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The Connell Guide to Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre (Paperback)

By Josie Billington

Connell Guides, United Kingdom, 2018. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Jane Eyre, published on 16th October 1847, was an instant popular success. More than 150 years later, it still powerfully affects its readers with all the charge of a new-minted work. It is easy to forget, now, how shocking it was to its mid-19th century readers. Virtually every early reviewer felt obliged either to condemn or defend its impropriety. As Josie Billington reminds us in this compelling guide, the most savage reviews denounced the coarseness of language, the unfeminine laxity of moral tone, and the dereliction of decorum which made its hero cruel, brutal, yet attractively interesting, while permitting its plain, poor, single heroine to live under same roof as the man she loved. What caused most outrage, perhaps, was the demonstrable rebellious anger in the heroine's unregenerate and undisciplined spirit, her being a passionate law unto herself. Never was there a better hater. Every page burns with moral Jacobinism, wrote an early critic. As the poet Matthew Arnold was to say of Brontë's disagreeable final novel, *Villette*, the writer's mind contains nothing but hunger, rebellion and rage. In this book Josie Billington...

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