowly his sight has returned to him. He was able to see his first-born son. And what has happened to the rest of the cast? Diana and Mary Rivers have both married. St. John is still a missionary in India, but is nearing death. The final words of the novel are his: "Amen; even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

The novel has a typically — for a Victorian story — happy ending. All of the characters who were good to Jane are rewarded. Diana and Mary Rivers have made loving marriages; Adèle, not at fault for her mother's sins, has become Jane's pleasing companion. Notice Jane's final ethnocentric comment in relation to little Adèle: "a sound English education corrected in a great measure her French defects." Only through a good English lifestyle has Adèle avoided her mother's tragic flaws — materialism and sensuality — characteristics the novel specifically associates with foreign women. Rochester and Jane have been reunited in a marriage that appears to be perfect: "[n]o woman was ever nearer to her mate than I am: ever more absolutely bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh." While she feared losing herself in a relationship with St. John, she seems perfectly content to become one with Rochester. What are the differences in the relationships; how does Jane maintain her integrity with Rochester? Primarily through his injuries. As his "vision" and "right hand," Jane maintains a sense of dependence over her husband. Thus the chapter blends an odd mix of language designating their "perfect concord" with language showing Rochester's dependence: He sees nature and books through her, for example. Could this relationship have flourished without Rochester's infirmities? For two years of good behavior, Jane grants Rochester partial regeneration of his sight, though he still cannot read or write much.

St. John Rivers has also received his just reward. He toils in India, laboring for "his race." A great warrior, St. John sternly clears the "painful way to improvement" for the natives, slaying their prejudices of "creed and caste," though obviously not his own. In his zealous Christianity, he obviously sees the Indians as an inferior race, and hopes to implant British virtues and values in their supposedly deficient minds. Perhaps to the joy of those he disciplines in India, St. John is nearing death. Despite Jane's difficulties with Christianity throughout the novel, St. John's words of longing for heaven end the novel. Telling his "Master" that he comes "quickly," St. John's words to Rochester's disembodied cry: "I am coming; wait for me." Love is still Jane's religion; in relationship, Jane has found her heaven.

***Critical Study:***

Jane and Rochester marry and settle down at Ferndean. Mary and Diana are pleased about Jane's marriage and plan to visit. St. John never mentions Jane's marriage, but he continues to write to her now and then. Jane finds a boarding school nearby for Adèle, who often comes to visit.

Ten years after marrying Rochester, Jane writes that they are happier and closer than ever. They have a son, and Rochester has regained partial sight in one eye. Diana and Mary are both happily married. [St. John Rivers](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Jane-Eyre/character-analysis/#St._John_Rivers), who followed his missionary path, never married. He writes to Jane that he expects to be called soon to "his sure reward"—he is dying.

[Chapter 38](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Jane-Eyre/chapter-38-summary/) is the only one that has a title: "Conclusion." [Brontë](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Jane-Eyre/author/) might be playing with multiple meanings of the word. Not only does the chapter conclude the work, but perhaps she—through Jane—is offering conclusions about the novel's meaning for the reader to consider.

Rochester finally receives his redemption, as indicated by the restoration of his sight and the birth of a son. Of course, he had to suffer a physical wound for that to happen, and he will bear the scar for the rest of his life. But he is a happier and better man than ever before. Jane has the love and the family that she has always craved. Far from feeling restricted by marriage, Jane feels "supremely blest" and "as free as in solitude, as gay as in company."

Some critics see Rochester's injury as a symbolic castration, an injury that limits his potent masculinity and thus makes him more acceptable to the spinsterish Brontë as a mate for her heroine. In this reading he is more than humbled and chastened by his injuries; he is diminished but also made threatening. Rochester's blindness fits into a long tradition of characters who see more clearly after they lose sight. When Oedipus finally sees the truth of his actions, he blinds himself. The Duke of Gloucester from *King Lear* only sees the truth of which of his sons is loyal when he is blinded. Rochester, blinded, has seen the error of his ways. Jane succeeds in finding a physician who can partly restore his sight; that is, it is through her that he can see more clearly.

That the last words are given to St. John and suggest his acceptance of his impending death solidifies the religious theme—and echoes the death of the Christ-like Helen earlier in the book. Like her, St. John exemplifies the Christian virtues that Brontë cherishes—faith in God, trust in his forgiveness, and humility. The sanctimonious Mrs. Reed and Mr. Brocklehurst, on the other hand, reach no such glorious state.

Adèle's path reflects on Jane's early life. She was unhappy at the first school where she was placed—Jane "found the rules of the establishment were too strict, its course of study too severe, for a child of her age." Able to spare the girl the misery she suffered, at least initially, at Lowood, Jane pulled her from the school and placed her in another. No longer powerless, Jane uses her authority to benefit others.

***Significance:***

Jane and Rochester have a quiet marriage. She writes to Moor House and Cambridge to tells her cousins the news; Diana and Mary send their joyful congratulations, but St. John never acknowledges her marriage. Finding Adèle unhappy at her strict boarding school, Jane enrolls her in a better school closer to home, and she is able to blossom into a lovely young woman. Jane writes that she is writing this narrative after ten years of marriage to Mr. Rochester, and she is still enthralled with her union to her husband. Their marriage is one of joy and equality, and Jane never faces the inferiority that she feared married life would bring. Two years into their marriage, Mr. Rochester regained vision in one of his eyes and he is able to see their newborn son. Jane also reports that Diana and Mary both married happily, while St. John remained a “faithful servant” to God and became a missionary in India. In his last letter to Jane, St. John reiterates that he has done his duty to God and hopes that the Lord Jesus will come for him soon.

Two major themes - Jane's desire for love and her search for religion - mingle with her greatest preoccupation, her need for independence, in different ways. As we have already seen, she has blended love with independence in her marriage with Rochester: "To be together is for us to be at once as free as in solitude, as gay as in company."

However, Jane is also able to maintain a spiritual relationship with God without sacrificing her independence. St. John, on the other hand, is not, as his letter to Jane reveals: "My Master…has forewarned me. Daily he announces more distinctly, ‘Surely I come quickly!' and hour I more eagerly respond, ‘Amen; even so come, Lord Jesus!'" Brontë ends the novel on this note to underscore the connections between St. John's religious devotion and her concern with female subjugation. Unlike St. John, Jane fears yielding her will to her "Master" (or husband), and Brontë has used Bertha's imprisonment in the attic and Jane's imprisonment in the red-room as symbols for the ways in which Victorian society can confine women in marriage or in any other regard. Thus, Brontë concludes the novel on a critique of religion while demonstrating that marriage need not incorporate its restrictions of individual will. This ending also serves as a reminder of the importance of love in a relationship with God: St. John believed that love had no play in a life meant for God, and he ultimately dies alone. Jane, on the other hand, is able to combine her love with her religion and achieve all of her heart’s desires.***Notes:***

## Chapter 38: Jane Eyre Ending

Jane Eyre is a Gothic romance novel written by Charlotte Brontë. It tells the story of Jane Eyre, who is orphaned as a child and must live with her uncle and his family, the Reeds. They send her to a boarding school, after which Jane becomes a governess for a young girl named Adèle, who was taken in by Mr. Rochester. Jane and Mr. Rochester fall in love, and he proposes. However, Jane discovers that he is already married on their wedding day. She runs away and, after falling ill, coincidentally comes to stay with her cousins, St. John Rivers, Diana Rivers, and Mary Rivers. An uncle she had not known leaves Jane a fortune, and she decides to return to Mr. Rochester.

Chapter 37 of Jane Eyre depicts Jane returning to Mr. Rochester, who lost his left hand and eyesight in a fire that occurred shortly after Jane left. At first, Mr. Rochester thinks that the sounds of Jane's voice might be an illusion, but it is not. Jane tells him where she has been, including that her cousin, St. John, had proposed to her multiple times. Mr. Rochester believes that Jane has feelings for her cousin, but after letting Mr. Rochester wallow in jealousy for a few moments, Jane says that she does not love her cousin. Jane agrees to marry Mr. Rochester because she loves him.

Chapter 38 is the final chapter of Jane Eyre. It provides a conclusion not only for Jane and Mr. Rochester, but also for Adèle and Jane's cousins, the Rivers.

## How Does Jane Eyre End?

Jane and Mr. Rochester have a simple wedding, with only themselves, the parson, and the clerk involved in the ceremony. They return home, and Jane talks to Mary and John—a married couple and the servants at Ferndean, the house where they all live. Mary, who is preparing a chicken, freezes when Jane says that she and Mr. Rochester have just returned from their wedding. When Jane turns to John, she sees a large smile on his face, and he tells her that he is happy about the event. She gives them a five-pound note, and as she leaves, she hears them excitedly saying that Jane will be better for Mr. Rochester than any of the ''grand ladies'' he was expected to marry. She also writes to inform the Rivers family, and Diana and Mary are happy for Jane, while Jane is unsure of St. John's response. Six months after she tells him, St. John writes a cordial letter to Jane, and the two begin to correspond regularly.

Jane visits Adèle, who had been placed in a boarding school after Jane had left. Adèle is miserable in the strict setting, so Jane brings her home. However, since Jane must care for Mr. Rochester, she does not have enough time to act as Adèle's governess. They seek a new, more indulgent school, and Adèle is enrolled and thrives in the new setting. She finishes school and returns home, proving to be a kind and caring companion for Jane.

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| Illustration of Charlotte Bronte |
| Jane Eyre was written by Charlotte Bronte. |

Mr. Rochester and Jane, who have been married for ten years at the time Chapter 38 was written, are exceedingly close and deeply in love. For two years after they wed, Mr. Rochester's condition stays the same, but he comes into the room Jane is sitting in one day and asks if she is wearing a ''glittering ornament'' around her neck. She says yes. He asks if she is wearing a blue dress, and she confirms that too. Mr. Rochester tells her that he can see a little out of his right eye, and he goes to an oculist. Eventually, he regains sight in that eye, so ''When his first-born was put into his arms, he could see that the boy had inherited his own eyes, as they once were—large, brilliant, and black.''

Both Diana and Mary Rivers happily marry men they love and who love them in return. Diana married Captain Fitzjames, a naval officer, and Mary wedded Mr. Wharton, a clergyman. St. John goes to India, where he works as a missionary to spread his Christian religion. He does not marry, and, at the end of the chapter, Jane reveals that St. John has grown ill and is dying.

## Analysis of the Last Chapter of Jane Eyre

In the final chapter, the narrator, Jane Eyre, directly addresses the reader multiple times, including the opening line, ''Reader, I married him,'' and the line, ''You have not quite forgotten little Adèle, have you, reader?'' The novel's full title, as originally published, is Jane Eyre: An Autobiography. Addressing the reader reinforces the idea of the novel as an autobiography. However, the story itself is not strictly an autobiography. While Jane Eyre does contain autobiographical elements from Charlotte Brontë's life, it is fictional. This literary device is called Bildungsroman, a story that reads like an autobiography that traces the protagonist's life.

Along with addressing the reader, Jane also provides conclusions for her most beloved family members—Mr. Rochester, Adèle, Diana, Mary, and St. John—which shows how important each of these people is to Jane. The mention of her relatives' conclusions fits with Jane's characterization as a loving person who appreciates those who show her affection. These details, along with the direct speaking to the reader, enhance the novel's realism.

### Jane and Mr. Rochester's Relationship

Jane and Mr. Rochester are devoted to one another and do not care to make a spectacle out of their wedding. They marry quietly, without letting even the servants in the house know their intentions. Jane agrees to marry Mr. Rochester, knowing she must act as his nurse and assist him because of his missing eyesight and left hand. However, Jane feels good about caring for Rochester in his disabled condition. By acting as his nurse, she can spend almost every waking minute with him, strengthening their bond. Jane describes: ''perhaps it was that circumstance that drew us so very near—that knit us so very close: for I was then his vision, as I am still his right hand.'' To them, Mr. Rochester's condition brings them closer together, which they both appreciate.

### Jane Eyre and Adèle's Relationship

Jane and Adèle have a close relationship. They bonded when Mr. Rochester employed Jane as Adèle's governess. When Jane leaves, Mr. Rochester does not hire a new teacher for the young girl; rather, he sends her away to a boarding school. She is not home when Jane arrives to Ferndean, and Jane and Mr. Rochester marry while Adèle is still in school.

Shortly after the wedding, Jane visits Adèle, and she finds that Adèle has lost weight and is not thriving in the school, which is too strict and intense for the girl. Jane cannot bear to leave Adèle in the school, and she brings the young girl home. Although Jane would like to be able to function as Adèle's governess, Mr. Rochester's condition is too severe to allow Jane time to care for both of them. She and Mr. Rochester want Adèle to have a good education, so she is sent to another school with a more lenient instruction style. Jane loves Adèle, and Adèle's happiness is of utmost importance to her.

After Adèle finishes school, she returns and becomes a companion to Jane: ''and when she left school, I found in her a pleasing and obliging companion: docile, good-tempered, and well-principled. By her grateful attention to me and mine, she has long since well repaid any little kindness I ever had it in my power to offer her.'' They become life-long friends.

### The Last Line of Jane Eyre

The Rivers are each given conclusions in Chapter 38 of Jane Eyre. Diana and Mary have happy endings, and they each find loving partners. Jane, Diana, and Mary take turns visiting each other, and they stay close friends and cousins. St. John's, however, does not receive the same happy ending. He achieves his goal of traveling in India as a missionary to spread his belief system. But, as the final lines of the novel show, St. John falls ill, and he expects to die. The last line of Jane Eyre reads: '' 'My Master,' he says, 'has forewarned me. Daily He announces more distinctly,—'Surely I come quickly!' and hourly I more eagerly respond,—'Amen; even so come, Lord Jesus!' '' Not only does this line speak to St. John's impending death, but it also supports the theme of religion, which is prominent throughout the novel.

## Lesson Summary

Chapter 38 of Jane Eyre begins with the simple wedding of Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester. They return from their wedding, and Jane delivers the news and a five-pound note to the servants, Mary and John. Mary is preparing chickens when Jane enters the room, and she freezes at first; however, both she and John, her husband, are happy with the wedding. Jane visits Adèle, who is at school when Jane returns and when she marries Mr. Rochester. Finding Adèle unhappy, Jane brings her home. However, Jane must devote much of her time to caring for Mr. Rochester, who is blind and missing one hand. Adèle; is sent to another school, and after she finishes her education, she returns home and becomes a companion to Jane. After two years, Mr. Rochester surprises Jane by recognizing she is wearing a glittering object on her neck and has on a blue dress. Sight returns to one of his eyes.

The story also provides a conclusion for the Rivers sisters, Diana and Mary, who get married to Captain Fitzjames and Mr. Wharton, respectively. St. John goes to India as a missionary, but it is revealed in the last lines of the story that he is ill and expects to die. This reinforces religion as a theme in the novel. In the conclusion, Jane, the narrator, addresses the reader. This, along with the full title of the novel—Jane Eyre: An Autobiography—supports the work as an example of Bildungsroman, a story that follows the life of the protagonist.

 Print Lesson

Frequently Asked Questions

#### What are the last words of Jane Eyre?

The last lines of Jane Eyre are: '' 'My Master,' he says, 'has forewarned me. Daily He announces more distinctly,—'Surely I come quickly!' and hourly I more eagerly respond,—'Amen; even so come, Lord Jesus!' '' They are read by Jane Eyre from a letter that she received from her cousin, St. John, who is severely ill.

#### Why does Jane agree to marry Rochester at the end?

Jane marries Mr. Rochester because she loves him. She does not care that he needs assistance because of his missing hand and his blindness. They marry and become inseparable.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

The final chapter begins with the famous line: "Reader, I married him." Remaining at Ferndean, [Jane](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters/jane-eyre) and [Rochester](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters/edward-fairfax-rochester) have a small, quiet wedding and live in perfect harmony. Jane never tires of guiding her husband, reading aloud to him, and describing the landscape to him. St. John never comments on Jane's marriage, but Mary and Diana are overjoyed about it.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Jane is Rochester's prop and his guide, both his servant and his master. She becomes his eyes, which were a symbol of his power. St. John does not respond because human love means nothing to him, but the rest of Jane's family is joyful.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Jane](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters/jane-eyre) visits [Adèle](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters) and finds her unhappy in a harsh school. Jane transfers her to a more liberal one closer to home. Through a good English education, Adèle's "French defects" are purged and she grows into a polite and principled young woman.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Jane represents specifically English values, nurtured in good homes and schools. In reforming Adèle, Jane also reforms Rochester's sinful past.

***Summary Part 3:***

Two years into their marriage, [Rochester](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters/edward-fairfax-rochester) partially regains sight in one eye in time to see the birth of their first baby: a son who inherits Rochester's brilliant black [eyes](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/symbols/eyes).

***Analysis Part 3:***

Rochester's regained sight shows how God tempers justice with mercy. The son represents Rochester's redemption.

***Summary Part 4:***

Writing ten years after the events of the novel, [Jane](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters/jane-eyre) informs the reader that [Diana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters) and [Mary](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters) both have married respectable and caring husbands and visit regularly. [St. John](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters/st-john-rivers) went to India alone. She says that in his last letter, St. John said that he had a premonition of his death, and she adds that she does not expect another letter from him. Jane ends by saying that she doesn't grieve for St. John, who has done God's work, and then quotes St. John's last letter, in which he begs his Master, Jesus Christ, to take him soon.

***Analysis Part 4:***

St. John is solitary and strong, but his fate is sad. He and Jane both craved and found a "master" they can serve. Unlike St. John, however, Jane doesn't sacrifice herself (or her life) in order to serve that master and be virtuous. Instead, Jane has found a balance between love and purpose, and between independence and service.