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# Pro Rege

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Volume 43  
Number 2 *Fine Arts Issue 2014*

Article 2

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December 2014

## In Love with Jane Eyre

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### Recommended Citation

Dengler, Mary (2014) "In Love with Jane Eyre," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 43: No. 2, 5.  
Available at: [https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro\\_rege/vol43/iss2/2](https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol43/iss2/2)

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# In Love with *Jane Eyre*

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*Mary Dengler*

Do I love *Jane Eyre* the book, or Rochester  
In love with character Jane Eyre, or just  
Jane Eyre? That disbelief, suspended willingly,  
When eyes begin to move across the page,  
Which comes to life, or when the movie starts,  
Proves Brontë, better known as Currer Bell,  
Designed a man and woman as a woman wants them  
Both to be, the thorny path to that desired end.  
Directors/readers flesh and fashion them according to the age.  
Misogynist or patriarchal predator to some, he's also  
Preyed upon, seduced, and trapped by chemistry—  
Thoughtless mix of male ideal and blood  
And female wile. And who is innocent, who  
Guilty in events begun at Gateshead, Lowood,  
Spanish Town, and on to Thornfield Park,  
Dark crossing, fraught with mystery, madness,  
Gothic spires, unrequited longing, bright  
Redemptive fires. Rebirth at Moorhouse  
Culminates at isolated Ferndean—  
Paradise regained—where character  
And reader come to sight,  
Metaphor for self-renouncing love  
That pulls us back for one more look or read.