

jane eyre wide sargasso sea

****Exploring the Connection Between Jane Eyre and Wide Sargasso Sea****

jane eyre wide sargasso sea are two literary works that have captivated readers for generations, offering rich narratives that explore themes of identity, colonialism, and gender. While Charlotte Brontë's **Jane Eyre** is a staple of Victorian literature, Jean Rhys's **Wide Sargasso Sea** serves as a powerful prequel and response that reimagines the story from a fresh, postcolonial perspective. Understanding the intricate relationship between these two novels not only deepens our appreciation of classic literature but also opens up conversations about voice, power, and cultural context.

The Interwoven Worlds of Jane Eyre and Wide Sargasso Sea

At first glance, **Jane Eyre** and **Wide Sargasso Sea** might seem like distinct stories, but they are intimately connected. **Jane Eyre**, published in 1847, tells the story of an orphaned governess who falls in love with the enigmatic Mr. Rochester. A pivotal character in this novel is Bertha Mason, Rochester's mysterious "mad" wife who is confined to the attic. Bertha is often portrayed as a villain or an obstacle in **Jane Eyre**, and her backstory is largely unexplored.

Enter **Wide Sargasso Sea**, published in 1966 by Jean Rhys, which breathes life into Bertha Mason's character by telling her story from her own point of view. This novel is set in the Caribbean and explores the complexities of Bertha's identity—named Antoinette Cosway in Rhys's work—and the cultural, racial, and psychological tensions that lead to her tragic fate. Rhys's novel is a postcolonial feminist response that challenges the Victorian narrative, offering a nuanced portrayal of the "madwoman in the attic."

Why Wide Sargasso Sea Matters as a Prequel

Many readers find that **Wide Sargasso Sea** enriches their understanding of **Jane Eyre** by providing context to Bertha Mason's character, who in Brontë's novel is often seen as a one-dimensional figure. Rhys's novel addresses:

- ****Colonialism and Race****: Set in Jamaica and Dominica, **Wide Sargasso Sea** highlights the tensions between colonizers and the colonized, the legacies of slavery, and the complexities of racial identity.
- ****Gender and Power****: The novel critiques the patriarchal systems that oppress women, illustrating how Antoinette's agency is stripped away by the men around her.
- ****Psychological Depth****: Rhys delves into Antoinette's mental state,

exploring themes of madness not as inherent but as a product of trauma and cultural displacement.

Comparing Themes and Characters

The dialogue between the two novels is fascinating because it shines a light on contrasting perspectives and societal issues.

Identity and Otherness

In **Jane Eyre**, Bertha Mason is the "other"—exotic, dangerous, and unknowable. She represents the fears and prejudices of Victorian England toward the colonial "other." Conversely, in **Wide Sargasso Sea**, Antoinette's identity is fractured by her mixed heritage and her liminal position between European and Caribbean cultures. This exploration of identity challenges readers to question the labels imposed on individuals by society.

Madness and Confinement

Madness is a central motif in both novels but is portrayed differently. In **Jane Eyre**, Bertha's madness is mysterious and frightening, almost supernatural. In **Wide Sargasso Sea**, madness is humanized and contextualized. Antoinette's mental decline is shown as a consequence of isolation, betrayal, and cultural alienation. Here, the attic becomes a metaphor for the ways society confines and silences those it deems "other."

Love and Betrayal

Both novels explore complex relationships marked by love and betrayal. Rochester's marriage to Bertha/Antoinette is fraught with misunderstandings and cultural clashes. Rhys's narrative reveals how colonial attitudes and personal insecurities poison their relationship, providing a tragic dimension to what might otherwise seem a simple villainous portrayal in **Jane Eyre**.

Literary Styles and Narrative Techniques

One of the reasons **Wide Sargasso Sea** stands out is its innovative narrative style, which contrasts with Brontë's more traditional Victorian prose.

Multiple Perspectives

Jean Rhys employs multiple narrators, allowing readers to hear Antoinette's voice directly, as well as that of her husband, who remains unnamed but is clearly Rochester. This multiplicity creates a layered narrative that invites readers to empathize with characters who are often misunderstood or marginalized.

Symbolism and Setting

Both novels use setting symbolically, but in different ways. *Jane Eyre*'s gloomy Thornfield Hall reflects repression and mystery, while the lush, oppressive Caribbean landscape in *Wide Sargasso Sea* symbolizes both beauty and danger, freedom and entrapment. Rhys uses the natural environment to mirror Antoinette's internal turmoil.

Why Read Jane Eyre and Wide Sargasso Sea Together?

Reading these novels in tandem offers a richer experience. Here's why:

- **Challenge Traditional Narratives:** *Wide Sargasso Sea* encourages readers to question the dominant narratives about race, gender, and colonial history embedded in classic literature.
- **Understand Historical Context:** The prequel sheds light on the socio-political atmosphere of the Caribbean post-slavery era, which is only alluded to in *Jane Eyre*.
- **Appreciate Feminist Perspectives:** Rhys's novel is a pioneering feminist critique that reclaims the story of a silenced woman.
- **Explore Postcolonial Themes:** Both texts engage with the legacy of empire, but Rhys's work foregrounds the voices of colonized peoples.

Tips for Readers Approaching Both Novels

If you're diving into *Jane Eyre* and *Wide Sargasso Sea*, here are some tips to enhance your reading journey:

1. **Start with Jane Eyre:** This provides the original narrative and context for the characters.
2. **Reflect on Bertha's Role:** Notice how Bertha is portrayed and what questions or gaps you see in her story.
3. **Then Read Wide Sargasso Sea:** Experience Antoinette's perspective to fill in those gaps.
4. **Consider Historical and Cultural Contexts:** Research the Caribbean's colonial history to understand the setting better.
5. **Discuss and Compare:** Talking about these books with others can reveal new insights.

The Enduring Legacy of Jane Eyre Wide Sargasso Sea

The literary conversation between *Jane Eyre* and *Wide Sargasso Sea* continues to inspire readers, critics, and scholars because it challenges us to reconsider whose stories are told and how. Jean Rhys's reclamation of Bertha Mason's narrative invites empathy and critical reflection on historical injustices, while Charlotte Brontë's original work remains a powerful exploration of individual resilience and morality.

Together, these novels demonstrate the power of literature to evolve and respond across time, bridging Victorian England and postcolonial Caribbean realities. Whether you're a student, a casual reader, or a literature enthusiast, exploring the relationship between *Jane Eyre* and *Wide Sargasso Sea* opens a window into complex themes of identity, oppression, and liberation that remain relevant today.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does 'Wide Sargasso Sea' serve as a prequel to 'Jane Eyre'?

'Wide Sargasso Sea' by Jean Rhys is a prequel to Charlotte Brontë's 'Jane Eyre,' providing the backstory of Bertha Mason, the 'madwoman in the attic.' It explores her life in the Caribbean, her identity, and the events leading to her confinement in Thornfield Hall, thereby giving depth to a previously marginalized character.

What themes connect 'Jane Eyre' and 'Wide Sargasso Sea'?

Both novels explore themes of identity, colonialism, race, gender, and madness. 'Wide Sargasso Sea' particularly highlights postcolonial issues and the effects of colonization on personal identity, which complements and critiques the Victorian perspectives found in 'Jane Eyre.'

How does Jean Rhys's portrayal of Bertha Mason in 'Wide Sargasso Sea' differ from her depiction in 'Jane Eyre'?

In 'Jane Eyre,' Bertha Mason is depicted mainly as a mysterious, violent 'madwoman.' In contrast, 'Wide Sargasso Sea' humanizes her by providing her name (Antoinette Cosway), background, and psychological depth, portraying her as a victim of cultural displacement, racial tensions, and patriarchal oppression.

Why is 'Wide Sargasso Sea' considered a postcolonial response to 'Jane Eyre'?

'Wide Sargasso Sea' critiques the colonial attitudes embedded in 'Jane Eyre' by giving voice to the colonized subject, Bertha Mason. It exposes the racial and cultural prejudices of the British Empire and challenges the dominant narratives of Victorian literature, making it a seminal postcolonial novel.

How do the settings in 'Jane Eyre' and 'Wide Sargasso Sea' influence the characters and themes?

The Caribbean setting in 'Wide Sargasso Sea' shapes Antoinette's identity, highlighting themes of racial tension, displacement, and cultural hybridity, while the English setting in 'Jane Eyre' emphasizes themes of social class, morality, and repression. The contrasting settings deepen the understanding of Bertha/Antoinette's tragic fate.

Additional Resources

Jane Eyre and Wide Sargasso Sea: A Comparative Exploration of Canon and Counter-Narrative

jane eyre wide sargasso sea represents a fascinating intersection in literary studies, where Charlotte Brontë's classic Victorian novel meets Jean Rhys's postcolonial response. Both texts have been widely examined by scholars and readers alike, but their relationship transcends mere sequel or prequel status. Instead, Wide Sargasso Sea functions as a critical reimagining and deconstruction of Jane Eyre's narrative, addressing themes of identity, colonialism, and gender oppression with renewed urgency and nuance. This

article examines the interplay between these two seminal works, analyzing their thematic contrasts, narrative techniques, and cultural significance, while incorporating relevant insights from contemporary literary criticism.

Contextualizing Jane Eyre and Wide Sargasso Sea

Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, published in 1847, is often celebrated as a pioneering work of feminist literature. Told through the first-person perspective of Jane, an orphaned governess, the novel explores themes of morality, social class, and female autonomy within the rigid structures of Victorian England. The text's Gothic undertones and complex character dynamics, especially between Jane and Mr. Rochester, have cemented it as a staple of the English literary canon.

Conversely, Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*, released in 1966, serves as a prequel and postcolonial critique by narrating the backstory of Bertha Mason, the enigmatic "madwoman in the attic" from *Jane Eyre*. Rhys relocates the narrative to the Caribbean, providing a voice to a character previously marginalized and demonized. This novel challenges the colonialist and patriarchal ideologies implicit in Brontë's work, exposing the racial tensions and cultural dislocation experienced by its protagonist, Antoinette Cosway (Bertha Mason).

Reclaiming the Silenced Voice

One of the most striking aspects of *Wide Sargasso Sea* is its focus on giving agency to a character who, in *Jane Eyre*, exists primarily as a symbol of madness and otherness. Rhys's novel delves into Antoinette's psyche, illustrating her upbringing amid the decaying plantations of post-emancipation Jamaica and her fraught marriage to an unnamed Englishman (implied to be Rochester). This psychological depth contrasts markedly with the limited portrayal of Bertha in *Jane Eyre*, where she is reduced to a shadowy figure of hysteria.

By foregrounding Antoinette's experiences, *Wide Sargasso Sea* interrogates the intersections of race, gender, and colonial power structures. The novel explores how Antoinette's Creole identity complicates her relationship with both the white European colonizers and the Black Caribbean community. This nuanced portrayal highlights systemic racial prejudices and the devastating effects of cultural alienation, themes largely absent or implicit in *Jane Eyre*.

Thematic Divergences and Convergences

While both novels share characters and key plot elements, their thematic

focuses diverge significantly. *Jane Eyre* centers on morality, individual resilience, and social mobility within a Victorian framework, often emphasizing personal virtue and Christian ethics. In contrast, *Wide Sargasso Sea* foregrounds postcolonial and feminist critiques, emphasizing displacement, cultural hybridity, and the destructive legacy of imperialism.

Gender and Power Dynamics

Both novels investigate the limitations placed on women, but their approaches differ. *Jane Eyre*'s narrative champions Jane's quest for self-respect and equality through marriage, education, and spiritual growth. Jane's assertiveness and moral clarity often position her as a proto-feminist figure, navigating a patriarchal society with determination.

Wide Sargasso Sea, however, complicates this narrative by depicting Antoinette as a victim of patriarchal and colonial violence. Her descent into madness is portrayed not merely as personal tragedy but as a consequence of systemic oppression and cultural erasure. The novel critiques the Eurocentric attitudes that label her as "mad," questioning the reliability of the colonial gaze and emphasizing the psychological trauma inflicted by forced assimilation and abandonment.

Colonialism and Identity

Jane Eyre's depiction of colonialism is relatively peripheral, with Bertha Mason's West Indian background serving primarily as an exotic and threatening backdrop. The novel does not explore the complexities of colonial histories or racial identities in depth, reflecting Victorian England's often simplistic and prejudiced worldview.

Wide Sargasso Sea explicitly addresses these issues by situating its narrative in the Caribbean and engaging with the post-emancipation social landscape. The novel highlights the tensions between former slave owners, freed Black populations, and Creole elites, illustrating how these conflicts shape Antoinette's sense of belonging and selfhood. Rhys's vivid descriptions of the natural environment and cultural milieu invite readers to reconsider the colonial legacy that underpins the original *Jane Eyre* story.

Narrative Structure and Literary Techniques

The narrative strategies employed in *Jane Eyre* and *Wide Sargasso Sea* further differentiate the two texts. *Jane Eyre*'s linear, first-person narration creates an intimate and cohesive account of Jane's life, guiding readers through her moral and emotional development. The novel's Gothic elements heighten suspense and underscore themes of secrecy and repression.

In contrast, *Wide Sargasso Sea* employs a fragmented and multi-perspective narrative, alternating between Antoinette, her husband, and other characters. This polyphonic approach reflects the instability of identity and memory, reinforcing the novel's postmodern and postcolonial concerns. The shifting viewpoints challenge readers to question dominant narratives and consider marginalized perspectives.

Symbolism and Imagery

Both novels utilize rich symbolism, but with different emphases. *Jane Eyre*'s symbolism often revolves around fire, ice, and the motif of the "madwoman," serving to externalize Jane's emotional states and societal constraints. The contrast between Thornfield Hall's Gothic darkness and the natural world symbolizes the tension between repression and freedom.

Wide Sargasso Sea employs tropical imagery—lush gardens, decaying estates, and turbulent seas—to evoke the Caribbean's beauty and volatility. The titular "*Wide Sargasso Sea*" itself symbolizes both the physical and psychological distance between characters and cultures, as well as the vast unknown that separates Antoinette from her past and identity. These natural symbols underscore themes of exile, loss, and transformation.

Relevance in Contemporary Literary Discourse

The critical dialogue between *Jane Eyre* and *Wide Sargasso Sea* remains highly relevant in contemporary literary studies, particularly within postcolonial and feminist frameworks. Rhys's novel is often regarded as a pioneering example of "revisionist fiction," which reinterprets canonical texts to expose silenced histories and challenge hegemonic ideologies.

The interplay between the two works encourages readers to reconsider the ways literature can perpetuate or dismantle cultural stereotypes. *Jane Eyre*'s enduring popularity contrasts with the provocative reexamination offered by *Wide Sargasso Sea*, which demands a more critical engagement with issues of race, identity, and power.

From an SEO perspective, discussions containing keywords such as "postcolonial literature," "feminist critique," "colonial legacy," and "literary intertextuality" frequently accompany analyses of these novels, enhancing their visibility in academic and literary circles online.

Comparative Advantages and Challenges

- **Jane Eyre's Strengths:** Its clear narrative voice and pioneering feminist

themes provide accessibility and historical insight into Victorian values.

- **Wide Sargasso Sea's Strengths:** Its nuanced portrayal of marginalized identities and innovative narrative structure offer critical depth and cultural relevance.
- **Challenges:** Jane Eyre's limited engagement with colonial realities can feel outdated, whereas Wide Sargasso Sea's complex style and fragmented narrative may pose interpretive difficulties for some readers.

The complementary nature of these texts enriches the reading experience, inviting ongoing debate and reinterpretation.

Ultimately, the dialogue between Jane Eyre and Wide Sargasso Sea illustrates how literature evolves across time, responding to shifting social consciousness and ethical imperatives. By juxtaposing these works, readers gain a fuller understanding of the historical and cultural forces that shape storytelling and identity.

Jane Eyre Wide Sargasso Sea

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: Wide Sargasso Sea Jean Rhys, 1992 A considerable tour de force by any standard. ?New York Times Book Review

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: "Wide Sargasso Sea" by Jean Rhys as a Postcolonial Response to "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte Malgorzata Swietlik, 2011 Seminar paper from the year 2008 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2,00, University of Koblenz-Landau (Anglistik), course: Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures, language: English, abstract: Wide Sargasso Sea is one of the best-known literary postcolonial replies to the writing of Charlotte Bronte and a brilliant deconstruction of what is known as the author's worlding in Jane Eyre. The novel written by Jean Rhys tells the story of Jane Eyre's protagonist, Edward Rochester. The plot takes place in West Indies where Rochester met his first wife, Bertha Antoinette Mason. Wide Sargasso Sea influences the common reading and understanding of the matrix novel, as it rewrites crucial parts of Jane Eyre. The heroine in Jean Rhys's Wide Sargasso Sea, Antoinette Cosway, is created out of demonic and bestialic Bertha Mason from Jane Eyre. Rhys's great achievement in her re-writing of the Bronte's text is her creation of a double to the madwoman from Jane Eyre. The heroine of Wide Sargasso Sea, the beautiful Antoinette Cosway, heiress of the post-emancipation fortune is created out of the demonc and bestialic Bertha Mason. The author transforms the first Mrs Rochester into an individual figure whose madness is caused by imperialistic and patriarchal oppression The vision of Bertha/Antoinette as an insane offspring from a family plagued by madness is no longer plausible to the reader. In this essay I would like to focus the factors which led to the madness of the protagonist. Although Bertha Mason and Jane Eyre seem to be enemies and contradictory characters in the Victorian novel, many critics find several similarities between the two heroines, their life and finally between Jane Eyre and Wide Sargasso Sea. Seeing Jane Eyre and Antoinette Cosway as sisters and doubles is very popular with some critics who dealt with the works of Charlotte Bronte and Jean Rhys. Nevertheless, I would like to

focus in this essay on Gayatri Chakravorty

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: *Rochester and Bertha in "Jane Eyre" and "Wide Sargasso Sea": An Impossible Match* Laura Deneke, 2007-11 Seminar paper from the year 2005 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1.0, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, course: The Victorian Afterlife, 12 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Bertha Mason in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* is a character without history or personality. She is depicted as a mere beast, bent on destroying her husband. The reader knows -and dreads- her from both Jane's and Rochester's perspective. Rochester claims that Bertha's lunacy was the sole trigger for the disaster that followed, but the narration reveals hints that suggest other factors may have contributed to the destruction of their marriage. Jean Rhys proposed a past for Bertha and her husband. Her novel *Wide Sargasso Sea* creates a life for Bertha, on the background of which her madness is neither surprising nor inevitable. Whereas there is no doubt that she does become insane at the end of Rhys's novel, the reason for this is not her evil nature but a destructive relationship along with her transportation away from everything she ever knew into the cold of England. *Wide Sargasso Sea* is more than a prequel to a famous Victorian novel. It speaks out not only for Bertha but for all the other West Indian women who found themselves in similar situations.

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: *Wide Sargasso Sea* Jean Rhys, 1987 Her grand attempt to tell what she felt was the story of Jane Eyre's 'madwoman in the attic', Bertha Rochester, Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* is edited with an introduction and notes by Angela Smith in Penguin Classics. Born into the oppressive, colonialist society of 1930s Jamaica, white Creole heiress Antoinette Cosway meets a young Englishman who is drawn to her innocent beauty and sensuality. After their marriage, however, disturbing rumours begin to circulate which poison her husband against her. Caught between his demands and her own precarious sense of belonging, Antoinette is inexorably driven towards madness, and her husband into the arms of another novel's heroine. This classic study of betrayal, a seminal work of postcolonial literature, is Jean Rhys's brief, beautiful masterpiece. Jean Rhys (1894-1979) was born in Dominica. Coming to England aged 16, she drifted into various jobs before moving to Paris, where she began writing and was 'discovered' by Ford Madox Ford. Her novels, often portraying women as underdogs out to exploit their sexualities, were ahead of their time and only modestly successful. From 1939 (when *Good Morning, Midnight* was written) onwards she lived reclusively, and was largely forgotten when she made a sensational comeback with her account of Jane Eyre's Bertha Rochester, *Wide Sargasso Sea*, in 1966. If you enjoyed *Wide Sargasso Sea*, you might like Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, also available in Penguin Classics. 'She took one of the works of genius of the nineteenth century and turned it inside-out to create one of the works of genius of the twentieth century' Michele Roberts, *The Times*

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: *Penguin Student Edition Wide Sargasso Sea* Jean Rhys, 2001-05-01 Jean Rhys's late, literary masterpiece *Wide Sargasso Sea* was inspired by Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, and is set in the lush, beguiling landscape of Jamaica in the 1830s. Born into an oppressive, colonialist society, Creole heiress Antoinette Cosway meets a young Englishman who is drawn to her innocent sensuality and beauty. After their marriage the rumours begin, poisoning her husband against her. Caught between his demands and her own precarious sense of belonging, Antoinette is driven towards madness.

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: *Jamaica Kincaid and Caribbean Double Crossings* American Comparative Literature Association, 2006 Original versions of these contributions were presented at the 2002 conference of the American Comparative Literature Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: *The Postcolonial Rewriting of Colonial Stories* Christina Münzner, 2011-10 Bachelor Thesis from the year 2010 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, University of Leipzig (Institut für Anglistik), language: English, abstract: Charlotte Brontë's novel *Jane Eyre* was first published in 1847 in London, at a time when British Colonialism was growing increasingly important for both the provision of cheap labour and new markets abroad. The resulting wealth was crucial for Britain's economic rise and rendered possible the Industrial Revolution as well as an increased amount of political and military power over

large parts of the world. Many critics have investigated Jane Eyre in feminist or marxist terms, the former because of Jane's astonishing female individuality for the time, and the latter because of the social mobility shown in the novel (Loomba 2005: 74). But since Charlotte Brontë lived during a time when the British Empire was at its peak, her writing was certainly influenced by a colonial belief system which is also present throughout Jane Eyre. [...] Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys picks up on that notion of the silenced mad woman locked in the attic of an old English manor. Although written in 1966, the novel is widely acknowledged as Jane Eyre's prequel and puts more emphasis on Antoinette's (as named by Rhys) life before she became the wife of a man who is never actually named but is usually identified as Edward Rochester and will be referred to as such in the course of this work. Since the plot of Wide Sargasso Sea starts in Jamaica a few years after the Emancipation Act of 1833, it is historically set in approximately the same time frame as Brontë's text but provides the reader with a much more conscious depiction of colonialist practices and thought. [...] The purpose of this thesis is to examine in which aspects Wide Sargasso Sea can be declared a rewriting of Jane Eyre and what features and characteristics allow the former to stand on its own as a novel. A selection of postcolonial th

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: The portrayal of Antoinette in "Wide Sargasso Sea" and Bertha Mason in "Jane Eyre" as a Liminal Persona Inbisat Shuja, 2017-05-23 Essay from the year 2017 in the subject Didactics for the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: A, , course: Caribbean Literature, language: English, abstract: This paper analyses the liminal existence of Antoinette in Jean Rhys' Wide Sargasso Sea and Bertha Mason in Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre. The paper analyses the condition of the characters, especially the creole heiress in both of these novels, under the light of Victor Turner's theory of Liminality. In doing so, it aims to highlight the importance of a sense of belonging and a foothold in shaping a person's identity and sanity.

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: Modern Classics Wide Sargasso Sea Jean Rhys, 2000-08-29 One of the BBC's '100 Novels That Shaped Our World' 'Rhys took one of the works of genius of the 19th Century and turned it inside-out to create one of the works of genius of the 20th Century' Michele Roberts Jean Rhys's masterpiece tells the story of Jane Eyre's 'madwoman in the attic', Bertha Rochester. Born into the oppressive, colonialist society of 1930s Jamaica, white Creole heiress Antoinette Cosway meets a young Englishman who is drawn to her innocent beauty and sensuality. After their marriage, however, disturbing rumours begin to circulate which poison her husband against her. Caught between his demands and her own precarious sense of belonging, Antoinette is inexorably driven towards madness, and her husband into the arms of another novel's heroine. This classic study of betrayal, a seminal work of postcolonial literature, is Jean Rhys's brief, beautiful masterpiece. Edited with an introduction and notes by Angela Smith

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: Jane Eyre and Wide Sargasso Sea Marta Vizcaya Echano, 1997

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: Re-Reading Jane Eyre and Wide Sargasso Sea 陈梅, Chi-Mei Ng, 2017-01-27 This dissertation, Re-reading Jane Eyre and Wide Sargasso Sea by 陈梅, Chi-mei, Ng, was obtained from The University of Hong Kong (Pokfulam, Hong Kong) and is being sold pursuant to Creative Commons: Attribution 3.0 Hong Kong License. The content of this dissertation has not been altered in any way. We have altered the formatting in order to facilitate the ease of printing and reading of the dissertation. All rights not granted by the above license are retained by the author. DOI: 10.5353/th_b4257449

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: Wide Sargasso Sea at 50 Elaine Savory, Erica L. Johnson, 2020-11-03 This book revisits Jean Rhys's ground-breaking 1966 novel to explore its cultural and artistic influence in the areas of not only literature and literary criticism, but fashion design, visual art, and the theatre as well. Building on symposia that were held in London and New York in 2016 in honour of the novel's half-century, this collection demonstrates just how timely Rhys's insights into colonial history, sexual relations, and aesthetics continue to be. The chapters include an extensive interview with novelist Caryl Phillips, who in 2018 published a novel about Rhys's life, an account of how Wide Sargasso Sea can be read through the lens of the #MeToo Movement, a clothing line

inspired by the novel, and new critical directions. As both a celebration and scholarly evaluation, the collection shows how enduring Rhys's novel is in its continuing literary influence and social commentary.

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: *Penguin Essentials Wide Sargasso Sea* Jean Rhys, 2011-05-24 One of the BBC's '100 Novels that Shaped the World' Jean Rhys's spell-binding novel *Wide Sargasso Sea*, inspired by *Jane Eyre* and winner the Royal Society of Literature Award is beautifully repackaged as part of the Penguin Essentials range. 'There is no looking glass here and I don't know what I am like now... Now they have taken everything away. What am I doing in this place and who am I?' If Antoinette Cosway, a spirited Creole heiress, could have foreseen the terrible future that awaited her, she would not have married the young Englishman. Initially drawn to her beauty and sensuality, he becomes increasingly frustrated by his inability to reach into her soul. He forces Antoinette to conform to his rigid Victorian ideals, unaware that in taking away her identity he is destroying a part of himself as well as pushing her towards madness. Set against the lush backdrop of 1830s Jamaica, Jean Rhys's powerful, haunting masterpiece was inspired by her fascination with the first Mrs Rochester, the mad wife in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. 'Compelling, painful and exquisite' Guardian 'Brilliant. A tale of dislocation and dispossession, which Rhys writes with a kind of romantic cynicism, desperate and pungent' The Times 'Rhys turns a menacing cipher into a grieving, plausible young woman, and one whose story says whole worlds about global mixtures, about the misunderstandings between the colonized, the colonizers and the people who can't easily say which they are' Time Jean Rhys was born in Dominica in 1890, the daughter of a Welsh doctor and a white Creole mother, and came to England when she was sixteen. Her first book, a collection of stories called *The Left Bank*, was published in 1927. This was followed by *Quartet* (originally *Postures*, 1928), *After Leaving Mr Mackenzie* (1930), *Voyage in the Dark* (1934) and *Good Morning, Midnight* (1939). None of these books was particularly successful and with the outbreak of war they went out of print. Jean Rhys dropped from sight until nearly twenty years later she was discovered living reclusively in Cornwall. During those years she had accumulated the stories collected in *Tigers are Better-Looking*. In 1966 she made a sensational reappearance with *Wide Sargasso Sea*, which won the Royal Society of Literature Award and the W. H. Smith Award. Her final collection of stories, *Sleep It Off Lady*, appeared in 1976 and *Smile Please*, her unfinished autobiography, was published posthumously in 1979. Jean Rhys died in 1979.

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: "Wide Sargasso Sea" Vera Katharina Bieri, 1991

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: On the Question of Identity in the Novel "Wide Sargasso Sea" of Jean Rhys Julia Straub, 2019-04-30 Seminar paper from the year 2017 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Comparative Literature, grade: 2,7, University of Constance, course: British and American Studies, language: English, abstract: This work focuses on the question of identity in the novel *Wide Sargasso Sea*. Antoinette, the female protagonist of Jean Rhys' novel *Wide Sargasso Sea*, is struggling with those questions of her identity all her life. As a Creole girl, who lives in Jamaica during post-colonialism, she finds herself caught between two identities not knowing where she belongs. On the one hand, there is the black community which she knows and grows up with, on the other hand the white community which her mother tries to be a part of and forces Antoinette to fit into as well. This life between two contrasting cultures forces Antoinette into a situation of confusion and doubt which makes her question not only where she belongs but if she belongs at all. It drives her into a crisis which she is not able to escape. Jean Rhys published her novel in 1966. *Wide Sargasso Sea* tells the story of Antoinette Cosway who is also, known under the name of Bertha, a character of Charlotte Brontë's novel *Jane Eyre*. In *Wide Sargasso Sea* Rhys is giving Bertha/ Antoinette a story and a reason why she became mad in the first place. The story starts in her childhood and moves on to the marriage to Mr. Rochester. The last part is set when she is already imprisoned by her husband and is setting the house on fire which accords with the story told in *Jane Eyre*. For the background of the novel it is important to know that Rhys herself grew up in a situation like Antoinette's. She as well had troubles with identifying herself when she grew up. So Rhys shares part of Antoinette's history which is probably why she was that

interested in telling her story which is completely uncared-for by Brontë.

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: *An Enhanced Reading of Jean Rhys' "Wide Sargasso Sea". Considering Source Texts Other than "Jane Eyre"* Sophia Sharpe, 2016-04-12 Essay from the year 2012 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Comparative Literature, grade: Distinction, The Open University, course: M.A. English, language: English, abstract: This essay interrogates the way in which Jean Rhys utilises a backdrop of potent gothic mechanisms and echoes the stricken anarchy of post emancipation colonial rule in 'Wide Sargasso Sea' to enhance the audience's reading and to enable her protagonist to hold a slanted mirror to the world of 'Jane Eyre'. Rhys utilises a backdrop of potent gothic mechanisms and echoes the stricken anarchy of post emancipation colonial rule in her writing to enhance the audience's reading and to enable her protagonist to hold a slanted mirror to the world of 'Jane Eyre'. At first, it seems incongruous that the vibrant, post colonialist backdrop of 'Wide Sargasso Sea', soaked by the 'brazen sun' (1) should be so richly entangled with the shadowy landscapes of the European gothic. 'Jane Eyre' is punctuated by claustrophobic English imagery to add an atmospheric sense of terror, particularly noticeable in Brontë's description of the violent Thornfield countryside, where the landscape seems animated by some nameless, feral horror; the beck is 'a torrent, turbid and curbless: it tore asunder the wood, and sent a raving sound through the air, often thickened with wild rain or whirling sleet; and for the forest on its banks, that showed only ranks of skeleton.' (p.64)

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: Jean Rhys's Wide Sargasso Sea as a Rereading of Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre Christel de Vries, 1989

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: *Change in Jane Eyre and Wide Sargasso Sea* Helen K. Hunter, 1999

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: Narrative Ways of Worldmaking in Charlotte Brontë's "Jane Eyre" and Jean Rhys's "Wide Sargasso Sea" Silvia Schilling, 2020-03-17 Seminar paper from the year 2018 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, University of Heidelberg (Anglistisches Seminar), course: MA Hauptseminar: Cultural Ways of Worldmaking, language: English, abstract: Within this paper, the worldmaking of Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre (1847) and Jean Rhys's Wide Sargasso Sea (1966) is compared. This is especially fruitful because the fictional worlds of these novels are connected: In Jane Eyre, Mr. Rochester has a hidden wife called Bertha Mason. Wide Sargasso Sea casts this character as its protagonist and covers her journey from childhood into adulthood, when she becomes a part of Jane Eyre's world. After an introduction of Nelson Goodman's term worldmaking and several of its characteristics, the worlds of these two novels are compared, focusing specifically on the respective selection of characters, perspectivization and the semantization of space.

jane eyre wide sargasso sea: Colonial Discourse/ Postcolonial Theory Francis Barker, Peter Hulme, Margeret Iverson, 1994 This book on post-colonial theory has a wide geographic range and a breadth of historical perspectives. Central to the book is a critique of the very idea of the 'postcolonial' itself.

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