



DARK SECRET JOAN FONTAINE AND ORSON WELLES STRUGGLE TO OVERCOME THE PAST

Jane Eyre ↑

97 mins, USA, b/w

Dir Robert Stevenson

Joan Fontaine, Orson Welles,
Margaret O'Brien, John Sutton



Joan Fontaine and Orson Welles are well paired as plain Jane Eyre and her brooding employer, Mr Rochester, in Hollywood's version of Charlotte Brontë's classic tale. An impoverished orphan, Jane, goes to Rochester's lonely mansion,

Thornfield, to act as governess to his ward. Although Rochester is initially gruff, he begins to warm to his new employee. However, there is a terrible secret lurking in his past, and it forces a gulf between the couple. Welles is electrifying as Rochester, delivering a larger-than-life performance, while Fontaine's understatement complements him perfectly. The black-and-white photography lends much to the film's melancholic and suggestively gothic atmosphere.