

Chapter Three:

Summary:

Zillah leads Lockwood to a chamber avoided by Heathcliff, where he discovers names scrawled on the window ledge: "Catherine Earnshaw," "Catherine Linton," and "Catherine Heathcliff." Among old books, Lockwood finds a diary belonging to a young Catherine. He reads entries detailing her childhood with Heathcliff, both bullied by Joseph and Catherine's brother Hindley. Heathcliff, once welcomed into the family, becomes a servant after the father's death, causing Catherine much sorrow.

Lockwood falls asleep over a religious book, having a nightmare of a fanatic preacher leading a violent mob. He wakes to a branch rubbing against the window. Falling asleep again, he dreams of a "little, ice-cold hand" begging to be let in, claiming to be Catherine Linton lost on the moor. In the dream, Lockwood injures the hand on broken glass, refusing entry even if lost for twenty years. He wakes screaming.

Disturbed, Heathcliff enters, unaware of Lockwood's presence. Lockwood recounts the nightmare, mentioning Catherine Linton, which visibly distresses Heathcliff. Later, in the kitchen, Lockwood overhears Heathcliff desperately pleading for "Cathy" to come in, revealing his profound anguish. Lockwood feels embarrassed witnessing Heathcliff's agony.

Analysis:

It is very important that the ghost of Catherine Linton (who is more than just a figment of Lockwood's imagination) appears as a child. Of course, Lockwood thinks of her as a child, since he has just read parts of her childhood diary, but Heathcliff also seems to find it natural that she appeared in the form she had when they were children together. Rather than progressing from childhood on to a maturer age with its different values, Heathcliff and Catherine never really grew up. That is to say, the most emotionally important parts of their lives either took place in childhood or follows directly from commitments made then.

They never outgrew their solidarity against the oppressive forces of adult authority and religion that is described in Catherine's diary. Thus, the ghost of Catherine Linton (that is her married name) tries to return to her childhood sanctuary, which Heathcliff has kept in its original state. This challenges the dominion of linear time.

Chapter Four:

Summary:

Lockwood, feeling weary from his recent adventures, asks his housekeeper, Ellen Dean, to recount the history of Heathcliff and the old families in the area. Ellen describes Heathcliff as a wealthy but miserly man with no remaining family, as his son has passed away. The girl residing at Wuthering Heights, named Catherine, is the daughter of Ellen's former employers, the Lintons. She is the niece of Hareton Earnshaw and the daughter of the late Mrs. Catherine Linton, born into the Earnshaw family. Ellen expresses fondness for the younger Catherine and concerns for her unhappy circumstances.

The narrative transitions to Ellen's perspective, characterized by plain language and a discreet presence within the story. She recalls growing up at Wuthering Heights, where her mother worked as a wet nurse. One day, Mr. Earnshaw returned from a trip to Liverpool empty-handed regarding the presents he promised his children Hindley and Catherine. Instead, he brought back a "dirty, ragged, black-haired child" found starving on the streets – Heathcliff. Despite not being fully welcomed by Mrs. Earnshaw, Ellen, and Hindley, Heathcliff was taken into the family.

Heathcliff and Catherine formed a close bond, much to Hindley's dismay, who felt his place was threatened. Hindley's resentment led to mistreatment of Heathcliff, who endured it with stoicism.

Analysis:

In this chapter, the narrative turns to the past: from now on, Lockwood will gradually lose importance as the story of Heathcliff and Catherine's childhood becomes more and more vibrant. However, we cannot entirely neglect the role Ellen Dean plays as a narrator: her personality means that the events she recounts are presented in a unique style. She is practical and, like a good housekeeper, tends to incline to the side of order. Brontë

demonstrates her versatility by using different points of view, faithfully recording each character's distinctive style of speech. Considering character development, it is interesting to know what Heathcliff and Catherine were like as children since, as we have seen in the previous chapter, their essential natures remain very much the same. Like her mother, Catherine Linton was willful and mischievous and Heathcliff was uncomplaining but vindictive.