

JANE EYRE, A NEW MUSICAL

SYNOPSIS - ACT I

SCENE 1—*Gateshead Hall*. Young Jane is punished by her Aunt Reed (*SOMEWHERE*). Jane is humiliated by her cousin, John Reed. Her Aunt introduces Mr. Brocklehurst (*WICKED CHILDREN*) who has come to take Jane away to school.

SCENE 2—*Lowood Institution*. Jane is introduced to Lowood teachers and students with accusations from Mr. Brocklehurst (*LOWOOD CHORALE*). She is befriended by Helen Burns. Miss Temple tries to comfort her (*GENTLE SHEPHERD*).

SCENE 3—*Lowood/Infirmary*. Teachers and orphans are crossing in lines chanting evening prayers (*BENEDICTUS*). Helen collapses and is taken to the infirmary. Jane finds Helen very ill. Helen tells her she is going home to God (*TOMORROW IN HEAVEN*) and dies in Jane's arms.

SCENE 4—*Lowood Ext. Eight years later*. Miss Temple says goodbye to Jane at the Lowood gate. Jane sings about new hope and new opportunities (*JOURNEY ON - PART I*).

SCENE 5—*Thornfield Hall*. Jane is welcomed by Mrs. Fairfax and meets Adèle. Jane is startled by a strange laugh. Mrs. Fairfax shows her to her room (*JOURNEY ON - PART II*).

SCENE 6—*Thornfield Hall*. John assists Mr. Rochester who has been injured. Jane returns from posting a letter to find that the man she has just helped on the road is indeed Mr. Rochester. Mrs. Fairfax reveals that he is the master of Thornfield. Mr. Rochester questions Jane. Adèle comes to greet Mr. Rochester and collect her "cadeau." All leave Mr. Rochester to his brooding thoughts (*THIS HOUSE*).

SCENE 7—*Thornfield Hall*. John is helping Adèle with her "little yellow blossoms." Mr. Rochester arrives and Adèle shows him her work. Mr. Rochester questions Jane again.

SCENE 8—*Thornfield Hall at night*. Jane is awakened by another strange laugh. She opens her door to investigate and sees fire in Mr. Rochester's room. She rescues him and they have a tender exchange.

SCENE 9—*Thornfield Hall*. Household staff are cleaning up from the fire. Jane meets Grace Poole and questions her. Grace tells her to bolt her door at night. (*MADNESS UP THE STAIRS*).

SCENE 10—*Thornfield Hall*. Jane learns of Mr. Rochester's interest in Blanche Ingram. Word arrives that Mr. Rochester is returning immediately with a large party. (*THE MASTER'S ON HIS WAY*).

SCENE 11—*Thornfield Hall*. Household staff are busy attending to houseguests. Mr. Rochester and Blanche return from riding. Jane begs leave to go visit Aunt Reed who is dying.

SCENE 12—*Gateshead Hall*. Jane arrives to find Aunt Reed delirious and near death. Aunt Reed shows Jane a letter from her Uncle John dated three years back, telling of his wish to adopt Jane. Jane forgives Aunt Reed and bids her be at peace. Aunt Reed dies (*RECONCILED/JOURNEY ON*).

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SYNOPSIS - ACT II

SCENE 1—*Thornfield Garden*. Jane returns from Gateshead to find Mr. Rochester and Adèle in the garden. Jane inquires of his plans to marry Blanche Ingram. He sings of his changing feelings (*THE WILLOW*).

SCENE 2—*Thornfield Hall*. Guests are assembled for a party. Mason arrives and Rochester is wary. Adèle charms the guests and is spurned by Blanche (*LE PAPILLON*). Mason screams and Mr. Rochester hurries his guests off to bed. Jane assists with Mason. Rochester tends to Bertha giving Grace Poole some rest (*MADNESS REPRISE*).

SCENE 3—*Thornfield Hall*. Sophie startles John who is cleaning the fireplace and covered with soot. He tries to convince her to marry him (*SIMPLE MAN*).

SCENE 4—*Thornfield Garden*. Jane is walking in the garden at twilight and comes upon Mr. Rochester. He toys with her affections and lets her believe he intends to marry Blanche. Jane is distraught at the thought of leaving Thornfield. He confesses that he intends to marry Jane (*FINALLY HOME*). Mrs. Fairfax tries to put Jane on her guard.

SCENE 5—*Thornfield Hall*. Mr. Briggs and Mr. Mason arrive to stop the wedding in progress. Mr. Rochester takes them all upstairs to see Bertha—his wife. He explains her madness. Bertha tries to attack Jane. Mr. Rochester subdues her and sends them all away. Jane is left alone (*WHAT KIND OF LOVE*). Jane flees Thornfield.

SCENE 6—*The Moors*. Jane staggers and collapses in a blizzard. Helen appears (*WANDERING*) and guides her to the parish.

SCENE 7—*The Moorhouse*. Jane is rescued by St. John Rivers and his sisters, Diana and Mary. She gives them a false name. St. John offers her work.

SCENE 8—*Parish School*. Jane is teaching country children. St. John questions her, tells her that he knows who she really is, and informs her of her uncle's death and subsequent inheritance—which she resolves to divide among her new family.

Scene-in-one to *The Moorhouse*. Jane welcome's Diana and Mary. St. John "claims" her for his wife and tries to persuade her to go to India with him (*MISSIONARY WIFE*). She is repulsed and persuades him to tell her what more he knows of Thornfield and Mr. Rochester. He tells her of the fire and death of Bertha. He will not tell her more. She hears Edward's voice in her thoughts and runs to find him.

SCENE 9—*Thornfield Cottage*. Jane returns to find John and Sophie living in the servant's cottage at Thornfield. She inquires about Mr. Rochester and finds him sitting in the garden beneath a willow—haggard and blind. He recognizes her voice but doubts his senses. They kiss and are reunited at last (*HOME TO STAY*). The cast join them onstage (*JOURNEY ON FINALE*).