

THORNFIELD: A JANE EYRE ADAPTATION

Series Title: Thornfield

Episode: 1 - "Book of Birds"

Genre: Drama/Dark Romance/Psychological Thriller

Tone: Gothic, Brooding, Yearning

Target Audience: YA 16+

PROLOGUE

Opening Scroll

PANEL 1 [LONG VERTICAL PANEL]

Black background with speckles of pink. The pink clearly becomes petals against the black.

CAPTION (JANE) :

"I had not intended to love him."

VOICE (OFF-PANEL) :

"Jane!"

Black background reveals thin brown tree branches extending upward.

CAPTION (JANE) :

"He made me love him without looking at me."

Reveal of a tree that has been struck by lightning. It is split in two.

VOICE (OFF-PANEL) :

"Jane!"

Lightning flash against the black background so it becomes yellow.

VOICE (OFF-PANEL) :

"JANE!"

[SCROLL SPACE]

=== SCENE 1: THE DRAWING ROOM ===

PANEL 2 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Through the panes of a window, we see a dark grey sky. Winter wind blows over the English countryside. The rain is impenetrable.

Early 1800s.

PANEL 3 [FULL SHOT]

JANE (10, clever, small) sits on the windowsill with the curtain drawn, separating her from the rest of the room so no one can see her. She holds a book in her lap and is reading.

PANEL 4 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Jane's legs are crossed. We see in her lap that the title of the book reads: BEWICK'S HISTORY OF BRITISH BIRDS.

VOICE (UNKNOWN, OFF PANEL):

"Oh, Madam Mope!"

PANEL 5 [CLOSE UP]

Jane ignores the voice and studies the drawing in the book. The drawing is of a shipwreck; the broken boat dashed on a desolate coast.

PANEL 6 [CLOSE UP]

Jane turns the page to reveal another drawing. It is of a graveyard with a broken wall and headstones littering the grass.

VOICE (UNKNOWN, OFF PANEL):

"Ugh, where is she?!"

PANEL 7 [CLOSE UP]

Jane turns the page again. Her face widens with both horror and fascination.

PANEL 8 [EXTREME CLOSE UP]

Drawing of a black bird watching from afar as a crowd surrounds the gallows.

--- CUT TO ---

PANEL 9 [IMPACT PANEL]

A grubby hand rips open the blue curtain.

SFX:

SCREECH

PANEL 10 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Jane's face changes to just fear as she looks to see who opened the curtain.

PANEL 11 [LONG VERTICAL SHOT]

JOHN REED (14, large, stout and sallow, heavy limbs) grins menacingly over Jane.

JOHN:

"Jane, I've been looking for you."

PANEL 12 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Jane leans away from him, dropping the book.

JANE:

"What do you want?"

PANEL 13 [MEDIUM SHOT]

John frowns and shakes his head.

JOHN:

"'What do you want, *Master* Reed?' I am the man of the house.

PANEL 14 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Jane speaks evenly, matter of fact.

JANE:

"I see no man."

PANEL 15 [LONG VERTICAL SHOT]

John grabs her arm and yanks her harshly off the seat.

JOHN:

"You have no money. You have no father.

PANEL 16 [CLOSE UP]

John's hand digging into Jane's arm.

JOHN:

"You depend on me."

PANEL 17 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Jane pulls her arm out of his grasp and steps back away from him.

JANE:

"I am not your servant."

PANEL 18 [MEDIUM SHOT]

John's eyes widen with anger.

PANEL 19 [CLOSE UP]

John's hand suddenly grabs the bird book.

PANEL 20 [VERTICAL PANEL, CAMERA ANGLED LOW]

John holds the book high above his head.

JOHN:

"This is my house. You ought to beg."

PANEL 21 [FREEZE FRAME]

John throws the book at Jane's head. It hangs in the air. Her eyes widen as it hurls toward her

PANEL 22 [IMPACT SHOT]

The book hits Jane square in the forehead.

PANEL 23 [FULL SHOT]

Jane stands stunned for a second as blood drips down her forehead.

(Beat)

PANEL 24 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Jane's face turns from fear to anger.

JANE:

"You are like a murderer."

PANEL 25 [LONG VERTICAL ACTION PANEL]

John is furious and tackles Jane to the ground.

SFX: *CRASH*

PANEL 26 [DYNAMIC ANGLE - HIGH SHOT]

Bird's eye view of Jane and John grappling on the floor. John is much bigger than her.

PANEL 27 [CLOSE UP, DYNAMIC ANGLE - DUTCH TILT]

John pushes Jane's shoulders against the ground.

PANEL 28 [CLOSE UP, DYNAMIC ANGLE - DUTCH TILT]

Jane flails her arms as she tries to fight him off.

PANEL 29 [MEDIUM SHOT]

John grabs Jane's hair and pulls her head back, enthusiastically.

PANEL 30 [IMPACT SHOT]

Jane's head connects with the ground.

SFX:

CRACK - AAAH!

PANEL 31 [CLOSE UP]

Jane's eyes flash.

PANEL 32 [SMEAR PANEL]

Jane scratches John's face with her nails.

PANEL 33 [CLOSE UP]

John falls back and grabs his cheek, crying.

JOHN:

"You rat! You RAT!"

PANEL 34 [SPLASH PANEL]

MRS. REED (36, cold and petty) opens the drawing room door to find the two of them on the ground.

PANEL 35 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Mrs. Reed's face contorts into shock.

MRS. REED:

"How dare you touch him! He's of delicate health!"

PANEL 36 [LONG VERTICAL SHOT]

[ARTIST NOTE: Black and yellow background]

Jane, still on the floor, looks up in fear as she anticipates what's next.

PANEL 37 [CLOSE UP]

Two pairs of hands lock around Jane's thin shoulders.

PANEL 38 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Stay on Jane's scared face as Mrs. Reed speaks.

MRS. REED:

"Lock her in the red room."

[SCROLL SPACE]

=== SCENE 2: THE RED ROOM ===

PANEL 39 [TRACKING SHOT]

Two maids, Bessie, 45, softer, and Miss Abbot, harsh, drag Jane down the hallway and into the red room.

Jane struggles, fighting back hysterically.

PANEL 40 [WIDE PANEL]

Jane struggles, fighting back hysterically as she is thrown into the red room.

The red room includes massive mahogany pillars and deep red curtains that cover the windows. There is no fire or light in the room.

Similarly, the bed and furniture are all varying shades of deep red giving the place a slightly nightmarish effect.

BESSIE (dismay):

"She's like a mad cat."

PANEL 41 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Bessie thrusts Jane onto the chair in the center of the room.

SFX: *THUD*

BESSIE:

"Hold her arms, Miss Abbot!"

PANEL 42 [SPLIT PANEL - LEFT/RIGHT]

LEFT: Miss Abbot pins Jane's arms against the back of the chair.

RIGHT: Jane kicks out her legs at Bessie as she struggles.

Both happening at the same instant.

PANEL 43 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Bessie loses it.

BESSIE:

"If you don't sit still, we will have to tie you down!"

PANEL 44 [CLOSE UP]

Jane is shocked. She pauses her struggle.

PANEL 45 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Jane relents. Her body folds in on itself as she gives up.

PANEL 46 [LONG VERTICAL PANEL]

Jane hunches over. It is clear she has no allies in this. Bessie and Miss Abbot look down on her.

BESSIE (gentle, but stern):

"You should be agreeable to Mrs. Reed. With Mr. Reed gone, you would be in the poorhouse if not for her."

PANEL 47 [CLOSE UP]

Bessie's apron as she wipes her hands and fixes her clothes after the scuffle.

BESSIE: "We say this for your own good."

PANEL 48 [CLOSE UP]

Miss Abbot's pursed mouth.

Miss Abbot: "God punishes wicked children."

PANEL 49 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Jane is looking at the floor, so they don't see her face, hard at the injustice.

PANEL 50 [WIDE SHOT]

Miss Abbot and Bessie are walking toward the door together.

MISS ABBOT:

"Say your prayers, Miss Eyre."

PANEL 51 [CLOSE UP]

Miss Abbot's hand on the door.

PANEL 52 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Miss Abbot's eyes flash.

"Or something bad may come down that chimney."

PANEL 53 [CLOSE UP]

Door closes firmly.

SFX:

SLAM

PANEL 54 [WIDE SHOT]

Jane sits on the small wooden chair, alone in the red room.

PANEL 55 [MEDIUM SHOT]

She stares defeated at the floor.

JANE (THOUGHT) :

Why is it always me they yell at?

PANEL 56 [CLOSE UP]

She presses her hands to her forehead and over her eyes.

JANE (THOUGHT) :

Why is it always me they hate?

PANEL 57 [SPEED PANEL]

Jane suddenly jumps up and knocks over her chair.

SFX: *CRASH*

JANE (THOUGHT) :

It's not fair!

PANEL 58 [FULL SHOT]

She stands shaking with anger.

JANE (THOUGHT) :

Why am I always punished?

PANEL 59 [VERTICAL PANEL]

Jane strides over to the door and tries to open it.

SFX:

RATTLE

It is locked.

PANEL 60 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Jane bends down and looks through the keyhole.

JANE (THOUGHT) :

As good as a cage.

PANEL 61 [CLOSE UP]

Jane's brown eye as she looks through the keyhole.

JANE (THOUGHT) :

Will they even remember I'm here?

PANEL 62 [LONG SHOT]

Jane's POV as she looks down the hall. There is no one. It is drab and empty.

SFX:

CREEAAAKKK

It comes from behind Jane, in the red room.

PANEL 63 [CLOSE UP]

Jane's eye widens in the keyhole.

PANEL 64 [MOTION PANEL]

Jane spins around quickly. Her heart is beating fast.

PANEL 65 [WIDE SHOT]

The red room is the same as before. There is no one inside.

PANEL 66 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Jane is freaked out but not panicking.

JANE (THOUGHT) :

It must be the wind.

PANEL 67 [VERTICAL PANEL]

Jane walks towards the curtains to look outside.

SFX:

CREEEEAKKK

It comes from behind her again. Clearly not the window.

PANEL 68 [CLOSE UP]

Jane's hand is frozen in midair as she reaches for the curtain.

JANE (THOUGHT) :

Mr. Reed died in this room.

PANEL 69 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Jane looks over her shoulder slowly.

JANE (THOUGHT) :

This is where they found his body.

PANEL 70 [MEDIUM SHOT]

She sees the fireplace, cold, gaping, and menacing.

PANEL 71 [CLOSE UP]

Jane's horrified eyes as she remembers Miss Abbot's words.

"Something bad may come down that chimney."

(The text is small, light grey, no speech bubble.)

PANEL 72 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Jane puts her hands over her ears as though blocking out the thoughts.

JANE:

"No. No. That's not true."

PANEL 73 [CLOSE UP]

The darkness of the fireplace seems to expand.

Now from the right:

SFX:

SCRRTCH

PANEL 74 [MOTION PANEL]

Jane jumps, jerking backward, and trips.

JANE (THOUGHT):

Mr. Reed took me in.

PANEL 75 [MEDIUM SHOT]

She is on the ground, trembling.

JANE (THOUGHT):

He would have liked me.

PANEL 76 [MEDIUM SHOT]

Jane crawls backward.

JANE (THOUGHT):

He wouldn't hurt me.

SFX:

WHOOSH!

PANEL 77 [CLOSE UP]

Jane's head jerks toward the noise.

JANE (THOUGHT):

...But why wouldn't he be just like the rest?

PANEL 78 [WIDE VERTICAL PANEL]

Jane sees the enormous mirror that lies against the left wall.
In the mirror, she sees herself small and alone on the ground.

PANEL 79 [WIDE PANEL]

Suddenly, a horrifying ghostly light looms large in the reflection, obscuring her face.

She screams.

SFX: AHHHHHHHHHHH!

VOICE (wild, off-panel, unknown):

JANE!

White Scroll Space

[END OF EPISODE 1]