



Tikrit University

Collage of Education for Women

English department

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## Chapter 3&4 Summary and analysis

### Summary

- After Lockwood was forced by dogs to stay at Wuthering Heights, the servant took him to spend his night in the room.
- Lockwood saw a strange thing three names are inscribed on the wall and bed: Catherine Earnshaw, Catherine Heathcliff and Catherine Linton. He also found a diary written approximately twenty-five years earlier.
- Lockwood read some information about the history of the Wuthering Heights families, when Catherine Earnshaw described their relationship after her father's death.
- When Lockwood falls asleep and enters into a pair of nightmares.
- He catch the ghostly hand, which seizes his own, and a voice, sobbing the name Catherine Linton, demands to be let in.
- That made him scarily feeling and he pulled the hand through the window glass and the blood covers the bed sheets.
- Lockwood started to close the broken window by the books, but the books fall down and cried out the terror.
- Heathcliff come to the room, and Lockwood cried out that the room is haunted.
- Lockwood left Wuthering Heights early. He went to Thrass Cross Grange to meet Nelly Dean, the old housekeeper.
- Nelly Dean attempts to clarify the family relationships, explaining that the young Catherine whom Lockwood met at Wuthering Heights is the daughter of the Catherine who was Nelly's first mistress at Wuthering Heights, and that Hareton Earnshaw is young Catherine's cousin, the nephew of the first Catherine. The first Catherine was the daughter of Mr. Earnshaw.
- Now young Catherine is the last of the Lintons, and Hareton is the last of the Earnshaws.
- Nelly says that she grew up as a servant at Wuthering Heights,

- When Catherine and Hindley are young children, Mr. Earnshaw takes a trip to Liverpool and returns home with a scraggly orphan whom the Earnshaws christen "Heathcliff." Mr. Earnshaw announces that Heathcliff will be raised as a member of the family.
- Both Catherine and Hindley resent Heathcliff at first, but Catherine quickly grows to love him.
- Mr. Earnshaw comes to love the boy like his own son.
- When Mrs. Earnshaw dies only two years after Heathcliff's arrival at Wuthering Heights, Hindley is essentially left without an ally.

### **Important events**

- The bed is a curious structure, with sliding panels and windows. Inside are a bunch of old books and a ledge with names scribbled on it: Catherine Earnshaw, Catherine Heathcliff, and Catherine Linton. Other books have journal entries in the margins and on the blank pages. Reading them, Lockwood provides a flashback to when Heathcliff and the author of the entries were young children together.
- This is what we learn: Hindley (whoever that is) runs the house when father is gone. Catherine describes him as a "tyrant." Between Hindley's cruelty and Joseph's oppressive preaching, things are pretty grim. Hindley treats Heathcliff like a servant and outsider—though it's not yet clear exactly who all these people are to each other.
- Catherine and Heathcliff console each other by hiding under furniture or running on the moors. It all reads like a drop of joy in a sea of oppressive misery.
- Back to the present: Lockwood drifts into a psychedelic dream about Joseph and a visit to a chapel in which he sits through an endless sermon by one Jabes Branderham. The sermon culminates with all present in the chapel attacking one another while Branderham hammers on the pulpit in an effort to bring order to the crowd.

- A delirious Lockwood awakens to realize that a pine cone at the window is the real cause of the loud taps. Because the window is soldered shut, Lockwood has to break it and reach out to move the branch.
- The branch turns out to be an ice cold hand and a voice moaning "Let me in" (3.47). Identifying itself as "Catherine Linton," the voice declares that it has "come home" (3.49). Rather than just letting the miserable ghost in, our ninny of a narrator rubs the hand "to and fro" (3.50) across the broken glass in an effort to release its frosty clutch. The ghost moans some other vital information that doesn't compel Lockwood to be any more sympathetic.
- Heathcliff comes in to see what the racket is. He is visibly shocked to see his bumbling tenant in the noisy oak-paneled bed.
- Now we know that in addition to being really irritable, Heathcliff is heartbroken. He basically wants to be haunted by a ghost. What's up with that?
- Lockwood spends the rest of the night sitting in the kitchen, watching the various household members insult each other. At dawn, Lockwood wanders back to Thrushcross Grange in the thick snow. He's a mess.

### **Analysis**

The mysterious room no one is allowed to stay in, the mysterious names carved into the bed, and the discovered diary are all Gothic elements. Lockwood gets his first evidence into the story behind Wuthering Heights. This scene contains the one truly supernatural event in the novel, with Lockwood dreaming of the real Catherine Linton. But, it's Heathcliff's response to the dream which is most interesting, the way that he seems to want, or even need, this ghost to haunt him. Heathcliff's all-consuming love and passion for Catherine is made clear in this scene, and that love is connected to nature when Heathcliff throws open the window in order to speak with Catherine. While Heathcliff

opens the window to the storm to try to speak with Catherine, Lockwood locks himself inside to escape all that passion. Nature opposite of civilization.

Thrushcross Grange and Wuthering Heights have been established as symbols of civilization and nature, respectively. Nelly now makes clear that the families that lived in the two houses are deeply entangled. The reference to Heathcliff's money and to Hareton's ancient family also brings up the question of class. If Heathcliff has so much money:

Why is he living in a weather-worn place like the Heights?

Why is the high-class Hareton so rough?

Orphans are another common Gothic element. Heathcliff's status as an orphan also puts him in a peculiar position in regards to class, he is a low-class person brought into a higher class family