

“CHAIN ERR-READING: JANE EYRE BY CHARLOTTE BRONTË” — APPENDIX

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sparsa oblectamina ludo (disseminated toys of sport)

castumque cubile/ desertosque toros et [...] perlegit (She scans the virgin bed, the deserted couch).¹

Misreading is dreaming.

The dream of a musical arrangement.

Disastrous constellation,
and/ or,
music of the spheres.

“I was almost as hard beset by him now as I had been once before, in a different way, by another. I was a fool both times. To have yielded then would have been an error of principle; to have yielded now would have been an error of judgment” (*JE* 356)

“erring as I” (*JE* 346)

“erring control of my feeble fellow-worms” (*JE* 342)

“But I err” (*JE* 254), “wandering” (*JE* 1)

“in the open air, and wandered about two days without crossing a threshold” (*JE* 296); “pallid wanderer!” (*JE* 288); “a rest for my wanderings” (*JE* 285); “my glazed eye wandered” (*JE* 281);

“these words went wandering up and down in my rayless mind” (*JE* 253);

“Ere” (*JE* 359), “ere long” (*JE* 346); “ere dusk” (*JE* 334); “ere long” (*JE* 328); “ere your word” (*JE* 329) (these are with the news of her being the “heiress lost”, the “orphan” (*JE* 327) and “heiress” news totally entangled with “Eyre” [*JE* 325]); “ere long” (*JE* 307); “Ere long” (*JE* 288), “ere long” (*JE* 289); “you will vanish ere I inhale your fragrance” (*JE* 271); “ere long” (*JE* 255); “dead ere you reach Madeira” (*JE* 251).

“Riv-ers”; “Rochest-er”, “Oliv-er”, “Read-er!” (*JE* 255).

“swear” (*JE* 346)

Reading as error, or errand? “Never fear that I wish to lure you into error” (*JE* 259); “God had an errand for me” (*JE* 308). Err-and. Err-or. Either the one or other. Both the one and the other. Errand and error or error or errand?

¹ Claudian, *De raptu Proserpinae*, III: 162; 163-65.

“eerily” (*JE* 357)

JE read, from the incipit.

“Mrs. Reed” (*JE* 1)
 “dreadful to me” (*JE* 1)
 “Reed” (*JE* 1)
 “a bookcase” (*JE* 1), “possessed myself of a volume” (*JE* 1)
 “the red moreen curtain” (*JE* 1)
 “leafless shrubbery” (*JE* 1)
 “leaves of my book” (*JE* 2)
 “I returned to my book -- Bewick’s ‘History of British Birds’: the letterpress thereof I cared little for [...], and yet there were certain introductory pages that [...] I could not pass quite as a blank.” (*JE* 2)
 “drawing-room” (*JE* 1)
 “Each picture told a story” (*JE* 2)
 “as interesting as the tales Bessie sometimes narrated” (*JE* 3)
 “fed our eager attention with passages of love and adventure taken from old fairy tales and older ballads” (*JE* 7).
 “from the pages of ‘Pamela’, and ‘Henry, Earl of Moreland’.” (*JE* 7)
 “Reader” (*JE* Preface)
 “dreadful” (*JE* 5), “dreary” (*JE* 17) “dreading” (*JE* 8, 13, 14, 16 2x), “dread” = “dared” (*JE* 17)
 “I sat reading Schiller” (*JE* 338); “I had read Goldsmith’s ‘History of Rome’.” (*JE* 8)
 “Our uncle John is dead”; “Why -- nothing. Read.” (*JE* 304)
 “read that notion in my face.” (*JE* 8)
 (Uncountable: “already” and “spread”)
 “I was reading” (*JE* 8); “perused” (*JE* 17 2x); “closed the book” (*JE* 17)
 “Do you read your Bible?” (*JE* 27)
 “read” (*JE* 31), “read” (*JE* 43).

Don’t miss the Reed’s. “John Reed”, “Master Reed”, all the “Miss Reed”’s, the “Misses Reeds”, the “Mrs. Reed”, maybe eighty occurrences in Chapters 1-4, they creep back, in conjunction with discussions of “creed” (Chapters 5-6, 8-9), a half dozen times in Chapter 10, disappearing, save for a last stand in Chapter 21, in the scene of reading a death mask, prosopopeia, and of reading the letter from Madeira.

“ire” (*JE* 352)

Dare read them.

“dared” (*JE* 15), “daren’t” (*JE* 15), “daresay” (*JE* 18, 18), “dared” (*JE* 22), “dare” (2x) (*JE* 30), “dare say” (*JE* 33), “dared” (*JE* 48), “dared” (*JE* 53), “dared” (*JE* 58), “dare say” (*JE* 77, 78), “dare say” (*JE* 81), “daresay” (*JE* 86), “daresay” (*JE* 89), “dared” (*JE* 97), “daresay” (*JE* 108), “dare offer” (*JE* 118), “dare” (*JE* 122), “dared” (*JE* 126), “dared” (*JE* 132), “dare” (*JE* 133), “dared” (*JE* 136), “daresay” (*JE* 140), “daresay” (*JE* 144), “daresay” (*JE* 144), “dare” (*JE* 160), “dared” (*JE* 165), “dared” (*JE* 166), “daresay” (*JE* 171), “dare not” (*JE* 172), “dare” (*JE* 174), “dare” censure/ “dare” for a friend (*JE* 175), “dared” (*JE* 178), “dare say” a few times, then “dare to speak” or “dare to whisper” through Chapters 23 and 24, “dangers” “dared” in Rochester’s poem, “dare”

(Chapter 25), “dare to speak” and “daresay” (Chapter 26), “dared his fury” (Chapter 27). “Dare” falls out thereafter. Only six occurrences at “Moor House” chapters 31-35 (once in Chapter 31, once in Chapter 32, twice in Chapter 33, once in Chapter 34, once in Chapter 35), and returns in number, six times in the last two chapters (twice in Chapter 36, four times in Chapter 37).

A loaded term, not just from the charge it bears of the previous, is “dear”. Jane can speak of “Dear Mrs. Reed” (twice in Chapter 21), perhaps recalling how Jane had rejected Mrs. Reed calling Jane “dear” (Chapter 9). “Dear” seems a facetious or superficial word, bandied about four or five times among the Ingrams (Chapter 17). Certainly, when Mr. Brocklehurst calls his despised schoolchildren “dear” (Chapter 4), it does. “Dear” means “not Jane” when she defended herself against Master Reed. Saint John considers his religious mission “dearer” to him than the blood in his vain veins. Jane implores her “dear cousin” Saint John to abandon the idea of marriage. Mrs. Fairfax calls Jane “dear”, and Helen and Jane refer to each other as “dear”. Jane tells Rochester (Chapter 24) that she loves him “dearly”, and Rochester verges on bald-faced lying when he tells Jane that even if she went completely mad, she’d still be “dear” to him (as dear as Bertha is to him, we might think). Her favourite appellation for him is “dear Master”, a far cry from “Master Reed”.

“eerie”, “dreary” (*JE* 17)