***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:***

The final chapter of Jane Eyre further explores the love Jane and Rochester share. After bringing Adele home, Rochester's sight begins to return, and then he and Jane expand their family. The couple also discovers that Jane's cousins have found joy.

## Marriage

In a simple ceremony, Jane finally marries Rochester. When they return home Jane tells the housekeeper Mary and her husband John that she has wed. Mary looks up from the chickens she is preparing and tells Jane that she saw her leave with Rochester earlier but that she had no idea where the couple was going. John insists that he knew Rochester intended to marry Jane, and when he hears of the wedding, he smiles broadly and wishes Jane happiness. Jane thanks him, handing him a bank note that Rochester wanted John and his wife to have.

Jane then leaves the kitchen to compose a letter to her cousins Diana and Mary Rivers in order to inform them of her marriage. Later, when they respond, Jane learns that they wholeheartedly support her decision to wed Rochester. Their brother St. John Rivers, on the other hand, never acknowledges Jane's wedding or mentions Rochester. Instead, in his rare letters, he simply informs Jane of his wish that she not live a life devoid of God.

## Adele

While content to reveal her news to the Rivers by letter, Jane wants to inform Adele of the wedding in person. Jane requests permission from her husband to visit her new step-daughter in the boarding school where Rochester has enrolled her.

With her husband's approval, Jane sets off to visit Adele, who is overjoyed to see her former governess--especially given how unhappy the girl has been in the harsh environment of the school. Seeing how pale Adele is and how much weight she has lost, Jane decides that she must be taken away from the school.

At first, Jane tries to provide lessons for Adele at home, but Jane finds herself unable to give the girl the attention she needs because Rochester, in his blindness, requires so much of Jane's time. Consequently, she and Rochester send Adele to a school near home. Not only is she delighted to live with Jane and her father, but Adele also does well at school and grows into a very pleasant young woman.

## Happiness

In addition to Jane's affectionate relationship with Adele, she has found a very special love with Rochester, a feeling which, as the years pass, only grows deeper. They spend all of their time together and never tire of each other. 'To be together is for us to be at once as free as in solitude, as gay as in company,' Jane explains.

Intensifying their commitment to each other is the fact that Jane must be Rochester's eyes. Not only does she lead him as he walks, but she also describes to him all that she sees in great detail. She is utterly devoted to him, and he loves her all the more for her tireless support.

***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.