

## **Chapter Seven:**

### **Summary:**

Ellen continued telling the story. Cathy had been away for five weeks, and when she came back, she was like a proper young lady. She couldn't be as playful with Ellen anymore because she had to worry about keeping her dress clean. She unintentionally hurt Heathcliff's feelings by comparing his appearance to the clean and well-dressed Linton siblings .

During Cathy's absence, Heathcliff had been neglected, and Hindley and Cathy's new refined manners made him feel even worse about himself. Cathy still cared for Heathcliff, but he didn't realize it and felt rejected, running away upset when Cathy compared him to the Lintons.

The next day, the Linton children were invited for a Christmas party. Heathcliff, feeling out of place, asked Ellen to help him look presentable. Ellen encouraged him, saying Cathy still cared for him and was upset by his shyness. Heathcliff expressed his desire to be more like Edgar – rich, well-behaved, and fair-skinned. Ellen encouraged him to smile more and trust others to improve his appearance .

Despite his efforts to join the party, Hindley rejected Heathcliff, and Edgar made fun of his appearance, leading to a confrontation where Heathcliff threw hot applesauce at Edgar. Hindley punished Heathcliff severely, leaving Cathy feeling guilty and sad for him .

After the guests left, Cathy sneaked into the garret to comfort Heathcliff. Later, Ellen brought Heathcliff dinner, but he ate little, consumed by thoughts of revenge against Hindley .At this point, Ellen's narrative paused briefly as she and Lockwood discussed the value of action versus contemplation. Lockwood preferred a lazy lifestyle, while Ellen believed in getting things done. Lockwood convinced Ellen to continue the story.

## **Analysis:**

This chapter marks the end of Cathy and Heathcliff's happy and understanding bond. Cathy has entered a new world, that of the refined Lintons, leaving Heathcliff behind. While Cathy still cares for their wild adventures together, she is pressured to conform to the expectations of a lady. She enjoys the admiration she receives from Edgar, Hindley, and his wife, feeling torn between the moors with Heathcliff and the civilized parlor with Edgar.

Emily Brontë, drawing from her own struggles with conforming to societal norms, illustrates Cathy's conflict between staying true to herself and fitting into society. Unlike Brontë, Cathy chooses to navigate both worlds.

A material object, Cathy's fine dress, symbolizes the barrier between her and Heathcliff. To maintain their closeness, Cathy must sacrifice the artificial boundaries created by the dress – its cost, social status, and artificial beauty. Heathcliff rightly sees the dress as a threat to their relationship, as it represents the divisions between them that will continue to cause conflict.

### **Important quotations:**

**1. “I am now quite cured of seeking pleasure in society, be it country or town. A sensible man ought to find sufficient company in himself.”**

**Lockwood,**

Lockwood, though not a main character, prefers solitude, which Emily Brontë valued. The characters at Wuthering Heights, like Heathcliff and Catherine, also enjoy being alone. They are deeply in touch with their strong feelings. Brontë suggests that being comfortable alone helps people understand themselves better.

**2. “We don't in general take to foreigners here, Mr. Lockwood, unless they take to us first.”**

**Ellen Dean,**

Ellen's early warning reminds us of key events in the novel, like Lockwood's bad encounter with Heathcliff and his decision to leave the moors for London. It also shows how closed-off the society in the story is. The focus is on just two families, the Earnshaws and the Lintons, who mainly interact with each other and their servants.

When Heathcliff—a "foreigner," who is not from the moors and not English, enters their world, it causes chaos.

**3. "I wish I had 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!"**

**Heathcliff,**

When Heathcliff was young, he admired Edgar Linton and wanted to be wealthy like him. But he also wished he had fair skin and light hair, showing a critique of English views on foreigners. People called him a "gipsy," which made it hard for him to move up socially. Later, as Heathcliff became wealthier, his morals changed. Brontë suggests society's rejection contributed to this, not just his own decisions.

**4. "I perceive that people in these regions acquire over people in towns the value that a spider in a dungeon does over a spider in a cottage, to their various occupants; and yet the deepened attraction is not entirely owing to the situation of the looker-on. They do live more in earnest, more in themselves, and less in surface, change, and frivolous external things."**

**Lockwood,**

The beautiful Yorkshire moors are a key theme in *Wuthering Heights*. They inspire wildness and closeness between Cathy and Heathcliff. Lockwood believes rural life encourages reflection and emotional awareness. While other Victorian authors also set novels in the countryside, Brontë uniquely links it to strong, primal emotions. Though nature's power can be scary, Brontë says it's important for living a full, passionate life.