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Love and Revenge in *Wuthering Heights*

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Abstract

Wuthering Heights is one of the famous, tragic, gothic novel having destructive love between the passionate Catherine Earnshaw and the tormented orphan Heathcliff set on the windswept Yorkshire moors, focusing on their intertwined lives, Heathcliff's brutal revenge after Catherine chooses social status over him by marrying Edgar Linton and the subsequent generations' cyclical suffering culminating in a resolution with the younger Catherine and Hareton finding peace after Heathcliff's death. There is description of two families in the novel- Mr. Earnshaw and Mr. Linton. Heathcliff the adopted child of Mr. Earnshaw Creates a spiritual bond with Catherine Earnshaw since childhood. Later Catherine marries wealthy Edgar Linton for status, breaking Heathcliff's heart who overhears her deeming him unworthy. Heathcliff leaves *Wuthering Heights* at once and returns as rich. He takes his revenge on the Linton and Earnshaw families, marrying Edgar's sister Isabella and tormenting everyone. Later Catherine dies after childbirth while Heathcliff dies in haunting memories of Catherine Earnshaw.

Keywords: Gothic, Moor, Tormented, Resolution, Passionate, Windswept and Haunting.

Wuthering Heights can be defined as one of the best novels of Emily Bronte exploring the theme of love and revenge. The story of the novel is interwoven around two families- Mr. Earnshaw and Mr. Linton. Emily Bronte used the narrative technique in *Wuthering Heights* very competently. There are two narrators in the story- Lockwood who is on rent in Heathcliff's Thrushcross Grange and second one is Nelly Dean who is housekeeper in *Wuthering Heights* and Thrushcross Grange. Lockwood visits *Wuthering Heights* to meet Heathcliff. He realizes strange happenings at night. He finds a tree branch knocking against his window. He screams. Heathcliff enters in the room hearing his scream. Lockwood depicts to Nelly Dean who is housekeeper in *Wuthering Heights* and Thrushcross Grange. Nelly Dean tells the story of Heathcliff & Catherine.

There were two families -Earnshaw and Linton. Heathcliff was an adopted child of Earnshaw who was living with Hindley and Catherine. Hindley did not like Heathcliff. He thought that

Heathcliff was stealing his father's affections. He started ill-treating him. His sister Catherine liked Heathcliff. Finally, she married Edgar Linton the neighbouring son of Linton. Heathcliff appeared at the scene after three years. He decided to take revenge upon Edgar and Hindley. He ruined Edgar by marrying her sister Isabella and Hindley making him a drunkard & gambler. He had a son named Linton from Isabella. He took his revenge upon second generation also. He forced Cathy to marry his sickly son Linton. He grabbed Wuthering Heights & Thrushcross Grange because Hindley died with unpaid debts of Heathcliff. Cathy the only member of Linton's family was the daughter-in-law of Heathcliff. Hindley's son Hareton was also in his charge. He tortured both and died and had grave made aside Catherine.

The structure of the novel is very unique. It describes the story of Earnshaw and Linton family step by step. Heathcliff the hero of the novel an adopted boy of Earnshaw who is living with Hindley and Catherine. Hindley does not like Heathcliff. He thinks that Heathcliff is stealing his father's affection. He starts ill-treating him. His sister Catherine likes Heathcliff. But she decides to marry Edgar the neighbouring son of Linton. Heathcliff appears at the scene after three years. He decides to take revenge upon Edgar and Hindley. He ruins Edgar by marrying his sister Isabella and making Hindley a drunkard & gambler. He has a son from Isabella named Linton. He takes his revenge upon second generation also. He forces Cathy to marry his sickly son Linton. He grabs 'Wuthering Heights' & Thrushcross Grange because Hindley dies with unpaid debts of Heathcliff. Cathy the only member of Linton's family is now her daughter-in-law. Hindley's son Hareton is in his charge. The memory of Catherine still haunts him and finally he dies. His grave is made beside Catherine.

The novel 'Wuthering Heights' is based upon Catherine-Heathcliff relationship. They appear in the scene from very beginning and survive till their death. Mr. Earnshaw brings Heathcliff from Liverpool and orders Hindley and Catherine to treat him as their brother. Hindley rejects the order while Catherine develops strong relationship with him. They spend most of their time on the moors. Catherine consoles Heathcliff for Hindley's rude behaviour. Heathcliff also feels relaxed in her company. After the death of Mrs. Earnshaw, Hindley gets more freedom in dealing with Heathcliff. It is only Catherine who consoles & treats him sympathetically. Hindley's rude behavior towards Heathcliff forces Mr. Earnshaw to send him boarding school. One day Mr. Earnshaw is found dead, Heathcliff consoles her. Hindley returns to scene with wife. Now Hindley is the owner of Wuthering Heights. He starts treating more inhumanly to Heathcliff. He bears his insult silently because of Catherine's loving behaviour. But an incident at Thrushcross Grange changes their life. Heathcliff and Catherine secretly enjoy a party there. A watchdog wounded Catherine. She has to stay at Linton's home for treatment. She comes in contact with Edgar the son of Linton. He is educated, gentle and rich. She starts liking him. She also tells Nelly Dean about her desire to marry Edgar. She says that she does not want to degrade her marrying with Heathcliff. He overhears the conversation. He leaves Wuthering Heights at once. Catherine marries Edgar in mean time. She is leading her life happily. Heathcliff appears at the stage. He creates disharmony between their relationship. Catherine overjoys to receive Heathcliff at her home. Heathcliff requests her for his stay at Wuthering Heights. Catherine persuades Edgar to grant permission. Heathcliff decides to revenge upon Hindley and Edgar. Hindley who tortured him since childhood is now under his custody as he is on the mercy of Heathcliff to arrange money for drinking and gambling. Hindley finds himself on the mercy of Heathcliff. He takes his revenge upon him by torturing him and his son Hareton. He also takes his revenge upon Edgar by marrying his sister Isabella. He tortures her badly because her brother married to his beloved Catherine. He is so rude that he arranges his sick son's marriage with Cathy the daughter of Catherine and Edgar. Catherine has been in mental agony after Heathcliff's appearance at the scene. She is in Confusion to whom prefer-Her husband or Her lover. Heathcliff is fully disturbed as his beloved is united with her husband Edgar. Catherine dies giving birth to a premature baby. Heathcliff is in dilemma.

Heathcliff is overwhelmed with revenge. He does not educate Hareton, the son of Hindley. He tortures him as he is tortured by his father in his early life span. He does not spare his own son Linton to grab the Property of Thrushcross Grange. He forces Linton to woo Cathy. When Cathy gets married to Linton, he tortures her. He does not allow her to attend her sick father.

Love and revenge are a toxic mix in the novel *Wuthering Heights*. Heathcliff's love for Catherine fuels his revenge, destroying multiple lives. His quest for revenge ultimately leads to his own downfall. Love and revenge create a cycle of pain and loss for nearly everyone.

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