

*Clare Savage and Bertha Rochester: Double-Consciousness in Michelle Cliff's No Telephone to Heaven*

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Michelle Cliff's 1996 novel *No Telephone To Heaven* mirrors Charlotte Brontë's classic gothic sentimental novel *Jane Eyre*. The central character Jane, like Clare Savage, is an independent, individualistic, motherless, and educated woman. Both women desire a space to exist in a world that leaves them feeling abandoned and alone. It is easy to see why Clare may initially see Jane in herself or herself in Jane. However, she identifies solely with Jane only momentarily, soon remembering the light-skinned Caribbean woman, Bertha Mason, trapped in Rochester's attic. Her disillusionment does not last long and Clare challenges and repositions herself as someone who is double conscious. Despite her attempt to assimilate into the imposed white society of her father and soon enough the racialized culture of London, Clare Savage asserts her racial ancestry by claiming parts of herself that she previously could not. She chooses her racial identity and explodes the perceived notions of racial construction. Part V of Cliff's novel, "Et in Arcadia Ego" and its mention of and connection to *Jane Eyre* aid in exploring the ways in which Clare's double-consciousness mirrors not that of *Jane Eyre* but that of *Bertha Rochester*.