

SIDE 4- GRACE POOLE / JANE

JANE

Good morning, Grace. Has anything happened here? I thought I heard the servants all talking together a while ago.

GRACE

Only master had been reading in his bed last night; he fell asleep with his candle lit, and the curtains got on fire; but, fortunately, he awoke before the bed-clothes or the woodwork caught, and contrived to quench the flame with water in the ewer.

JANE

A strange affair. Did Mr. Rochester wake nobody? Did no one hear him move?

GRACE

The servants sleep so far off, you know Miss, they would not be likely to hear. Mrs. Fairfax's room and yours are the nearest to master's; but Mrs. Fairfax said she heard nothing: when people get elderly, they often sleep heavy.

Pause

But you are young, Miss; and I should say a light sleeper: perhaps you may have heard a noise?

JANE

I did. And at first I thought it was Pilot: but Pilot cannot laugh; and I am certain I heard a laugh, and a strange one.

GRACE

It is hardly likely master would laugh, I should think, Miss, when he was in such danger: you must have been dreaming.

JANE

I was not dreaming.

GRACE

Have you told master that you heard a laugh?

JANE

I have not had the opportunity of speaking to him this morning.

GRACE

You did not think of opening your door and looking out into the gallery?

JANE

On the contrary, I bolted my door.

GRACE

Then you are not in the habit of bolting your door every night before getting into bed?

JANE

I have often omitted to fasten the bolt: I did not think it necessary. I was not aware any danger or annoyance was to be dreaded at Thornfield Hall. But in future, I shall take good care to make all secure before I venture to lie down.

GRACE

It would be wise to do so... I always think it is best to err on the safe side; a door is soon fastened, and it as well to have drawn bolt between one and any mischief that may be about.