

# The Analysis of Jane Eyre's Final Choice as to her Marriage

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## Abstract

Charlotte Brontë published the novel *Jane Eyre* that has been esteemed as a celebrated and well-liked English novel across the world due to its exquisite languages, intriguing plots, unforgettable characters, advanced views on feminism as well as Gothic elements, etc. Scholars who have taken great interest in it have never halted their steps in studying it from various perspectives. This paper focuses on analyzing the ultimate causes that Jane Eyre finally chooses Edward Fairfax Rochester over St. John Rivers by analyzing plenty quotes and comparing the two men's appearance, personality, their emotions for Jane Eyre as well as the protagonist's views on them.

## Keywords

Jane Eyre; Jane Eyre's marriage; The causes of her choice in marriage.

## 1. The Appearance of Edward Fairfax Rochester and St. John Rivers

### 1.1. Edward Fairfax Rochester's Appearance

Mr. Rochester is not handsome at all. Then how does the narrator of the story look like? Obviously, She is not as tall, beautiful and elegant as any other female protagonists in established classic literary books. So the far from being handsome Mr. Rochester might not scare off innocent and young Jane when they encounter each other for the first time, she offers an unwanted favour to him because only a handsome man might make her inactive and taciturn. In Chapter 12, Jane met her employer—Mr. Rochester for the first time. She described how he looked like. "... .. its details were not apparent, but I traced the general points of middle height and considerable breadth of chest. He had a dark face, with stern features and a heavy brow; his eyes and gathered eyebrows looked ireful and thwarted just now; he was past youth, but had not reached middle-age; perhaps he might be thirty-five. I felt no fear of him, and but little shyness. Had he been handsome, heroic-looking young gentleman, I should not have dared to stand thus questioning him against his will, and offering my services unasked. ... .." (pp132) Then what does she think of his look? In Chapter 14, Mr. Rochester directly asks Jane, "You examine me, Miss Eyre, do you think me handsome?" (pp155) Her answer is surprisingly straightforward and offensive. "No, sir." After the words slip out of her mouth, she immediately realizes the impropriety in it. So she adds to try to retract what she has said. "... .. that tastes mostly differ; and beauty is of little consequence... ..". (pp155) At the end of the novel, Mr, Rochester's body is ruined because of the fire, but she is still in love with him no matter how changed his appearance might be. This is the quote about his changed appearance in their reunion, "His form was of the same strong and stalwart contour as ever: his port was still erect, his hair was still raven black; nor were his features altered or sunk: not in one years space, by any sorrow, could his athletic strength be quelled or his vigorous prime blighted. But in his countenance I saw a change: that looked desperate and brooding—that reminded me of some wronged and fettered wild beast or bird, dangerous to approach in his sullen woe. The caged eagle, whose gold-ringed eyes cruelty has extinguished, might look as looked that sightless Samson." (pp522) One year later, when she meets him again, she feels pity for him with deeper affection for him. Romantic love can be transient, yet when the love deepens and mutual understanding arises, the couple would be inseparable. What is the writer's intention by

referring to Samson? Samson is a figure in John Milton's *Samson Agonistes*. The historical famous figure is symbolic of unremitting spirit, keeping positive and unwavering will in difficult situations. Jane compares Mr. Rochester to a hero, showing her reverence and fondness for him. "Before Thornfield Hall was burned down, Jane lacks of beautiful appearance that is greatly demanded in high society, that is, she has no advantage of beauty of which many high class ladies are proud, causing a gap between Jane and Mr. Rochester in terms of appearance. And the fact that Mr. Rochester's appearance changes narrows the gap. Thus, standing on both ends of the scale that measures appearance, Jane and Mr. Rochester are largely balanced, their first hurdle to be married was overcome." [1](M, Xiao, 2014) Therefore, I can reach the conclusion that appearance might be the last factor that Jane would take into consideration in choosing her husband. She falls for Rochester not because of his appearance but because of his thoughts that can resonate with those of Jane Eyre.

## 1.2. St. John Rivers' Appearance

St. John Rivers is definitely more attractive than Mr. Rochester in terms of physiognomy. However, it is widely acknowledged that look is not the sole determinant of a happy marriage. According to the novel, the writer spares no effort to describe how good-looking St. John Rivers is, even Jane feels inferior to him with regards to outward appearance. "He was young—perhaps from twenty-eight to thirty—tall, slender; his face riveted the eye; it was like a Greek face, very pure in outline: quite a straight, classic nose; quite an Athenian mouth and chin. It is seldom, indeed, an English face comes so near the antique models as did his. He might well be a little shocked at the irregularity of my lineaments, his own being so harmonious. His eyes were large and blue, with brown lashes; his high forehead, colourless as ivory, was partially streaked over by careless locks of fair hair." (pp415) And to make Mr. Rochester jealousy and cross, Jane Eyre intentionally tells him how her cousin looks like, "St. John dresses well. He is a handsome man: tall, fair, with blue eyes, and a Grecian profile." (pp535) As a well-educated, talented, intelligent woman, though plain, short and small, Jane Eyre knows very well that Mr. Rochester suits her very well.

## 2. Personality of Edward Fairfax Rochester and St. John Rivers

### 2.1. Strengths of Edward Fairfax Rochester

#### 2.1.1. Psychic Powers

In Chapter 37, when Mr. Rochester and Jane finally reunite and he tells her one unbelievable thing that happened last Monday night when he expressed his deep love for Jane by speaking aloud her name, "Jane" in the beginning and at the end of his prayers. Some mystical thing occurred that Jane who lived far away from him at the very moment that she almost agreed to marry her cousin could hear his voice and even answer him by saying "I am coming: wait for me. Oh, I will come!" (pp508) Therefore, thanks to the psychic ability, he gains access to the magical powers in conveying his love to Jane before it is too late.

#### 2.1.2. Generosity

The first thing that occurs to my mind and can be used to prove he is generous is that he adopts Adèle Varens, the daughter of his past mistress, Céline Varens. He also is nice to his adoptive daughter by spending quality time with her now and then, and even willing to spend money on buying various presents for the little girl, and on hiring a governess who can speak French for her. Another thing is that in Chapter 37, he reveals that he would give half his fortune to Jane Eyre after knowing Jane's refusal to become his mistress and would never force his beloved to do what she loathes, however, Jane fled him all of a sudden without telling him in advance. Last but not least, there is a detail that cannot be ignored, that is, Mrs. Fairfax, the housekeeper of Thornfield Hall, earns a handsome annuity provided by Mr. Rochester who sends her away after

he loses his darling, because he wants to keep as few people as possible in his house. Based on the three points, I can fairly state that he is a generous man.

### **2.1.3. Kindness**

In Chapter 36, when Thornfield Hall is burning, he endeavors to save all servants by waking them up and helped them get down, and never forgets to go back to the dangerous and fatal place to get his mad wife out of her room. And then when she was standing on the roof, he still tries to go up through the sky-light on to the roof to save her, but this is fruitless, she still jumps down and dies. He is severely damaged due to the catastrophe. Therefore, he is a benevolent person who shows the precious and noble quality at a crucial moment. Besides, he is consistently kind to his ward. In Chapter 13, Adèle Varens tells her governess that Mr. Rochester has always been in the habit of giving her toys, from this, therefore readers can see he plays a role of a real father and dotes on the little girl; Besides, he not only provides material things for her, but also notices Adèle's much progress in study, suppose he was a careless man who might never take care of his ward's improvement as he is so occupied, but the truth is that he is meticulous enough to spend part of his energy and time on her. Hence, it's justifiable to say that he has been kind to her.

### **2.1.4. Bravery**

His courage can be fully embodied in his heroic deeds in saving and protecting his servants and wife, which has been mentioned above. A person who is not afraid of getting hurt and being killed can be regarded as being absolutely courageous. Another fact that is testimony to his guts is that he can live with his disability. What choice would he make when such a proud, energetic and athletic man loses his sight and his left hand? "To be or not to be?" A brave man chooses the latter, whereas a weak man might choose the former. He chooses to move on without his beloved and with his disability. As Henry David Thoreau said: "Living is so dear." [2] 60 (Thoreau, 1990) For Mr. Rochester, dying is not as frightful as living. So he is like an unconquerable warrior with inexhaustible energy who can survive trials and tribulations, which exemplify what bravery means.

### **2.1.5. His Vivacity**

"Mr. Rochester and—because closely connected with him—Miss Ingram were the life and soul of the party. If he was absent from the room an hour, a perceptible dullness seemed to steal over the spirits of his guests; and his re-entrance was sure to give a fresh impulse to the vivacity of conversation." (pp223) His liveliness is one of the best qualities that Jane values because as a poor orphan, little Jane lives with her relatives who maltreat her, she can rarely be respected, loved and protected by them or servants, excepts for Bessie's kindness to her to make her feel a tint of love. so she is not an outgoing and vivacious person for her emotions have been suppressed. When she goes to school, the education system is unbelievably suffocating and torturing, numerous strict rules impose restriction on her minds and behaviour, except for Miss Temple and Helen that make her feel warmth and happiness. After one year, when they reunite, Jane says "... .. not in one years space, by any sorrow, could his athletic strength be quelled or his vigorous prime blighted. ... .."(pp522) Hence, Mr. Rochester's energy fascinates quiet and introverted Jane a lot.

## **2.2. Weaknesses of Edward Fairfax Rochester**

### **2.2.1. Wild and Dissipated Life**

How many mistresses Mr. Rochester has is not unraveled exactly. According to the novel, he marries his wife just because she boasts beauty and charm. And she is the one all single men want to marry, so it would be lucky for him to become the most competitive and eligible winner in the pursuit of the beauty. " My father said nothing about her money; but he told me Miss Mason was the boast of Spanish Town for her beauty: and this was no lie. I found her a fine

woman, in the style of Blanche Ingram: tall, dark, and majestic. Her family wished to secure me because I was of a good race; and so did she. They showed her to me in parties, splendidly dressed. I seldom saw her alone, and had very little private conversation with her. She flattered me, and lavishly displayed for my pleasure her charms and accomplishments. All the men in her circle seemed to admire her and envy me. I was dazzled, stimulated: my senses were excited; and being ignorant, raw, and inexperienced, I thought I loved her. There is no folly so besotted that the idiotic rivalries of society, the prurience, the rashness, the blindness of youth, will not hurry a man to its commission. Her relatives encouraged me; competitors piqued me; she allured me: a marriage was achieved almost before I knew where I was. Oh, I have no respect for myself when I think of that act!—an agony of inward contempt masters me. I never loved, I never esteemed, I did not even know her. I was not sure of the existence of one virtue in her nature: I had marked neither modesty, nor benevolence, nor candour, nor refinement in her mind or manners—and, I married her:—gross, grovelling, mole-eyed blockhead that I was! ... ..” (pp365-366) The quotes can delineate how he finally marries the woman whom he finds insufferable and irritable. Also his irrational concepts on marriage cause him life-long pain and regret. His desire is to find a good and sensible woman, totally different from his lunatic wife. So he keeps seeking and trying interacting with different woman from different countries, because he is so rich that he can socialize with any woman in any social rank. He also admits that “I tried dissipation — never debauchery... ..” (pp373) He had her first mistress, Céline Varens who “had two successors: an Italian, Giacinta, and a German, Clara; ... ..” (pp373) But he finds that all of them are not suitable for him.

### 2.2.2. Deceitfulness

In the beginning, Mr. Rochester pretends that he is single, gradually makes Jane fall for him, then convinces her that she is the apple of his eye and should marry him, and he doesn't tell her that he is still in marriage and having a living wife who is lunatic and locked up in the third storey at Thornfield. And before their wedding, when Jane asks him about the woman who broke into her room, torn her veil into pieces, and almost scared her to death, he still lies to her, not telling her the mysterious woman's identity. As regards Blanche Ingram, he pretends to flirt with her and make her believe that sooner or later she will become Mrs. Rochester, yet his real intention is that she serves as a tool exploited by him to arouse Jane's attention and jealousy. Therefore, to Blanche, he is fraudulent too.

### 2.2.3. Selfishness

The reasons why I proclaim he is self-interested can be listed as follows. First and foremost, he knows very well that Jane is a pure, innocent and noble girl who has never experienced love affair in her whole life, he still tries his plot to make her his wife by committing bigamy. After his plot is revealed, he still doesn't give up, he still racks his brains for persuading her to become his mistress, which would be a disgrace for Jane Eyre, which can vividly showcase that he ignores his beloved's reputation, dignity and value. Secondly, He exploits Blanche Ingram for his own purpose to get Jane envious, in spite of the fact that Blanche is a shallow gold-digger and only cares about Mr. Rochester's money, he sees through her weakness, vanity and intention, however, an unforgivable fact is that he disregards the fact that that Blanche is a living being who might really get hurt by his hypocrisy. Therefore, Mr. Rochester takes no account of women's value and dignity, he just makes good use of a girl whom he has no intention to marry to fulfill his hidden agenda.

### 2.2.4. Coldness

Firstly, as a master at Thornfield in England in 19th century, he should show his high status and noble air in the presence of his servants. “Mrs. Fairfax said she should not be surprised if he were to go straight from the Leas to London, and thence to the Continent, and not show his face again at Thornfield for a year to come; he had not unfrequently quitted it in a manner quite as

abrupt and unexpected.” (pp192) From this quote, I can see clearly that as a master, he is indifferent to his housekeeper, let alone his ward’s governess, his mysterious and secret trace leads to the distance between him and others around him. Secondly, Mr. Rochester is moody, and sometimes leaves a distant impression on Jane Eyre. “... .. and all my acquaintance with him was confined to an occasional rencontre in the hall, on the stairs, or in the gallery, when he would sometimes pass me haughtily and coldly, just acknowledging my presence by a distant nod or a cool glance, ... ..” (pp152) As a master at Thornfield, “Mr. Rochester had such a direct way of giving orders, it seemed a matter of course to obey him promptly.” (pp154) From this, readers can see that he is very despotic to those inferior to him, including Jane Eyre. Thirdly, he has kept locking his lunatic wife up in the third story of Thornfield for ten years, with Grace Poole as her keeper. It is a cruel and ruthless thing for Bertha, treated as a prisoner, who loses her freedom due to strict constraint imposed on her by her husband and is thought to be insane, threatening and violent. Hence, he just leaves her desolate and deteriorative, instead of sending her into an asylum to get better treatment and creating an opportunity to make her revive, he could resort to asylum because he could afford it, however, he doesn’t, possibly he cannot bear the consequences that she gets sane and healthy in that he intends to let her in the lunatic state till her death. What a cold husband he is!

### **2.3. Strengths of St. John Rivers**

#### **2.3.1. Kindness**

“St. John is the man who saves Jane Eyre’s life when she is starving and would have died of sheer exhaustion and hunger. She has been refused any food by the maidservant Hannah, and has also been rebuked by the maidservant who had thought her to be a beggar-woman of a doubtful character. But St. John renders help and succour to Jane as soon as he witnesses her sad plight. Thus he shows himself to be a kind-hearted man who performs his duty not only as a human being but as a professional clergyman.” (Net 1) Therefore, John is a life-saver of Jane.

#### **2.3.2. Nobility**

John does numerous noble deeds, such as he opens schools for children. Besides, there is one detail about a poor boy who pays his visit to John for his mother is drawing away, though “It’s the worst road to travel after dark that can be: there’s no track at all over the bog. And then it is such a bitter night—the keenest wind you ever felt.” “But he was already in the passage, putting on his cloak; and without one objection, one murmur, he departed. It was then nine o’clock: he did not return till midnight. Starved and tired enough he was: but he looked happier than when he set out. He had performed an act of duty; made an exertion; felt his own strength to do and deny, and was on better terms with himself.” (pp476) Neither bad weather, nor improper time, nor impassable road would make it impossible for him to carry out his noble mission. “He was seldom in the house; his parish was large, the population scattered, and he found daily business in visiting the sick and poor in its different districts.” (PP477) It is justifiable to arrive at a conclusion, when it comes to his duty as a clergyman, he is definitely noble and scared.

#### **2.3.3. Perseverance**

It is widely acknowledged that John is a man who never gives up. Once he sets his mind to be a missionary, he holds on to his mission till the last day of his life. He leads a life he sets for himself. “As to St. John Rivers, he left England: he went to India. He entered on the path he had marked for himself; he pursues it still. A more resolute, indefatigable pioneer never wrought amidst rocks and dangers. Firm, faithful, and devoted, full of energy, and zeal, and truth, he labours for his race; he clears their painful way to improvement; he hews down like a giant the prejudices of creed and caste that encumber it. ... ..” (pp550)

## 2.4. Weaknesses of St. John Rivers

### 2.4.1. Coldness

Firstly, it is obvious that John and Miss Oliver love each other, the latter shows her love in a courageous and flirtatious way to him, frequently visiting him and doing numerous charitable things to attract his attention. On the contrary, the former loves her secretly but believes that she is improper to become his wife because his wife should endure painful trials and tribulation with him, so the lady who was born and bred with all advantages in a wealthy family cannot be there for him through thick and thin. So his detached behavior, totally different from her zealous, active and intimacy hurts her deeply. Secondly, when it comes to his coldness to Jane, in spite of the fact that Jane has strong will, she still longs for being cherished and loved by her friends and lover. But St. John is very indifferent to her well-being. St. John says, “ ‘Jane is not such a weakling as you would make her,’ he would say, ‘she can bear a mountain blast, or a shower, or a few flake of snow, as well as any of us, Her constitution is both sound and elastic;—better calculated to endure variations of climate than many more robust.’ ” (pp479) To some degree, Jane is worried that she might depress and even annoy him, so even though she is extremely worn out, she doesn’t complain at all, nor tell him her reluctance or unwillingness to her cousin. Therefore, the relationship between Jane and John is not so close, largely because he is incredibly indifferent to her feelings. Moreover, after Jane refuses to become his wife, his attitude towards Jane becomes even colder. Let’s read the quote as regards his detached reaction to her. “ That night, after he had kissed his sisters, he thought proper to forget even to shake hands with me, but left the room in silence. I—who, though I had no love, had much friendship for him—was hurt by the marked omission: so much hurt that tears started to my eyes.” (pp495) “What a cold, loose touch, he impressed on my fingers! He was deeply displeased by what had occurred that day; cordiality would not warm, nor tears move him. No happy reconciliation was to be had with him—no cheering smile or generous word: but still the Christian was patient and placid; and when I asked him if he forgave me, he answered that he was not in the habit of cherishing the remembrance of vexation; that he had nothing to forgive, not having been offended.” (pp496) These words are incredibly unbearable to an innocent and kind girl. Thirdly, when Diana and Mary are about to go home in a week for Christmas, Jane prepares for their arrival by making a variety of delicious foods, as well as exquisitely and considerably decorating their house to satisfy their needs, the result is that the two girl are highly delighted, satisfactory and grateful for what Jane has done for them. Whereas John keeps pouring cold water on Jane’s behaviour and gleefulness relating to “domestic endearments and household joys.” (pp472) “The women spend the week in “merry domestic dissipation,” a pleasure St. John can’t enjoy.” (Net 2) It seems that he is nothing but an emotionless machine. “To me, he was in reality become no longer flesh, but marble; his eye was a cold, bright, blue gem; his tongue a speaking instrument—nothing more.” (pp497) Jane gradually comes to realize his nature, though he has many precious qualities, he has the most unforgivable weakness—coldness. His coldness hurts and tortures her. “All this was torture to me—refined, lingering torture. It kept up a slow fire of indignation and a trembling trouble of grief, which harassed and crushed me altogether. I felt how—if I were his wife, this good man, pure as the deep sunless source, could soon kill me, without drawing from my veins a single drop of blood, or receiving on his own crystal conscience the faintest stain of crime. Especially I felt this when I made any attempt to propitiate him. No ruth met my ruth. He experienced no suffering from estrangement—no yearning after reconciliation; and though, more than once, my fast falling tears blistered the page over which we both bent, they produced no more effect on him than if his heart had been really a matter of stone or metal. To his sisters, meantime, he was somewhat kinder than usual: as if afraid that mere coldness would not sufficiently convince me how completely I was banished and banned, he added the force of contrast; and this I am sure he did not by malice, but on principle.” (pp497-498) Last but not least, even his own sister Diana also

blames him for asking Jane to go to India that she is almost incapable of by saying “It was frantic folly to do so, Jane. Think of the task you undertook—one of incessant fatigue, where fatigue kills even the strong, and you are weak. St. John—you know him—would urge you to impossibilities: with him there would be no permission to rest during the hot hours; and unfortunately, I have noticed, whatever he exacts, you force yourself to perform. I am astonished you found courage to refuse his hand. ... ..” (pp503) However, Jane compromises again and again due to her respect for her cousin, and also her great pride in pleasing him as a dear sister, in her eyes, St. John is excellent, she has the idea of equaling him in ability, intelligence and willpower. However, even John’s own sister knows part of his nature, a cold person can drive people around him crazy, even causing their premature death.

#### 2.4.2. Stubbornness

First and foremost, “Not content with his humble local ministry, St. John would like to have been a politician, a poet, or anything that could have offered him glory, fame, and power. His solution is to become a missionary, a position that will require all of these skills.” (Net 3) His sisters fail to dissuade him from occupying himself in going to India to carry out the noble mission, because this might prevent him from becoming magnificent and prominent. Second, after Jane tells John many times that she would not go with him to India as his wife, however, he still holds the wrong concepts that Jane agrees to his proposal of marriage. “When I go to India, Jane, will I leave you! What! Do you not go to India?” “You said I could not unless I married you.” “And you will not marry me! You adhere to that resolution?” (pp499) No matter how clearly Jane expresses herself, he seems that he does not take what she says seriously. What a pigheaded man he is! In chapter 36, taking advantage of his role as a priest as well as orator, he almost persuades Jane to submit to his will by giving powerful and convincing speech. All of these remarks and action can largely embody he is an obstinate person.

#### 2.4.3. Selfishness

St. Jon is the second man who proposes marriage to Jane, does he really love Jane? Absolutely no! It is obvious that the girl he loves is Miss Oliver. His reasons that convince Jane to marry him are so ridiculous. “ I shall be absent a fortnight—take that space of time to consider my offer: and do not forget that if you reject it, it is not me you deny, but God. Through my means, He opens to you a noble career; as my wife only can you enter upon it. Refuse to be my wife, and you limit yourself for ever to a track of selfish ease and barren obscurity. Tremble lest in that case you should be numbered with those who have denied the faith, and are worse than infidels!” (pp495) Jane is a girl with free will and independent spirit, she knows when to fight against unfairness, “You should hear himself on the subject. He has again and again explained that it is not himself, but his office he wishes to mate. He has told me I am formed for labour—not for love: which is true, no doubt. But, in my opinion, if I am not formed for love, it follows that I am not formed for marriage. Would it not be strange, Die, to be chained for life to a man who regarded one but as a useful tool?” (pp503) John always knows what he wants, but he makes light of what Jane wants and what her true intention is and who she is. Thus, I can fairly state that St. John who only cares about what he wants is surprisingly selfish and hypocritical.

#### 2.4.4. Male Chauvinism

Facing Jane’s opposition and censure, John remarks the following sentence to show that he thinks it improper and unjustifiable for Jane to use such strong words in a bitter tone, which is utterly unfeminine. Jane says, “Formerly, because you did not love me; now, I reply, because you almost hate me. If I were to marry you, you would kill me. You are killing me now.” St. John replies, “I should kill you—I am killing you? Your words are such as ought not to be used: violent, unfeminine, and untrue. They betray an unfortunate state of mind: they merit severe reproof: they would seem inexcusable, but that it is the duty of man to forgive his fellow even until seventy-and-seven times.” (pp499) I can acquire the important information from the dialogue

that to St. John's surprise, Jane shouldn't have talked with him in a defiant and rebellious way, which greatly insult his dignity as a human being, clergyman as well as a man.

### 3. Feelings of Edward Fairfax Rochester and St. John Rivers for Jane Eyre

#### 3.1. Edward Rochester's Romantic Love for Jane Eyre

Edward Rochester is domineering, frequently giving orders to his servants, or people inferior to him. When talking with Jane, Mr. Rochester still fails to change his tone at the beginning of their communication. "Go to the library—I mean, if you please. - (Excuse my tone of command; I am used to say, 'Do this,' and it is done: I cannot alter my customary habits for one new inmate.) Go, then, into the piano, and play a tune." (pp146) From the detail of the quote, readers can deeply feel that Jane is superior to his other servants in his opinion, so as a master, he even apologizes to her and uses "please" to show his respect for the accomplished young lady. In chapter 13, he knows about her accomplishments in terms of piano, drawing, and language. Romantic love will possibly originate when one finds his or her lover is exceedingly talented. Therefore, Mr. Rochester begins to notice the plain yet accomplished governess. In the following chapters till Chapter 17, the two frequently talk with each other, they find themselves suit each other very well in character, talents as well as wits from the bottom of their heart. In Chapter 24, they express their love to each other. " 'Well, I feigned courtship of Miss Ingram, because I wished to render you as madly in love with me as I was with you; and I knew jealousy would be the best ally I could call in for the furtherance of that end.' " (pp314) From chapter 17 to 20, the novel describes that Mr. Rochester invites many of his rich and noble friends to his house with the intention to make Jane jealous and to compel her to reveal her true emotions to him, however, Jane still keeps her secret that she is in deep love with him to herself. In these chapters, readers can show their sympathy for Jane who is secretly loving her master when her beloved is busy in flirting with other woman. Mr. Rochester indeed succeeds in letting Jane realize her deep love for him by playing little tricks. But he almost releases his true feelings at the end of Chapter 17 when showing his concern for Jane. " 'But I affirm that you are: so much depressed that a few more words would bring tears to your eyes—indeed, they are there now, shining and swimming; and a bead has slipped from the lash and fallen on to the flag. If I had time, and was not in mortal dread of some prating prig of a servant passing, I would know what all this means. Well, to-night I excuse you; but understand that so long as my visitors stay, I expect you to appear in the drawing-room every evening; it is my wish; don't neglect it. Now go, and send Sophie for Adèle. Good-night, my—' He stopped, bit his lip, and abruptly left me." (pp214) The word after "my" is absent, but readers know clearly what it is, an appellation especially for his love. From chapter 18 to 20, Jane gradually understands that Miss Ingram is not eligible for Mr. Rochester and doubts whether they love each other, and she earns further trust from her master. In chapter 23, he tells Jane that he will marry Miss Ingram, forcing Jane to leave Thornfield. At this moment, Jane utters her inner voice aloud, pours out her heart to him. At last, Mr. Rochester tells her everything in an honest way, then Jane confides him. When he proposes marriage to her, she agrees to become his wife. However, the secret he has kept for years is revealed by Mr. Mason, Jane cannot bear the fact that her beloved is having a wife, so she leaves him, embarking on a new journey without him. In the year without Jane Eyre, he misses and loves Jane all the time. His continual love for her makes their final union successful. At last, when Jane comes back to find out Mr. Rochester, she tells her experience in the past one year, especially mentioning St. John's proposal of marriage. Let's see Mr. Rochester's reaction to it. " 'Miss Eyre, I repeat it, you can leave me. How often am I to say the same thing? Why do you remain pertinaciously perched on my knee, when I have given you notice to quit?' " (pp537-538) " 'No, Jane, you are not comfortable there, because your heart is not with me: it is with this cousin—this St. John. Oh, till this moment, I thought my little Jane was all mine! I had a belief



she loved me even when she left me: that was an atom of sweet in much bitter. Long as we have been parted, hot tears as I have wept over our separation, I never thought that while I was mourning her, she was loving another! But it is useless grieving. Jane, leave me: go and marry Rivers.' " (pp538) Only a man who really treasures a woman can get jealous and furious when knowing other man wants to snatch her from him. "And there is enchantment in the very hour I am now spending with you. Who can tell what a dark, dreary, hopeless life I have dragged on for months past? Doing nothing, expecting nothing; merging night in day; feeling but the sensation of cold when I let the fire go out, of hunger when I forgot to eat: and then a ceaseless sorrow, and, at times, a very delirium of desire to behold my Jane again. Yes: for her restoration I longed, far more than for that of my lost sight. How can it be that Jane is with me, and says she loves me? Will she not depart as suddenly as she came? To-morrow, I fear I shall find her no more." (pp530) Readers can suddenly comprehend Mr. Rochester's zealous and sincere love for Jane after reading these touching sentences.

### 3.2. St. John Rivers's Selfish Love

It is well-known that the only reason that St. John asks Jane to marry him is that he needs a wife who is as stout and industrious as he is and can help him fulfill his glorious mission, therefore St. John's motivation for wanting a wife is shameful and unjustifiable for Jane. "I scorn your idea of love,' I could not help saying, as I rose up and stood before him, leaning my back against the rock. 'I scorn the counterfeit sentiment you offer: yes, St. John, and I scorn you when you offer it.'" (pp494) With confidence, strong will and rebellious spirit, Jane is very outspoken and candid to confront him with strong words to express her true feelings, because Jane believes that they are on equal terms. Jane used to think St. John is truly noble and sacred, but gradually when she realizes his weakness, she has the courage to challenge him. "Forgive me the words, St. John; but it is your own fault that I have been roused to speak so unguardedly. You have introduced a topic on which our natures are at variance—a topic we should never discuss: the very name of love is an apple of discord between us. If the reality were required, what should we do? How should we feel? My dear cousin, abandon your scheme of marriage—forget it." (pp494-495) St. John's selfish love is criticized and despised by Jane. That is why when he earnestly asks her to go to India with him as his wife, she denies the proposal immediately with her sense and reason, because she knows very well that the girl John truly loves is Miss Olive. Above all, when Jane refuses his proposal of marriage, he is not heartbroken and depressed at all, which hurt Jane a lot because it is a disgrace, or an insult for Jane. If he was in deep love with her, he would definitely be devastated after being rejected by his beloved. Therefore, it is impossible for Jane to marry him because he does not love her, nor care a hang about her.

## 4. Jane Eyre's feelings for Edward Fairfax Rochester and St. John Rivers

### 4.1. Her Reverence for Edward Fairfax Rochester

Jane's profound love for Mr. Rochester is reflected in this book frequently. "Most true is it that 'beauty is in the eye of the gazer.' My master's colourless, olive face, square, massive brow, broad and jetty eyebrows, deep eyes, strong features, firm, grim mouth,—all energy, decision, will,—were not beautiful, according to rule; but they were more than beautiful to me; they were full of an interest, an influence that quite mastered me,—that took my feelings from my own power and fettered them in his. I had not intended to love him; the reader knows I had wrought hard to extirpate from my soul the germs of love there detected; and now, at the first renewed view of him, they spontaneously arrived, green and strong! He made me love him without looking at me." (pp206-207) Her way of expressing her genuine love and sincere concern is direct and obvious. Young as Jane is, she is intelligent, sensible and perceptible enough to know what true love means. She knows very well that Mr. Rochester and she would be a good match, 'He is not to them what he is to me,' I thought: 'he is not of their kind. I believe he is of mine;—I

am sure he is—I feel akin to him—I understand the language of his countenance and movements: though rank and wealth sever us widely, I have something in my brain and heart, in my blood and nerves, that assimilates me mentally to him. Did I say, a few days since, that I had nothing to do with him but to receive my salary at his hands? Did I forbid myself to think of him in any other light than as a paymaster? Blasphemy against nature! Every good, true, vigorous feeling I have gathers impulsively round him. I know I must conceal my sentiments: I must smother hope; I must remember that he cannot care much for me. For when I say that I am of his kind, I do not mean that I have his force to influence, and his spell to attract; I mean only that I have certain tastes and feelings in common with him. I must, then, repeat continually that we are for ever sundered:—and yet, while I breathe and think, I must love him.”(pp207-pp208) “I have told you, reader, that I had learnt to love Mr. Rochester: I could not unlove him now, merely because I found that he had ceased to notice me—because I might pass hours in his presence, and he would never once turn his eyes in my direction—because I saw all his attentions appropriated by a great lady, who scorned to touch me with the hem of her robes as she passed; who, if ever her dark and imperious eye fell on me by chance, would withdraw it instantly as from an object too mean to merit observation. I could not unlove him, because I felt sure he would soon marry this very lady—because I read daily in her a proud security in his intentions respecting her—because I witnessed hourly in him a style of courtship which, if careless and choosing rather to be sought than to seek, was yet, in its very carelessness, captivating, and in its very pride, irresistible.”(pp219-220) After observing carefully Miss Ingram, she knows that the latter is not the girl Mr. Rochester wants. “If she had managed the victory at once, and he had yielded and sincerely laid his heart at her feet, I should have covered my face, turned to the wall, and (figuratively) have died to them. If Miss Ingram had been a good and noble woman, endowed with force, fervour, kindness, sense, I should have had one vital struggle with two tigers—jealousy and despair: then, my heart torn out and devoured, I should have admired her—acknowledged her excellence, and been quiet for the rest of my days: and the more absolute her superiority, the deeper would have been my admiration—the more truly tranquil my quiescence. But as matters really stood, to watch Miss Ingram’s efforts at fascinating Mr. Rochester, to witness their repeated failure—herself unconscious that they did fail; vainly fancying that each shaft launched hit the mark, and infatuatedly pluming herself on success, when her pride and self-complacency repelled further and further what she wished to allure—to witness this, was to be at once under ceaseless excitation and ruthless restraint.” (pp221) The fire of true love is usually so unstoppable and overwhelming that reason, caste, custom, the income gap and the age disparity cannot quench it. “I turned my lips to the hand that lay on my shoulder. I loved him very very much—more than I could trust myself to say—more than words had power to express.” (pp315) In the last two chapters, Jane comes back to be with Mr. Rochester who is physically incapacitated, impoverished, depressed and lonely. There is a remark that moves me to tears because I can feel that Jane is a kind and great person. “ ‘Certainly—unless you object. I will be your neighbour, your nurse, your housekeeper. I find you lonely: I will be your companion—to read to you, to walk with you, to sit with you, to wait on you, to be eyes and hands to you. Cease to look so melancholy, my dear master; you shall not be left desolate, so long as I live.’ ” (pp527) In a word, the only man that she wants to marry and would be there in weal and woe is Mr. Rochester. So she finally chooses Mr. Rochester as her husband over her cousins, goes back to reunite with her dearest, and finally decides to walk down the aisle with him though he is blind and crippled.

#### 4.2. Her Sisterly Emotion to St. John Rivers

Firstly, when Jane lives with Diana, Mary and St. John, she finds that Rosamond and St. John love each other. Jane finally finds an opportunity to force him to talk about love. When she shows her care to St. John’s love affair, she plays the role of a real sister. “Since I had ascertained that Rosamond really preferred him, and that her father was not likely to oppose the match, I—less

exalted in my views than St. John—had been strongly disposed in my own heart to advocate their union. It seemed to me that, should he become the possessor of Mr. Oliver's large fortune, he might do as much good with it as if he went and laid his genius out to wither, and his strength to waste, under a tropical sun. With this persuasion I now answered—

'As far as I can see, it would be wiser and more judicious if you were to take to yourself the original at once.' " (pp448)

Secondly, how does Jane respond to the news that St. John, Diana and Mary are her cousins, "... .. It seemed I had found a brother: one I could be proud of,—one I could love; ....." (pp465) While St. John's reaction to her exhilaration is surprising, " 'You were serious when I told you you had got a fortune; and now, for a matter of no moment, you are excited.' " As a priest, he is surprisingly more materialistic than Jane. While Jane once again expresses her great joy, " 'What can you mean? It may be no moment to you; you have sisters and don't care for a cousin; but I had nobody; and now three relation, —or two, if you don't choose to be counted, —are born into my world full-grown. I say again, I am glad!'" (pp465) It is unbearable that as a clergyman, he fails to sympathize Jane's longing for love from family and kinship. "... .. as I looked at him, that this man, alienated as he now was, had once saved my life, and that we were relations, I was moved to make a last attempt to regain his friendship. ... .." (pp498) Jane is still thankful to him for he once saved her life and he is her cousin, so Jane beats her brains out to be reconciled with him. "As for me, I daily wished more to please him; but to do so, I felt daily more and more that I must disown half my nature, stifle half my faculties, wrest my tastes from their original bent, force myself to the adoption of pursuits for which I had no natural vocation. He wanted to train me to an elevation I could never reach; it racked me hourly to aspire to the standard he uplifted. The thing was as impossible as to mould my irregular features to his correct and classic pattern, to give to my changeable green eyes the sea-blue tint and solemn lustre of his own." (pp481) After Jane reunites with Mr. Rochester, when Mr. Rochester becomes jealous and has the misconception that Jane is still in love with her cousin, she corrects his misjudgment by saying, " 'He is not my husband, nor ever will be. He does not love me: I do not love him. He loves (as he can love, and that is not as you love) a beautiful young lady called Rosamond. He wanted to marry me only because he thought I should make a suitable missionary's wife, which she would not have done. He is good and great, but severe; and, for me, cold as an iceberg. He is not like you, sir: I am not happy at his side, nor near him, nor with him. He has no indulgence for me—no fondness. He sees nothing attractive in me; not even youth—only a few useful mental points.—Then I must leave you, sir, to go to him?' " (pp538) To conclude, Jane Eyre admires and loves talented, principled and sacred John like a sister does her brother.

## 5. Conclusion

"Thus whether the couple is able to harmonize with one another really depends on whether they're able to manage and deal with one another's personality differences, including habit patterns, needs, wishes, personality traits, and emotional styles. Other issues, such as religious similarity, spiritual similarity, similar humanitarian values, similar political positions, and so forth, are never as strong as the issues derived from personality problems and differences." [3]5 In Jane Eyre, Jane and Mr. Rochester overcome many hurdles before they gain happiness, such as wealth, age, custom, and caste. "coldest the remembrance of the wider ocean—wealth, caste, custom intervened between me and what I naturally and inevitably loved." (pp301) Firstly, they gradually fall in love with each other by frequently communicating with each other to exchange their profound thoughts, and finding out they are identical in thoughts and beliefs. Secondly, Jane is always a bosom friend of Mr. Rochester whenever he is in crisis situations. For example, it is Jane who wakes Mr. Rochester up before he is almost burned to death in his bed, brings

water to put out a fire, and saves his life. Besides, when Mr. Mason was stabbed and on the verge of dying, it is Jane who cooperates with Mr. Rochester so that Mr. Mason can be saved. From the two events, readers can see that Jane always keeps Mr. Rochester's secret, never being a busybody. When he faces some emergencies, he can totally rely on her, meanwhile she completely has faith in him, therefore she is always submissive to her master only if these things are moral, reasonable and understandable for her. At last, Mr Rochester is sightless and crippled, she still does not care about how his look deteriorates. She is willing to stand by him to serve him and accompany him. "I have now been married ten years. I know what it is to live entirely for and with what I love best on earth. I hold myself supremely blest—blest beyond what language can express; because I am my husband's life as fully as he is mine. No woman was ever nearer to her mate than I am: ever more absolutely bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. I know no weariness of my Edward's society: he knows none of mine, any more than we each do of the pulsation of the heart that beats in our separate bosoms; consequently, we are ever together. To be together is for us to be at once as free as in solitude, as gay as in company. We talk, I believe, all day long: to talk to each other is but a more animated and an audible thinking. All my confidence is bestowed on him, all his confidence is devoted to me; we are precisely suited in character—perfect concord is the result." (pp547) At last, I can find that the secret to happiness in marriage is to conquer one difficulty after another with your soul partner, if you shudder, waver, or cower facing a lion in the way, you are doomed to gain nothing. Jane is a woman worthy of our admiration, though she is submissive to her master, but she has the capability to tell right from wrong, and have the courage to say NO when it is against her principle and will. Thus, she is a true fighter consistently fighting for her happiness and freedom.

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