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**Sinopsis**

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Written over the course of twenty-one years and published in 1966, *Wide Sargasso Sea*, based on Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, takes place in Jamaica and Dominica in 1839-45.

Textual notes illuminate the novel's historical background, regional references, and the non-translated Creole and French phrases necessary to fully understand this powerful story. *Backgrounds* includes a wealth of material on the novel's long evolution, its connections to *Jane Eyre*, and Rhys's biographical impressions of growing up in Dominica. *Criticism* introduces readers to the critical debates inspired by the novel with a Derek Walcott poem and eleven essays.