

PLOT

Opening

In 1801, Mr Lockwood, **the new tenant** at Thrushcross Grange in Yorkshire, pays a visit to **his landlord, Heathcliff**, at his remote **moorland farmhouse**, Wuthering Heights. There he meets a reserved young woman (later identified as **Cathy** Linton); Joseph, a bad tempered servant; and Hareton, an uneducated young man who speaks like a servant. Everyone is **sullen** and inhospitable. Snowed in for the night, Lockwood reads the diary of the former inhabitant of his room, **Catherine Earnshaw**, and has a nightmare in which a ghostly Catherine begs to enter through the window. Woken by Lockwood's fearful yells, Heathcliff is troubled.

Lockwood later returns to Thrushcross Grange in heavy snow, falls ill from the cold and becomes **bedridden**. While he recovers, Lockwood's **housekeeper** Ellen "**Nelly**" Dean tells him the story of the strange family.

Nelly's tale

Thirty years earlier, the Earnshaws live at Wuthering Heights with their children, **Hindley** and **Catherine**, and a servant — **Nelly** herself. Returning from a trip to Liverpool, Earnshaw brings home **a young orphan** whom he names **Heathcliff**; Earnshaw treats the boy as his favourite. His own children he neglects, especially after his wife dies. Hindley beats Heathcliff, who gradually becomes **close** friends with Catherine.

Hindley departs for university, returning as the new master of Wuthering Heights **on the death** of his father three years later. **He and his new wife Frances allow Heathcliff to stay, but only as a servant.**

The climb to ruined **farmhouse** Top Withens, thought to have inspired the Earnshaws' home in Wuthering Heights

Heathcliff and Catherine spy on Edgar Linton and his sister Isabella, children who live nearby at Thrushcross Grange. Catherine is attacked by their dog, and the Lintons take her in, sending Heathcliff home. When the Lintons visit, Hindley and Edgar make fun of Heathcliff; **a fight follows**. Heathcliff is locked in the **attic** and vows revenge.

Frances dies after giving birth to a son, **Hareton**. Two years later, **Catherine becomes engaged to Edgar**. She confesses to Nelly that **she loves Heathcliff**, and will try to help but cannot marry him because of his low social status. Nelly warns her against the plan. **Heathcliff overhears part of the conversation** and, misunderstanding Catherine's heart, flees the household. **Catherine falls ill, distraught.**

Edgar and Catherine marry, and **three years later Heathcliff unexpectedly returns** — now **a wealthy gentleman**. He encourages Isabella's infatuation with him as **a means of revenge on Catherine**. **Enraged** by Heathcliff's constant presence at Thrushcross Grange, **Edgar cuts off contact**. **Catherine responds by locking herself in her room and refusing food**; **pregnant with** Edgar's child, she never fully recovers. At Wuthering Heights Heathcliff **gambles with** Hindley who **mortgages** the property to him to pay his debts. Heathcliff **elopes** with Isabella, but the relationship fails and they soon return.

When Heathcliff discovers that Catherine is dying, he visits her in secret. She dies shortly after giving birth to a daughter, Cathy, and **Heathcliff rages, calling on her ghost to haunt him for as long as he lives.** Isabella flees south where she gives birth to **Heathcliff's son, Linton.** Hindley dies six months later, leaving Heathcliff as master of Wuthering Heights.

Twelve years later, Isabella is dying and the still-sickly Linton is brought back to live with his uncle Edgar at the Grange, but Heathcliff insists that his son must instead live with him. **Cathy and Linton** (respectively at the Grange and Wuthering Heights) gradually **develo****He becomes increasingly wild and reveals that on the night Catherine died he dug up her grave, and ever since has been plagued by her ghosp a relationship.** Heathcliff schemes to ensure that they marry, and on Edgar's death demands that the couple move in with him. t. When Linton dies, Cathy has no option but to remain at Wuthering Heights.

Having reached the present day, Nelly's tale concludes.

Ending

Lockwood grows tired of the moors and moves away. Eight months later he arrives at Wuthering Heights while travelling through the area. He sees Nelly again, who is now the housekeeper at Wuthering Heights. She reports that Cathy has been teaching the still-uneducated Hareton to read. Heathcliff was seeing visions of the dead Catherine; he avoided the young people, saying that he could not bear to see Catherine's eyes, which they both shared, looking at him. He had stopped eating, and some days later was found dead in Catherine's old room.

In the present, Lockwood learns that Cathy and Hareton plan to marry and move to the Grange. Joseph is left to take care of the declining Wuthering Heights. **Nelly says that the locals have seen the ghosts of Catherine and Heathcliff wandering abroad together, and hopes they are at peace.**