

Jane Eyre

JANE is a young orphan living in a loveless home. In this scene, she has been locked in 'the red room' in which her uncle died.

JANE: Let me out! Let me out! I won't say my prayers. I won't! I won't! I don't care if Miss Abbott is right and something bad does come down the chimney to take me away. I really wish it would, then I wouldn't have to live in this horrible house again. But... I don't think it will and I'm scared. Scared of this lonely, cold bedroom; scared of those shadows and those flickering lights.

Oh, my head is aching so much after that fall! It just isn't fair to lock me away in here. If Uncle Reed had been alive he would never have allowed them to be so hard and cruel to me. Oh, why did they do it? Why?

Oh! There's a light on the wall and it's moving towards me. Oh look, the shadows and the lights... they seem to be moving across the room. They're coming closer. They're closing in on me. Help! Help! Bessie! Aunt! I can't bear it any longer! Let me out! Let me out! Please open the door. Please take me out. Let me go to the nursery. I'm afraid. Let me hold your hand, Bessie. Please don't turn away from me. Oh aunt, have pity. Forgive me! I can't endure it. Let me be punished some other way.

by Charlotte Brontë, adapted by LAMDA