

**NAXOS**  
AudioBooks

Emily Brontë  
**Wuthering Heights**

Read by **Freda Dowie**  
with **Ken Drury**

**CLASSIC  
FICTION**



NA306312D

---

1	Mr Lockwood's visit	7:25
2	The inhabitants of Wuthering Heights	7:25
3	A ghost from the past	8:50
4	The tale begins to unfold	3:02
5	Nelly Dean begins her story; Heathcliff's arrival	4:23
6	Mr Earnshaw's death and Hindley's marriage	9:19
7	Cathy and the Lintons	7:33
8	Edgar's visits to Wuthering Heights	8:03
9	Cathy tells her secret; Heathcliff disappears	11:03
10	Heathcliffe returns	7:42
11	Isabella's fancy	7:12
12	Hareton, Heathcliff's apprentice	5:12
13	Edgar's jealousy and Cathy's anger	9:13
14	Cathy's health deteriorates;	7:13
15	Heathcliff and Cathy's last meeting	9:37
16	Catherine's birth and Cathy's death	1:55
17	Isabella and Linton leave Wuthering Heights	5:20

---

18	Hindley dies, Heathcliff inherits	3:34
19	Catherine's childhood	3:54
20	Catherine's first visit to the Heights	6:03
21	Isabella dies; Linton returns to his father	6:04
22	Catherine meets Heathcliff	7:26
23	The secret correspondence	5:01
24	Heathcliff entices Catherine back to Wuthering Heights	9:50
25	The secret visits discovered	4:01
26	Mrs Dean and Catherine detained at the Heights	8:10
27	Catherine's marriage and her father's death	3:36
28	Linton dies; Catherine at Heathcliff's mercy	5:52
29	Mr Lockwood revisits Thrushcross Grange	2:11
30	Catherine and Hareton	9:33
31	Heathcliff longs for death	10:59
32	The tyrant alone	8:20
33	Heathcliff and Cathy reunited in death	6:55

**Total time: 3:42:12**

---

## Emily Brontë

# Wuthering Heights

When Mr Earnshaw brings a black-haired founding child into his home on the Yorkshire moors, he little imagines the dramatic events which will follow. The passionate relationship between Cathy Earnshaw and the founding, Heathcliff, is a story of love, hate, pity and retribution, the effects of which reverberate throughout the succeeding generations.

Emily Jane Brontë was born in 1818 in Thornton, Yorkshire. Two years later the family moved to Haworth, near Bradford, where her father became curate. Emily was the fifth child of the family. The two eldest died in infancy, the third was Charlotte, then came Patrick Branwell, and the youngest child was Anne. Their mother died in 1821, and the children were then looked after by her sister, Elizabeth Branwell.

Left very much to their own devices, the Brontë children read avidly and would write their own poems, serials and journals. Emily took up a teaching post, but ill health forced her to give it up. *Wuthering Heights*, her only novel, was published in 1847, only one year before her death from tuberculosis in 1848.

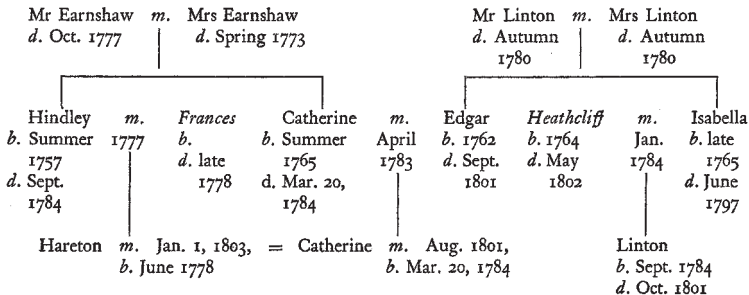
It seems extraordinary that a young woman, who lived a secluded life in a vicarage in Yorkshire, could have created *Wuthering Heights*, a story which seethes with such passion and drama, and above all, could have conceived the character of Heathcliff, who has transcended the confines of the novel and has become, in the popular imagination, a towering archetype. He has become the symbol of wild, unconfined emotion; he is the dark mysterious stranger who threatens, and yet mesmerises with his irresistible power. However, when we remember that the Brontë children were nurtured by their aunt, an ardent Methodist, who encouraged them to read religious magazines which were full of miracles, apparitions and ominous dreams, that they devoured the work of Scott, Byron, Wordsworth, and were steeped in traditional folk tales and Aesop's Fables, we can begin to understand the sources of Emily Brontë's awesome imagination.

This tragic, yet inherently powerful story of unconsummated passion, has spawned many imitators, yet *Wuthering Heights* has

endured, possibly because it contains elements that a lesser writer could not possibly sustain: the supernatural, life after death, the symmetry of repetition, the power of obsessional love. But above all, there lies at the heart of the novel a troubling puzzle. Heathcliff becomes cruel and intolerable, driven almost to madness by the loss of Catherine, yet the reader is loathe to condemn him, in spite of his barbarism and total lack of pity. Although, as a child there is something 'other' about him, with his dark looks and uncertain provenance, we feel that his ill treatment at the hands of 'civilised' society compounds his wayward tendencies.

Catherine, of course, in spite of her very different upbringing, shares his love of freedom on the untamed moors. Is it 'nature' or 'nurture' which makes them so? Emily Brontë avoids a trite answer, although significantly it is through reading and the love of books that Cathy finally 'reaches' Hareton. These are issues which will, no doubt, continue to exercise literary commentators, but *Wuthering Heights* will continue to move and delight, because it is, quite simply, the most memorable love story ever written.

### Notes by Heather Godwin



---

## The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS catalogue

<b>MENDELSSOHN</b> PIANO QUARTET NO. 1/SEXTET OP. 110 Bartholdy Piano Quartet	8.550966
<b>MENDELSSOHN</b> SIX PRELUDES AND FUGUES OP. 35 Piano Works Vol. 1. Benjamin Frith.	8.550939

Cover picture: Ilkley by Thomas Girtin.  
Courtesy of Leeds City Art Gallery.

Abridged by Heather Godwin. Produced by Nicolas Soames  
Post-production: Simon Weir. The Classical Recording  
Company  
Engineer (speech): Alan Smyth, Bucks Audio Cassettes

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE,  
BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THESE COMPACT DISCS PROHIBITED.  
© 1995. NAXOS Audiobooks Ltd. © 1995 NAXOS Audiobooks Ltd.  
Made in Germany

Total time  
3:42:12

Emily Brontë

# Wuthering Heights

Read by **Freda Dowie** with **Ken Drury**

When Mr Earnshaw brings a black-haired foundling child into his home on the Yorkshire moors, he little imagines the dramatic events which will follow. The passionate relationship between Cathy Earnshaw and the foundling, Heathcliff, is a story of love, hate, pity and retribution, the effects of which reverberate throughout the succeeding generations.



**Freda Dowie** has extensive theatrical experience, being an original member of Peter Brook's Theatre of Cruelty and an award-winning Electra in the production with Derek Jacobi. Her vast TV credits range from *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit* to the BBC's nine-part series, *Our Friends in the North*. She has a particular interest in radio and poetry performance, and also reads on *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Silas Marner* for Naxos AudioBooks.

**Ken Drury** has wide experience of theatre, TV and radio, appearing in plays at the Royal National Theatre and in the West End. His film credits include *Yanks* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

CD ISBN:

978-962-634-063-9

View our catalogue online at  
[www.naxosaudiobooks.com](http://www.naxosaudiobooks.com)

