This chapter shifts away from politics to the novel, yet remains focused on pain's ability to configure the relation of the subject to the social. Specifically, this chapter argues that Charlotte Brontë's novel uses the phenomenology of pain as a way to imagine the compatibility of privacy—offered as the locus of the individual's value—with community. It argues that these carefully staged refusals of readers' sympathy constitute an attempt to offer recognition and acknowledgement in place of an implicitly normalizing fellow-feeling. We may not be able to enter into one another's feelings, Brontë insists, but we can nevertheless recognize that we all possess them.