

IV. HEATHCLIFF AND CATHERINE

A¹ Heathcliff

Heathcliff was an adopted member of the Earnshaw family. As Nelly Dean said he was a cuckoo because his parents and native place were unknown. He was found by Mr. Earnshaw in the street of Liverpool, starving and homeless. He was a dirty, black-haired child. Nobody was glad of his arrival, except Mr. Earnshaw. Both of the children, Catherine and Hindley, hated him, because, they thought that was he who made their father forget to bring them toys. Mrs. Earnshaw wanted to fling him out of doors, calling him " gypsy brat " and Nelly Dean, the housekeeper, was frightened. 1)

He seemed a sullen, patient child and hardened to ill treatments." He would stand Hindley's blows without winking or shedding a tear, and the pinches of Nelly Dean caused him only to draw in a breath and open eyes, as if he had hurt himself by accident and nobody was to blame!" 2)

He was a steadfast child. " When he got measles and was dangerously ill, he was quiet and did not complain at all, though hardness, it did not give him little trouble." 3) *Chapman*

Mr. Earnshaw stood for Heathcliff's protector. He was a self-centered child because everything he wanted could be easily fulfilled only by telling it to Mr. Earnshaw. *Chapman*

He took to Heathcliff strangely, believing all he said and petting him above his own children He was not insolent to his benefactor, he was simply insensible; though knowing perfectly the hold he had on his heart, and conscious he had only to speak and all the house would be obliged to bend to his wishes. 4)

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| 1. | Emily Brontë, <u>Wuthering Heights</u> , Washington Square Press, U.S.A., 1963 . | p. 42. |
| 2. | <u>ibid</u> | p. 43. |
| 3. | <u>ibid</u> | p. 44. |
| 4. | <u>ibid</u> | pp. 43-45. |

This attitude showed that from the beginning Mr. Earnshaw had bred bad feelings in the house. Because of this mistreatments, Hindley hated Heathcliff so much. Quarreling often aroused between them, so Mr. Earnshaw sent Hindley to college. It was different from Catherine who liked and loved him. "Miss Cathy and he were now thick, but Hindley hated him." 5) During the absent time of Hindley, Heathcliff had a happy time with her but it ended when MR. Earnshaw died.

After his three years' absence, he returned with a wife, Frances. He treated him differently. Heathcliff was not allowed to enter the drawing room. He had to stay in the kitchen. He was turned to a servant's position and do manual work. Moreover when Edgar and Isabella paid a visit, they were kept apart from him, because their mother insisted that they did not mix with him. The Lintons also regarded him as a servant. It really hurt him, when Hindley forbade him not to play with Catherine.

He was jealous of Edgar's handsome appearance and condition as a rich man. At Christmas time he was dressed and he looked gentle, but Hindley did not like to see him so, as he did not want him to be equal with Edgar.

Nelly, if I knocked him down twenty times, that would not make him less handsome or me so, I wish I had the light hair and a fair skin, and was dressed and behaved as well, and had a chance of being as rich as he will be! 6)

In another case that he was envying Edgar because Catherine spent most of her evenings with him. "He showed her an

5.	<u>ibid</u>	p. 43.
6.	<u>ibid</u>	p. 65.

almanac when he marked the evenings she spent with him"⁷⁾
 One day Catherine told Nelly Dean about her intention to marry Edgar Linton. According to her she could not marry Heathcliff although she loved him so much because her marriage with him would degrade her and they would be beggars. "It would degrade me to marry Heathcliff now; so he shall never know how I love him: he is more myself than I am. Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same."⁸⁾ He overheard the statement "It would degrade me to marry him now."⁹⁾ It seemed to him the final rejection. That was why he ran away hopelessly. In the evening it was discovered that Heathcliff had disappeared. Catherine was anxious about him. Formerly he struggle to keep up with Catherine in her studies. Actually Heathcliff was not stupid. Catherine taught him all she had but he could not study as much as she could because he had to work in the field from morning to night. Now he gave it up completely.

HEATHCLIFF S ATTITUDE TO OTHER PERSONS

1. C A T H E R I N E

As we know that their love grew since their childhood. They used to roam in the moors together.
 " Cathy and I escaped from the wash house to have a ramble at liberty. "¹⁰⁾ They got along together very well. As they grew up, Heathcliff was jealous of Edgar's visit to Catherine.

7. ibid p. 81.
 8. ibid p. 95.
 9. Emily Brontë, loc cit ; p. 95.
 10. ibid p. 54.

He returned three years afterwards. He was much taller, more handsome, became rich and educated. He proved to Catherine that he did not become a beggar. After his return, he immediately paid a visit to the Grange. Catherine welcomed him warmly, but grumbled because she thought that Heathcliff was cruel to be absent and never to think of her. "and yet, cruel Heathcliff! You do not deserve this welcome absent and silent for three years, and never think of me!" 11) He did it not because he did not love Catherine, but actually his heart was really hurt. He would sacrifice everything to show his love for her.

"A little more than you have thought of me." he murmured "I heard of your marriage, Cathy not long since; and well, there was cause I've fought through a bitter life since I last heard your voice; and you must forgive me for I struggled only for you!" 12)

His affection for Catherine was remarkably unselfish.

"The notion of envying Catherine was incomprehensible to him." 13) He was sad when he saw Catherine was seriously ill and dying. He asked her ghost may haunt him as long as he was living. It showed that his love for Catherine could never die.

May she wake in torment!..... Catherine Earnshaw, may you not rest as long as I am living! You said I killed you; haunt me then! Be with me always take any form- drive me mad! Oh, God! It is unutterable I cannot live without my life! I cannot live without my soul. 14)

11.	<u>ibid</u>	p. 115.
12.	<u>ibid</u>	p. 116.
13.	<u>ibid</u>	p. 65.
14.	<u>ibid</u>	p. 202.

2. EDGAR LINTON

His attitude toward Edgar Linton was cool. He scarcely took any notice of him. "Heathcliff dropped his slight hand and stood looking at him coolly till he chose to speak." 15) In order to take revenge toward him, who had ever been kicked him away from Thruscross Grange, He married Isabella, Edgar's sister. His marriage was not based on love, but it was only the way for him to take revenge on Edgar.

Isabella says : " He has married me on purpose to obtain power over Edgar." Heathcliff says : "you are not fit to your own guardian, Isabella, now, and, I being your legal protector, must detain you in my custody. 16)

In their marriage they got a son, Linton Heathcliff. He was a petty, peevish child. Heathcliff's violent nature not only took place on Edgar and his sister but also on his descendant. Heathcliff considered Cathy Linton, a daughter of Edgar, as his rival's daughter, so he treated Cathy liked a servant. She had to remain in the kitchen.

Catherine, bring the things in- Where are you?
Catherine re-appeared, bearing a tray of knives and forks. "you may get your dinner with Joseph." muttered Heathcliff aside, and remain in the kitchen. 17)

It also showed how cruel his conduct was, by keeping Cathy in a room for several days. But at last she could lose herself and go back to the Grange. Heathcliff had the intention of marrying his only sickly son with her, while Edgar Linton was ill. His only purpose was to take Thruscross Grange as his own property, since in those days a

15.	<u>ibid</u>	p. 114.
16.	<u>ibid</u>	p. 183.
17.	<u>ibid</u>	p. 366.

wife's property automatically passed into the husband's control. He was afraid that his son, Linton, would die before Edgar because if this happened Cathy would be the heir. So he arranged the marriage as soon as possible.

My son is prospective owner of your place, and I should not wish him to die till I was certain of being his successor.18)... "That the two cousins may fall in love, and get married. I am acting generously to your master; his young chit has no expectations, and should she second my wishes, she'll be provided for at once as joint successor with Linton". Linton's property would go to me; to prevent disputes, I desire their union, and am resolved to bring it about.19)

After Linton died, Heathcliff went up at once. Now he got the Heights and the Grange.

3. H I N D L E Y

He hated Hindley because of his wrong doings over him since he was young. As a master in Wuthering Heights after his father died, He thought he could do everything he liked. This ill treatments made him a revenger. He had a violent nature. His revenge on persons he hated was very cruel. He did not take pity on them. Therefore he was pleased when he watched Hindley's bad life after his wife, Frances, died. He became a gambler and a drunkard. Heathcliff supported him with money and later all of Hindley's properties were mortgaged to him because he died in debt. He succeeded in putting Hereton, Hindley's son, under his power. The innocent son believed that Heathcliff was his benefactor. Hereton did not realized that he was only a means of revenge.

18. ibid p. 251.
19. ibid pp. 259-260.

4. HEATHCLIFF'S MISTERIOUS DEATH

There was a great change in Heathcliff's life after some time. Day and night he was haunted by Catherine's ghost. He saw her in every object around him, especially in Cathy and Hereton.

Nelly, there is a strange thing approaching: I take so little interest in my daily life. Every cloud in every tree- filling the air at night, and caught by glimpses in every object by day- I am surrounded with her image! 20)

He had lost all will to take revenge on the children of his old enemies, because he found some physical similarities between young Catherine and old Catherine.

They lifted their eyes together, to encounter Mr. Heathcliff: their eyes are precisely similar, and a breadth of forehead, and a certain arch of the nostril that makes her appear rather haughty I have lost the faculty of enjoying their destruction, and I am too idle to destroy for nothing. 21)

When the present Cathy fell in love with Hereton it seemed to represent his old time when he was in love with the old Cathy. In another case, he also realized that his long struggle was useless now. "O, GOD! It is a long fight. I wish it were over". 22)

Day by day Heathcliff's life became worse and worse. He roamed to and fro in the garden. After that he kept himself in a room, groaning and murmuring to himself, not allowing anyone to get in.

We saw him walking to and fro in the garden... he went into his chamber groaning and murmuring to himself... and with the greatest pleasure, if you will leave me alone and not annoy me. "It is not my fault that I cannot eat or rest", he replied. 23)

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| 20. | <u>ibid</u> | p. 390. |
| 21. | <u>ibid</u> | pp. 389 - 390. |
| 22. | <u>ibid</u> | p. 392. |
| 23. | <u>ibid</u> | p. 395. |

Before he died, he asked Nelly Dean to bury his body in the churchyard in the evening and Nelly and Hereton should accompany him.

I desire to be carried and buried in the churchyard in the evening. You and Hereton may if you please accompany me : and mind, particularly, to notice that the sexton obeys my direction concerning the two coffins! 24)

B. Catherine Earnshaw

She was the only daughter in the Earnshaws. When she was a child she was very wild and naughty. She loved to ramble in the moors with Heathcliff. She was very happy that she could be together with him. She was cheerful and always happy. "Her spirit were always at high-water mark, her tongue always going- singing, laughing and teasing everybody who would not do the same". 25)

①
Character

When she was about ten her father died. Her brother, Hindley, and his wife tried to bring her up, As Hindley hated Heathcliff he often made Catherine cry because of the punishments he imposed on Heathcliff. The first time she got acquainted with Edgar, she did not care much for him. After staying with the Lintons at the Grange for about five weeks she came back as a lady: her manners were much improved. She was neatly dressed, very dignified and calm afraid to make her dress dirty. But she had no self-confidence. When she was sixteen years old, Edgar proposed to her, and she doubted wheather she would marry him or Heathcliff. Actually she loved Heathcliff, but his native and parents were unknown. Because he was poor, she was afraid if she married Heathcliff she would be a beggar. She thought Edgar was handsome, rich and pleasant to be with.

②
Character

She would be rich and the greatest woman of the neighbourhood if she married Edgar. However she still realized that her choice was wrong.

My love for Linton is like the foliage in the woods : time will change it, I'm well aware, as winter changes the trees. My love for Heathcliff resembles the eternal rocks beneath- a source of little visible delight, but necessary Nelly, I am Heathcliff! He is always in my mind - not as pleasure, anymore than I am always a pleasure to myself, but as my own being.²⁶⁾

She was a kind of person who sacrificed herself for someone she loved. Actually her intention to marry Edgar was to place Heathcliff out of her brother's power and to aid him with Edgar's money. "Whereas, if I marry Linton, I can aid Heathcliff to rise, and place him out of my brother's power".²⁷⁾ From this we can see Catherine's true love for Heathcliff, because love means to sacrifice and to see someone we love to be happy.

When she was nineteen years old, she became Edgar's wife. She felt fairly happy until Heathcliff came back to pay a visit. She was very happy when she could meet him again and wanted Edgar and Heathcliff to become friends now. "I know you did not like him yet, for my sake, you must be friends now".²⁸⁾ But it was impossible because they despised each other. After some days there occurred a quarrel between them. Edgar told Heathcliff not to come to the Grange anymore.

Your presence is a moral poison that would contaminate the most virtuous for the cause, and to prevent the worse consequences, I shall deny you hereafter admission into this house, and give notice now that I require your instant departure.²⁹⁾

26. ibid p. 97.
 27. Emily Bronte, loc cit, p. 97.
 28. ibid p. 113.
 29. ibid p. 137.

Catherine fell ill. After she recovered from her illness, her appearance changed. She was often restless and anxious. She no longer seemed to look objects around her but far beyond, out of this world. Heathcliff often visited her secretly. He saw her in this state, he knew that Catherine was dying. Catherine asked him whether he would forget her when she was dead. Then she resented her cruelty, her falsehood of betraying her own heart by refusing to marry him. He said that nothing would separate them neither degradation nor death. At the end they forgave each other but Heathcliff said that he would not forgive Edgar who according to him was her murderer.

That night two hours after giving birth to her daughter, Catherine died. She was buried on green slope, near the moors, as she had wished it.

CATHERINE'S ATTITUDE TO OTHER PERSONS

1. EDGAR LINTON

Although she did not love Edgar, she married him because he was handsome and rich. Later on she became sad when Edgar did not like to become friends with Heathcliff. She did not like Edgar's cowardness when he quarrel with Heathcliff. This act distressed her shockingly, so that she despised her husband in front of Heathcliff.

Cathy, this lamb of your threatens like a bull! Heathcliff said. "It is in danger of splitting its skull against my knuckles. By God! Mr. Linton, I'm mortally sorry that you are not worth knocking down!" "Fair means! Catherine said, in answer to her husband's look of angry surprise". If you have not the courage to attack him, make an apology, or allow yourself to be beaten. 30)

29. ibid p. 137.
30. ibid p. 138.

2. HEATHCLIFF

She loved him passionately from her youth until her death. She chose Edgar Linton only because she was afraid that she would be a beggar if she married Heathcliff. But her love for Heathcliff was unfailing, it never change, Heathcliff was always in her mind as if part of her own being. One day she told Heathcliff : "I wish I could hold you till we were both dead. Will you forget me? Will you be happy when I am in the earth?" ³¹⁾ So we know that her love for him was everlasting.