

Processing the Suppressed:  
A Look into Productive  
Relationships in *Jane Eyre* and  
*Villette*

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# Suppression:

- “A defense mechanism aimed specifically at affect, which intends to abolish it from consciousness without allowing its re-entry into the unconscious...The difference between suppression and repression lies in the fact that this latter defense mechanism is unconscious and under its influence repressed content becomes or remains unconscious.”

# Martin Buber (1878-1965)

- “Buber also makes the significant claim that I am present in the I-Thou relation with my whole being, whereas I cannot be wholly present in the I-It relation. This leads to Buber's seminal idea that only in the I-Thou relation do I come fully to myself as person...The authentic reality of intersubjectivity involves a fundamental interconnectedness of I and other, such that my openness to the other as Thou is the condition for the possibility of my awakening and flourishing as person.”

# *Jane Eyre*

- “Me, [Mrs. Reed] had dispensed from joining the group, saying, ‘She regretted to be under the necessity of keeping me at a distance...she really must exclude me from privileges intended only for contented, happy, little children.’”
- “You are less than a servant, for you do nothing for your keep.”

# *Jane Eyre*

- “I have now been married ten years. I know what it is to live entirely for and with what I love best on earth. I hold myself supremely blest—blest beyond what language can express; because I am my husband’s life as fully as he is mine. No woman was ever nearer to her mate than I am: ever more absolutely bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh...We talk, I believe, all day long: to talk to each other is but a more animated and an audible thinking. All my confidence is bestowed on him, all his confidence is devoted to me; we are precisely suited in character—perfect concord is the result.”

# *Villette*

- “He asked me, smiling, why I cared for his letter so very much. I thought, but did not say, that I prized it like the blood in my veins. I only answered that I had so few letters to care for.”

# *Villette*

- “The little man fixed on me his spectacles. A resolute compression of the lips, and gathering of the brow, seemed to say that he meant to see through me, and that a veil would be no veil for him.”

- *The whole difference between construction and creation is exactly this: that a thing constructed can only be loved after it is constructed; but a thing created is loved before it exists.*
  - Charles Dickens

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