



## Wide Sargasso Sea" by Jean Rhys as a postcolonial response to "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte

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GRIN Verlag GmbH Mai 2011, 2011. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 227x151x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2008 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2,00, University of Koblenz-Landau (Anglistik), course: Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures, language: English, abstract: Wide Sargasso Sea is one of the best-known literary postcolonial replies to the writing of Charlotte Bronte and a brilliant deconstruction of what is known as the author's 'worlding' in Jane Eyre. The novel written by Jean Rhys tells the story of Jane Eyre's protagonist, Edward Rochester. The plot takes place in West Indies where Rochester met his first wife, Bertha Antoinette Mason. Wide Sargasso Sea influences the common reading and understanding of the matrix novel, as it rewrites crucial parts of Jane Eyre. The heroine in Jean Rhys's Wide Sargasso Sea, Antoinette Cosway, is created out of demonic and bestialic Bertha Mason from Jane Eyre. Rhys's great achievement in her re-writing of the Bronte's text is her creation of a double to the madwoman from Jane Eyre. The heroine of Wide Sargasso Sea, the beautiful Antoinette Cosway, heiress of the post-emancipation fortune is created out...



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The heroine in Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*, Antoinette Cosway, is created out of demonic and bestialic Bertha Mason from *Jane Eyre*. Rhys's great achievement in her re-writing of the Brontë's text is her creation of a double to the madwoman from *Jane Eyre*. The heroine of *Wide Sargasso Sea*, the beautiful Antoinette Cosway, heiress of the post-emancipation fortune is created out of the demonic and bestialic Bertha Mason. The author transforms the first Mrs Rochester into an individual figure whose madness is caused by imperialistic and patriarchal oppression. The vision of Bertha/A *Wide Sargasso Sea* takes Bertha and gives her a voice, a history, and an entirely new name (in Rhys' version, Antoinette is Bertha's real name; Rochester renames her as just one of his acts of unpleasantness). In Rhys' novel, Antoinette/Bertha enters what is more or less an arranged marriage, a contractual agreement between Rochester's family and hers. You also get to see how Rochester really just doesn't get the Caribbean or Antoinette, even though he's totally willing to sleep with their black servant. But it's not all from Antoinette's/Bertha's perspective. Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* can be the parody of Brontë's nineteenth-century novel *Jane Eyre*. Moreover, such a postmodern perspective widens various ways of concentration on the literary works, so that, one could interpret in what ways two texts are united and grafted which results in either parody or pastiche. This study attempts to. The novel is deeply influenced by Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, in which Rhys said she decided to write about the mad woman imprisoned in the attic in *Jane Eyre*. Charlotte Brontë and Jean Rhys composed their novels in different centuries and came from very different backgrounds. The famous Victorian novelist Charlotte Brontë, reflecting British culture has a great impact on Jean Rhys the West Indian novelist. Rhys, Jean. *Wide Sargasso Sea*. London: Penguin Books, 1968. Showalter, E. *Charlotte Brontë: Feminine Heroine*, *Jane Eyre*. ed. Heather Glen. London: Macmillan Press Ltd., 1997. Shuttleworth, Sally. *Charlotte Brontë and Victorian Psychology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. Stoneman, Patsy. *Brontë Transformation: The Cultural Dissemination of Jane Eyre and Wuthering Heights*. London: Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1996. Thomas, Sue.