

# Wuthering Heights

## PROLOGUE

On a wild, turbulent night, Catherine appears in a vision to the tormented Heathcliff.

### PART 1: 30 Years Earlier

Mr. Earnshaw, owner of Wuthering Heights, brings home an orphan boy named Heathcliff to raise with his own children, Hindley and Catherine. Catherine becomes attached to Heathcliff, but Hindley is jealous and afraid that Heathcliff may replace him in Mr. Earnshaw's affections.

Heathcliff and Catherine spend hours in wild, exuberant play on the moors. They are playing together when they are distracted by the arrival of the neighboring family from Thrushcross Grange - Mr. and Mrs. Linton and their children Edgar and Isabella.

Life at Wuthering Heights becomes more difficult for Heathcliff, with Hindley becoming increasingly abusive. Finally, Hindley is sent away to college.

### Part 2

Heathcliff and Catherine, now young adults, are still enjoying their boisterous games on the moors. When Mr. Earnshaw dies, Hindley becomes master of Wuthering Heights, and returns with his wife Frances. Life becomes intolerable for Heathcliff, who is banished to the stables, where visits from Catherine are his only comfort.

One day on the moors, Heathcliff and Catherine run to Thrushcross Grange to spy on the Lintons. When they are caught, they run away but Catherine is bitten by the Linton's dog. Catherine stays with the Lintons to recuperate and is agreeably influenced by the Linton's civilized and genteel lifestyle.

When Heathcliff hears Catherine is to return to Wuthering Heights, he is anxious to appear as a gentleman. Catherine is escorted home by Edgar Linton and is delighted to see Heathcliff, but Heathcliff is humiliated by Hindley and storms off.

Both Heathcliff and Edgar are in love with Catherine. Although Catherine is in love with Heathcliff, Edgar carries the promise of a good marriage and eventually she chooses him over the uncouth Heathcliff.

Hindley's wife Frances dies soon after giving birth to their child. He is inconsolable in his grief and takes it out on Heathcliff who vows to take revenge.

Devastated by Catherine's choice, Heathcliff decides to leave Wuthering Heights. The wedding day of Catherine and Edgar arrives and while Catherine appears joyful, she can't help thinking of Heathcliff.

### 20-Minute Intermission

### Part 3

Some years later, Heathcliff returns as a wealthy gentleman to find Hindley has deteriorated from grief and hard drinking. He is no longer able to intimidate Heathcliff. When Hindley sees that Heathcliff has money, he invites him to join in a game of cards. Heathcliff accepts and sets out to ruin Hindley, who finally loses all his money and has to mortgage Wuthering Heights to Heathcliff.

In Heathcliff's absence, Catherine and Edgar have settled into a comfortable routine. Isabella, Edgar's sister, is living with them. Heathcliff's main desire is to see Catherine again. He persuades Nelly to bring Catherine to meet him, and Catherine is angry and overjoyed. She takes Heathcliff to see Edgar who does not share her enthusiasm.

Heathcliff is devastated by what he finds and resolves to take revenge on both Catherine and Edgar. He becomes a regular visitor to the Thrushcross Grange and contrives to make Isabella fall in love with him. He is a cold suitor, but Isabella is infatuated with him, even as she begins to sense his cruelty.

Involved in a passionate embrace, Heathcliff and Isabella are discovered by Catherine who is overcome by rage and jealousy. Catherine becomes increasingly distressed and calls on Edgar to intervene. He throws Heathcliff out of the house and demands an explanation from Catherine. Nelly tries to calm the situation, but overcome by hysteria, Catherine is beyond reason.

Isabella arrives at Wuthering Heights with her luggage, and she and Heathcliff elope leaving Hindley in a drunken stupor. In this state, Hindley suffers a stroke and dies.

### PART 4

Catherine, heartbroken and wracked with grief, descends into madness. A hallucination of herself as a young child comforts her in the midst of this darkness. Nelly has moved into Thrushcross Grange to nurse Catherine, but her efforts are in vain and Catherine sinks into a decline towards death.

Heathcliff and Isabella have returned to Wuthering Heights, but it is not a happy union and he treats Isabella brutally. Nelly goes to Wuthering Heights to greet the returning couple. Heathcliff is distraught when he hears about Catherine's condition and begs Nelly to take him to see her. He and Catherine have a passionate reunion in which they forgive each other for their mutual betrayals.

Edgar returns to find Catherine and Heathcliff together and orders Heathcliff to leave. Catherine tries to follow him, but in her weakened state, she collapses and dies.

Heathcliff's dreams are haunted by visions, and crazed with longing for Catherine, he rushes to the church yard where he tears open her grave and clasps her body in a frenzy of passion and despair.

For a brief moment, Catherine is revived by visions of Heathcliff and herself as children before she lapses back into death.

Heathcliff is left cradling her dead body.