

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.



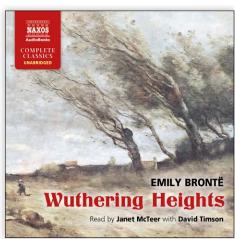
Janet McTeer is one of Britain's leading actresses. She has made her principal impact in theatre, playing many classical roles (including Rosalind in *As You Like It* in the UK, Nora in *Ibsen's A Doll's House* on Broadway and Chekhov); her performance of the title role in Schiller's *Mary Stuart* was especially memorable. She grew up in York and has a distinct ear for accents which made her an ideal

reader for *Wuthering Heights*. Her film credits include *Tumbleweed* where she played a Southerner from North Carolina.



David Timson has made over 1,000 broadcasts for BBC Radio Drama. For Naxos AudioBooks he wrote *The History of the Theatre*, which won an award for most original production from the Spoken Word Publishers Association in 2001. He has also directed for Naxos AudioBooks four Shakespeare plays, including *King Richard III* (with Kenneth Branagh), which won Best Drama

Award from the SWPA in 2001. In 2002 he won the Audio of the Year Award for his reading of *A Study in Scarlet*. He also reads *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes I, II, III, IV, V* and *VI* and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes I, II and III*.



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±	0			#0		
1	1-1	Chapter 1 1801 – I have just returned	2:59	23 1-23	Heathcliff lifted his hand, and the speaker	3:34
2	1-2	Wuthering Heights is the name	3:06	24 2-1	Chapter 4 What vain weathercocks we are!	2:46
3	1-3	The apartment and furniture would have been	2:55	25 2-2	'He had a son, it seems?'	2:54
4	1-4	I took a seat at the end of the hearthstone	4:26	26 2-3	The worthy woman bustled off, and I crouched	3:01
5	1-5	Chapter 2 Yesterday afternoon set in misty	2:18	27 2-4	We crowded round, and over Miss Cathy's head	3:06
6	1-6	The snow began to drive thickly.	2:25	28 2-5	He seemed a sullen, patient child	5:13
7	1-7	Her position before me was sheltered	2:39	29 2-6	Chapter 5 In the course of time Mr Earnshaw	3:01
8	1-8	'You see, Sir, I am come, according to promise,'	2:49	30 2-7	Certainly she had ways with her	2:47
9	1-9	Perceiving myself in a blunder, I attempted	2:47	31 2-8	But the hour came, at last	3:17
10	1-10	He fixed his eye on me longer than I cared	3:18	32 2-9	Chapter 6 Mr Hindley came home to the funeral	1:55
11	1-11	The little witch put a mock malignity into her	3:30	33 2-10	Young Earnshaw was altered considerably	3:37
12	1-12	He sat within earshot, milking the cows	2:45	34 2-11	'Where is Miss Catherine?' I cried hurriedly.	3:23
13	1-13	Chapter 3 While leading the way upstairs	3:47	35 2-12	'Hush, hush!' I interrupted.	3:17
14	1-14	'An awful Sunday,' commenced the paragraph	2:21	36 2-13	'While they examined me, Cathy came round'	2:06
15	1-15	'Saying this, he compelled us so to square our'	2:30	37 2-14	Mrs Linton took off the grey cloak	2:03
16	1-16	I began to nod drowsily over the dim page.	3:12	38 2-15	Chapter 7 Cathy stayed at Thrushcross Grange	3:18
17	1-17	Oh, how weary I grew. How I writhed	3:03	39 2-16	Cathy, catching a glimpse of her friend	2:52
18	1-18	This time, I remembered I was lying in the oak	3:41	40 2-17	Under these circumstances I remained solitary.	3:33
19	1-19	Heathcliff stood near the entrance	2:10	41 2-18	'Yes: you had the reason of going to bed'	2:20
20	1-20	Scarcely were these words uttered when	3:20	42 2-19	'A good heart will help to a bonny face, my lad,'	3:36
21	1-21	I obeyed, so far as to quit the chamber	2:46	43 2-20	'You should not have spoken to him!'	2:12
22	1-22	A more elastic footstep entered next	2:22	44 2-21	In the evening we had a dance.	3:28

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45	2-22	Thus interrupting herself, the housekeeper rose	1:26	114		'My young lady is looking sadly the worse'	2:30
46		'On the contrary, a tiresomely active one.'	2:37	115		If I let you alone for half a day	3:21
47	3-1	Chapter 8 On the morning of a fine June day Poor soul! Till within a week of her death	3:04	116	5-19	'There – that will do for the present!'	2:37
49		Mrs Dean raised the candle, and I discerned	3:33 1:50	118		I protested against playing that treacherous part Chapter 15 Another week over	4:15 2:54
50	3-4	Mr Edgar seldom mustered courage	3:33	119		A book lay spread on the sill before her	2:57
51	3-5	'Cathy, are you busy this afternoon?'	2:58	120		As I spoke, I observed a large dog	3:45
52	3-6	Her companion rose up;	2:58	121		The two, to a cool spectator	3:02
53	3-7	'Catherine, love! Catherine!' interposed Linton	4:02	122		'Oh, you see Nelly, he would not relent'	2:57
54 55	3-8	Chapter 9 He entered, vociferating oaths Poor Hareton was squalling and kicking	2:56 3:14	123		'You teach me now how cruel you've been' Ere long I perceived a group of the servants	2:41
56	=	While saying this, he took a pint bottle	2:35	125	6-5		4:29 3:22
57		He did not contradict me	3:40	126	6-6		2:05
58		'I'm very far from jesting, Miss Catherine,'	2:09	127	6-7		3:40
59		She seated herself by me again	3:19	128	6-8		3:19
60		Ere this speech ended I became sensible	2:31	129	6-10		2:47
62		'With your husband's money, Miss Catherine?' 'I want to speak to him, and I must, before I go'	4:10 2:57	131	6-11	'My dear young lady,' I exclaimed 'Do you think he could bear to see me grow fat'	3:36 2:53
63	3-17	About midnight, while we still sat up	2:49	132		'Yesterday, you know, Mr Earnshaw'	2:47
64	3-18	Coming down somewhat later than usual	3:38	133		'Yester-evening I sat in my nook reading'	3:32
65		'I never saw Heathcliff last night,'	1:46	134		'He took the implements which I described'	3:30
66		Our young lady returned to us	3:31	135	6-15	, . , ,	3:08
67	3-21	Chapter 10 A charming introduction	2:42	136	6-16	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	2:16
69		I got Miss Catherine and myself to Thrushcross It was a deep voice, and foreign in tone	2:50 3:35	138	6-18	'Heathcliff did not glance my way,' 'Oh, if God would but give me strength,'	3:36 3:03
70		'What does he want?' asked Mrs Linton.	2:41	139		'In my flight through the kitchen'	2:49
71		She was about to dart off again	2:22	140	6-20		3:16
72		He took a seat opposite Catherine	3:16	141	6-21	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	2:38
73	4-1	About the middle of the night, I was wakened	3:09	142		Mr Linton was extremely reluctant to consent	2:32
74 75	4-2	'What do you think of his going to Wuthering' In this self-complacent conviction she departed	2:55 2:39	143	7-1	I insisted on the funeral being respectable Chapter 18 The twelve years following	3:02 2:47
76	4-4	We had all remarked, during some time	3:11	145	_	'Ellen, how long will it be'	3:46
77	4-5	'I wouldn't be you for a kingdom, then!'	2:33	146		He was away three weeks.	2:35
78	4-6	'Banish him from your thoughts, miss,'	2:30	147		You may guess how I felt at hearing this news.	2;52
79		Whether she would have got over this fancy	2:52	148		'Put that hat on, and home at once,'	2:56
80	4-8	As the guest answered nothing	5:38	149 150		'Who is his master?' 'Oh, Ellen! don't let them say such things,'	2:30
82		Chapter 11 Sometimes, while meditating 'God bless thee, darling!'	2:57 3:28	151		It gave Joseph satisfaction, apparently	3:52 3:38
83		The next time Heathcliff came	4:35	152		Chapter 19 A letter, edged with black	3:34
84		'I seek no revenge on you,'	1:47	153		'Now, darling,' said Mr Linton	2:09
85	4-13	'Ellen,' said he, when I entered	3:03	154	7-11	He had been greatly tried, during the journey	2:31
86	4-14 4-15	Heathcliff measured the height and breadth	2:42	155 156		'Good evening, Joseph,' I said, coldly.	3:20
88		The fellow approached 'I'm nearly distracted, Nelly!'	1:53 4:20	157	7-13	Chapter 20 To obviate the danger of this threat 'Is <i>she</i> to go with us,'	2:22 2:53
89	4-17	She rang the bell till it broke with a twang.	2:35	158	7-15	5	2:57
90	4-18	Chapter 12 While Miss Linton moped about	2:42	159	7-16	Heathcliff, having stared his son into an ague	2:51
91	4-19	I should not have spoken so if I had known her	2:29	160	7-17	,,,,	4:48
92	4-20	She could not bear the notion which I had put	3:50	161	7-18	Chapter 21 We had sad work with little Cathy'	2:47
93	4-21	I took her hand in mine 'Well, it seems a weary number of hours,'	2:53 3:21	162	7-19	I divined, from this account 'Well,' said I, 'Where are your moor-game?'	2:50 2:54
95	=	'You won't give me a chance of life, you mean,'	2:16	164	7-21		2:36
96	4-24	Perceiving it vain to argue against her insanity	2:53	165	7-22	Heathcliff bade me be quiet	3:04
97	4-25	'Catherine, what have you done?'	2:59	166	7-23		3:04
98		In passing the garden to reach the road	3:05	167		'Wouldn't you rather sit here?'	2:58
99	5-2	'Heathcliff frequently visits at the Grange,'	3:07	168		'I've a pleasure in him,' he continued	2:43
101	5-4	I did not close my eyes that night Chapter 13 For two months the fugitives	3:48 2:41	170	8-1	Linton gathered his energies, and left the hearth. We stayed till afternoon	3:20 2:30
102		Linton lavished on her the kindest caresses	3:35	171	_	'Then you believe I care more for my own'	3:37
103	5-6	The remainder of this letter is for you alone.	2:30	172		'I'm not crying for myself, Ellen,'	3:03
104		'This is Edgar's legal nephew,'	2:32	173	8-5	One day, as she inspected this drawer,	2:46
105	5-8	'My name was Isabella Linton,'	2:50	174	8-6	Her father sat reading at the table	1:52
106	5-9	I sat and thought a doleful time.	3:56	175	8-7	'I didn't, I didn't!' sobbed Cathy	3:16
107	=	You've acquainted me, Ellen, with your old 'I shall have my supper in another room,'	3:14 2:42	177	8-9	Chapter 22 Summer drew to an end In summer Miss Catherine delighted to climb	2:41 3:14
109	=	He made no reply to this adjuration	2:26	178		'Aunt Isabella had not you and me to nurse her,'	2:35
110		And so he went on scolding to his den beneath	3:18	179	8-11		
111	5-14	Chapter 14 As soon as I had perused this epistle	3:22	180	8-12	Catherine Linton (the very name warms me)	4:27
112	5-15 5-16	'Oh, I have nothing,' I replied	2:41	181	8-13	Chapter 23 The rainy night had ushered	2:45
	ٽن	'With your aid that may be avoided,'	3:39	ت	لنت	I stirred up the cinders	2:49

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183	8-15	'I wish you would say Catherine, or Cathy,	3:00	219 10-9	You may laugh, if you will	4:34
184	8-16	'Hush, Master Heathcliff!,'	2:35	220 10-10	Chapter 30 I have paid a visit to the Heights	3:06
185	8-17	'Since you are in the habit of passing dreadful'	3:23	221 10-11	'At last, one night she came boldly'	2:47
186	8-18	'But you've made yourself ill by crying'	2:50	222 10-12	Heathcliff went up once, to show her Linton's will.	4:17
187	8-19	My companion waxed serious at hearing this	2:58	223 10-13	'That was a great advance for the lad.'	2:36
188	8-20	Chapter 24 At the close of three weeks	2:06	224 10-14	'"What could I ha' done?"'	2:27
189	8-21		3:59	225 10-15		2:19
190	8-22	'On my second visit Linton seemed in lively spirits,'	.2:24	226 10-16	'A letter from your old acquaintance,'	3:15
191	9-1	'After sitting still an hour,'	3:06	227 10-17	Earnshaw blushed crimson	2:47
192	9-2	'The fool stared,'	3:03	228 10-18	but his sen love would endure no farther torment.	5:29
193	9-3	'He swore at us, and left Linton no time'	3:01	229 10-19	chapter 22 room mas september rivas minteam	
194	9-4	'Ellen, I was ready to tear my hair off my head!'	3:44	230 10-20		
195	9-5	'Sit down and take your hat off, Catherine,'	4:19	231 10-21	The task was done, not free from further blunders	. 3:26
196	9-6	Chapter 25 'These things happened last winter'	2:30	232 11-1	'Heathcliff dead!'	2:17
197	9-7	'I've prayed often,'	4:21			4:21
198	9-8	Edgar, though he felt for the boy	2:24	234 11-3		2:08
199	9-9	Chapter 26 Summer was already past its prime	3:01	235 11-4	·	3:15
200		Linton did not appear to remember	3:09			2:28
201			4:21		The work they studied was full of costly pictures	2:40
202		Chapter 27 Seven days glided away	2:22	238 11-7	,	3:14
203		5	3:23		rial eterrioentea at ins platerii	3:48
204	9-14	My young lady, on witnessing his intense anguish	3:32	240 11-9		2:39
205			3:13	241 11-10	I led my young lady out.	2:46
206	9-16	'You shall have tea before you go home,'	2:45		The state of the s	. 3:15
207	9-17	At this diabolical violence I rushed on him furiously.	3:38	243 11-12	reny, and a strange are approaching, in	3:00
208	9-18	'Take you with her, pitiful changeling!'	3:42	244 11-13	zat mat as jeu mean sj a change, m meantain.	'' 3:08
209	9-19	'I <i>am</i> afraid now,'	4:54	245 11-14	and the series and series and even might	2:42
210	9-20	He shrugged his shoulders	3:58	246 11-15	rim you have some steamast.	3:40
211	10-1	Chapter 28 On the fifth morning, or rather	2:55	247 11-16		2:35
212	10-2	'Is she gone?'	2:41	248 11-17	I hurried out in a foolish state of dread	2:16
213	10-3	'Is Mr Heathcliff out?'	3:01	249 11-18	bawii restored me to common sense.	3:44
214	10-4	I considered it best to depart without seeing	3:20	250 11-19	The first are a separation and the first and	3:10
215	10-5	Happily, I was spared the journey	4:54	251 11-20		2:44
216	10-6	Chapter 29 The evening after the funeral	3:23	252 11-21	As soon as he heard the other members	3:10
217	10-7	'Why not let Catherine continue here,'	4:13	253 11-22	I hasped the window	3:38
218	10-8	'You were very wicked, Mr Heathcliff!'	3:41	254 11-23	'What is the matter, my little man?'	3:52

EMILY BRONTË Wuthering Heights

'Whether it is right or advisable to create beings like Heathcliff, I do not know. I scarcely think it is.'

So wrote Charlotte Brontë in her 1850 preface to the second edition of her sister Emily's novel. By then the author of *Wuthering Heights* was dead. The first edition, published in 1847, had sold poorly and received indifferent reviews. To Victorian readers the book was a shocking and unacceptable depiction of uncontrolled passion and cruelty. Clearly its intensity disturbed even Emily's sister, although both writers shared a fascination for Gothic Romanticism.

Had its small readership known at the time that the author was a woman, the shock would have been yet greater; but not until both Emily and her younger sister Anne had died did Charlotte reveal the truth: namely, that Currer Bell, Ellis Bell and Acton Bell, the supposed authors of the poems which the three sisters published together in 1846, were the pen names of Charlotte, Emily and Anne respectively. Since female authors were not then treated with the seriousness granted the opposite sex, they had decided that assumed names were essential.

Born in 1818, two years after Charlotte and a year and a half before Anne, Emily was the fifth of six children; but two of her elder sisters, Maria and Elizabeth, fell ill while away at school and died in 1824. The three remaining sisters and their brother Branwell were all educated by their father Patrick, an Anglican church rector who had been born into a poor, illiterate Irish family. He encouraged his remarkable children to read widely, and to write, which they did by way of escape from the hardships and sufferings that they endured.

Their mother died three years after giving birth to Emily. Her replacement was their aunt, a deeply religious woman who brought up the children with a zeal and fervour which was inimical to Emily in particular.

Although she went away to study on several occasions, Emily much preferred life at the family home in Haworth where she could enjoy her privacy and, above all, write (so long as she was free from household work, doing the finances, and caring for her father). In 1824 she and Anne tried to start a school in the home but little interest was shown and the project collapsed.

Emily was the most reserved and least social of the Brontë children. She normally kept her writings to herself, although as a girl, with her younger sister Anne, she never grew weary of creating stories about the land of Gondal and its inhabitants. This was a fantasy world which exercised their rich imaginations as if in preparation for their later literary endeavours.

When the time came for it, Emily was reluctant to publish. At first she reacted with fury when Charlotte read her poems and suggested it. When *Wuthering Heights* did come before the public, the publisher, keen to profit further from the success of *Jane Eyre*, tried to suggest that Charlotte had written it. So uninterested was

Emily in fame and recognition that she could not bring herself to travel to London and make it clear who the real author was.

Wuthering Heights gives the lie to the clichéd advice which young writers are often urged to bear in mind: 'Write about what you know, what you yourself have experienced'. There is scant evidence to suggest that Emily had a Heathcliff in her life, though this did not hamper her in creating the tempestuous relationship between him and Catherine. How did a mere rector's daughter manage such a thing?

Of course, it was down to her imagination. This brought her characters to life with an intensity not to be found in the kind of superficial romantic fiction which was as popular then as it is today. When we read the story, we do not question its reality. For the Victorians, however, it lacked a fitting sense of morality: the villains of the tale should have been punished more than the author allows. The function of literature was not just to entertain but to elevate and guide.

But Emily Brontë, although influenced by other authors, went her own way, exploring the darkness within her characters in a fashion that looks forward to twentieth-century writing. She presents a point of view that is complex rather than clear and unambiguous; she eschews direct authorial comment and refuses to tell her readers what they should think or to echo what they *did* think. She would surely have concurred with her elder sister's words in her preface to the second edition of *Jane Eyre*: 'Conventionality is not morality. Self-righteousness is not religion... There is a difference; and it is a good, and not a bad action, to mark broadly and clearly the line of separation between them.'

In the 1840s economic depression was severe. Such was the condition of factory workers that fear of social upheaval was aroused in the hearts of the middle and upper classes, among whom there were some who experienced, and sometimes demonstrated, charitable feelings towards the wretched and needy. Unfortunately, once help had been extended and some of those who had been the objects of their condescension were no longer so abject, nay, were even in danger of climbing up the social ladder, there was even more disquiet.

Heathcliff embodies these anxieties. He begins life as a homeless orphan but manages to acquire the money and trappings of a gentleman without learning how to behave like one. What would happen if the lower classes *en masse* forgot their station and demanded serious social change? This, of course, is inconsequential: *Wuthering Heights* has little if anything overtly political about it, and any social criticism is implied rather than directly expressed.

A bare account of the story of Heathcliff's love for Catherine Earnshaw, her marriage to Edgar Linton, and the revenge that Heathcliff derives from marriage to Edgar's sister Isabella might appear to be merely the stuff of sentimental romance. It would hardly serve as sufficient preparation for Brontë's uniquely imaginative creation, which rises above the melodramatic towards the severe simplicity of ancient tragedy. The intensity of the love between the two main characters is expressed by Catherine in a powerful speech which famously concludes: 'I am Heathcliff! He's

always in my mind: not as a pleasure, any more than I am always a pleasure to myself, but as my own being.' Their souls, she says, are made of the same stuff. By contrast, 'Linton's is as different as a moonbeam from lightning, or frost from fire.'

Heathcliff is more a force of nature than a mere man. Catherine's defence of her attitude to him is based on what is in essence a religious yearning: the desire for communion with another order of reality. With Heathcliff she becomes part of something greater than herself; without him she feels less than her full self. Catherine loves her husband, Edgar Linton, but Heathcliff is as necessary to her as her own blood.

The world of the Lintons claims superiority to the dangerous, elemental world represented by Heathcliff and the love he shares with Catherine, though in the end the former proves trivial, exclusive and superficial. But Emily Brontë is not declaring that a choice be made between them; she appears to be searching for some kind of unity between a civilising contemplative permanence and the vitality of natural impulse.

One very striking aspect of the Romantic tendency is a fascination with mortality, a fascination which at its most philosophical is a craving for release from the temporal. The love-death of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* is not morbid, though some have characterised it that way; for such lovers, in a world where union may be either socially impossible or tinged with the prospect of dwindling into domestic banality, death instead holds out the promise of release into an eternal state of blissful commingling. So it is for Catherine and Heathcliff. Death presents itself both as something against which the protagonists struggle with passionate energy and as a deeply evocative representation of peace.

In the temporal world the lovers come together and, with a mixture of ecstasy and suffering, observe their love burgeoning; but it is almost too much for the human frame to bear. In so far as it remains merely external, uninformed by the spiritual intuition arising from their consuming metaphysical passion, the external phenomenal world appears empty and desolate. So death begins to appear inevitable, not just as it is for other mortals but as 'a consummation devoutly to be wish'd'. It is not merely an escape from but a flight towards.

Although her poetry is accorded an honoured place in the history of English Romanticism, *Wuthering Heights* is the work for which Emily Brontë is most remembered. In the short time left to her after its composition she produced very little, and not long after the death of her brother Branwell she herself died. In the following year Anne died too, leaving only Charlotte, who published Emily's masterpiece in an edition which corrected the mistakes ignored by the first publisher.

Wuthering Heights has become one of the most popular of all English novels, inspiring adaptations for both the small and the big screen (not to mention at least one rather unlikely but very popular hit song and a brief Monty Python parody).

Notes by Maurice West

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