

Villette



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著者:Charlotte Bronte

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"Villette! Villette! Have you read it?" exclaimed George Eliot when Charlotte Bront's final novel appeared in 1853. "It is a still more wonderful book than Jane Eyre. There is something almost preternatural in its power."

Arguably Bront's most refined and deeply felt work, *Villette* draws on her profound loneliness following the deaths of her three siblings. Lucy Snowe, the narrator of *Villette*, flees from an unhappy past in England to begin a new life as a teacher at a French boarding school in the great cosmopolitan capital of Villette. Soon Lucy's struggle for independence is overshadowed by both her friendship with a wordly English doctor and her feelings for an autocratic schoolmaster. Bront's strikingly modern heroine must decide if there is any man in her society with whom she can live and still be free.

"*Villette* is an amazing book," observed novelist Susan Fromberg Schaeffer. "Written before psychoanalysis came into being, *Villette* is nevertheless a psychoanalytic work? a psychosexual study of its heroine, Lucy Snowe. Written before the philosophy of existentialism was formulated, the novel's view of the world can only be described as existential. . . . Today it is read and discussed more intensely than Charlotte Bront's

other novels, and many critics now beleive it to be a true master-piece, a work of genius that more than fulfilled the promise of Jane Eyre." Indeed, Virginia Woolf judged Villette to be Bront's "finest novel."

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