

# Rochester, Jane

## Side for Auditions:

### II.2 80-82

ACT II, scene ii

*(ROCHESTER turns to JANE)*

**ROCHESTER**

Now Jane, I will return you to your chamber.

**JANE**

No need.

**ROCHESTER**

Every need. I wish to talk to you.

#27a - *The Strange Night*

*(As they talk, they walk through the halls and corridors of Thornfield.)*

**ROCHESTER**

Well, you have passed a strange night, Jane.

**JANE**

Yes, sir.

**ROCHESTER**

Were you afraid?

**JANE**

I was curious.

*(Jane's bedroom appears and JANE and ROCHESTER enter it as they continue to talk.)*

**ROCHESTER**

Curious about the stranger who bleeds, the bed that catches fire, the house that holds dark mysteries...but most, Jane - curious about the man who lives in this dark place.

**JANE**

Yes, sir.

**ROCHESTER**

A man whom hope has quitted - and for whom the sun at noon has long been darkened into an eclipse. And now he stands on the crust of a crater which any day may crack beneath his feet and swallow him in fire.

*(ROCHESTER turns to JANE with a curious regard.)*

And who do you think would make the perfect wife for this wretched man?

*(Silence. JANE looks levelly back at him.)*

**ROCHESTER**

Miss Ingram, do you suppose? A woman whose moral stature is equal to his own?

*(JANE shakes her head, unable to understand where ROCHESTER is leading her.)*

**ROCHESTER**

No? You don't agree? Would not Blanche Ingram make my perfect mate?

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JANE

You cannot ask me such a question.

ROCHESTER

Please Jane, advise me. Tell me what to do...my only friend.

JANE

It's not for me to say, sir...if you are troubled in your thoughts, a fellow-creature cannot help you. Men and women die, philosophers falter in wisdom, Christians in goodness. If certainty is what you seek, you must look to a higher power for strength to amend and solace to heal.

ROCHESTER

But Jane, I am certain. I know who gives me strength. I know who heals my life.

*(He looks at JANE for a long moment of indecision, and she returns his stare. He suddenly breaks away and turns back to her with a mischievous smile.)*

Well, Jane, when will you sit up with me again?

JANE

Whenever I can be useful, Sir.

ROCHESTER

Well, you can be useful the night before I'm wed. I'm sure I won't sleep. Will you sit up with me and bear me company? To you I can talk of my lovely one, for now you have seen her and know her.

JANE

No, sir.

ROCHESTER

No?

JANE

If you are to marry, then I must leave this place.

ROCHESTER

Really - why?

*(JANE looks at him but can say nothing.)*

(ROCHESTER)

Well, that must be your decision, of course. I would be lonely here without you, my little elf.

*(He looks at her for a moment.)*

Good night, my Jane.

*(ROCHESTER exits with the candle. JANE turns to the audience)*