

## Wuthering Heights Second Extract – Nelly Dean, Young Cathy, Linton and Heathcliff

### Act2 Sc2 Linton, Nelly, Young Cathy and Heathcliff

**Cathy:** Well, Linton, are you glad to see me?

**Linton:** Why didn't you come before? You should have come instead of writing. It tired me dreadfully to write those long letters. Now I can neither bear to talk, nor anything else. I want to drink. I wonder where Zillah is!

**Cathy:** Are you glad to see me?

**Linton:** Yes I am, but I have been vexed that you wouldn't come. Papa said it was owing to me and said you despised me. But you don't despise me, do you?

**Cathy:** No, next to papa and Nelly, I love you better than anyone living. I wish you were my brother.

**Linton:** But papa says you would love me better if you were my wife – so I'd rather you were that.

**Cathy:** Sometimes people hate their wives.

**Linton:** No they don't.

**Cathy:** They do, like your father hated aunt Isabella. Papa told me and papa does not tell falsehoods.

**Linton:** My papa scorns yours! He calls him a sneaking fool.

**Cathy:** Yours is a wicked man and you are very naughty to dare repeat what he says. He must be wicked to have made aunt Isabella leave as she did.

**Linton:** She didn't leave him!

**Cathy:** She did!

**Linton:** Well, I'll tell you something – your mother hated your father and loved mine!

**Cathy:** You little liar, I hate you now!

*Cathy gives the chair on which Linton is sitting a violent push and he falls off, inducing a coughing fit. He eventually recovers.*

**Cathy:** My father is very ill. Why am I called from his bedside? Do you truly want me here?

**Linton:** I am a worthless, cowardly wretch. Hate my father and spare me for contempt. I am a traitor, too, yet dare not tell you. Perhaps you will consent – and he'll let me die with you.

**Cathy:** Consent to what?

**Linton:** My father threatened me – I dread him. I dare not tell.

**Cathy:** I'm no coward – I'm not afraid of him.

*We hear the sound of the door locking. Heathcliff enters holding a key and draws Nelly to one side.*

**Heathcliff:** *(to Nelly)* Ah, welcome to my house. How are you at the Grange? The rumour goes that Edgar Linton is on his death-bed. Perhaps they exaggerate his illness.

**Nelly:** No, my master is dying.

**Heathcliff:** How long will he last, do you think? My lad seems sicklier than ever: I'd thank his uncle to be quick and go before him!

**Linton:** I have done as you wished, father.

**Heathcliff:** Miss Linton. Take your seat by him. I give you what I have; the present is hardly worth accepting but I have nothing else to offer. *(To Nelly)* By hell, I hate them!

**Cathy:** I'm not afraid of you! Give me that key, I will have it!

**Heathcliff:** Now, Catherine Linton, stand off or I shall knock you down and that will make Mrs Dean mad.

**Cathy:** *We will go! (She attempts to snatch the key)*

*Heathcliff hits Cathy and she falls. Nelly tries to intervene and is pushed away.*

**Heathcliff:** I know how to chastise children. *(To Cathy)* Go to Linton now and cry at your ease. I shall be your father tomorrow – all the father you will have in a few days. You'll have a daily taste *(raising his hand)* if I catch such a devil of a temper in your eye again. *Heathcliff exits.*

**Nelly:** Master Linton – we are imprisoned. You know what your diabolical father is after, and you shall tell us.

**Cathy:** It was for your sake that I came.

**Linton:** Give me some tea, I'm thirsty, and then I'll tell you.

*Nelly obliges by pouring from a pot.*

**Linton:** Papa wants us to be married at once. He knows your papa wouldn't let us marry *now*; and he's afraid of my dying if we wait. You are to stay here tonight, we will marry in the morning, and he has promised me I may go with you when you return home.

**Nelly:** Do you imagine that beautiful young lady will tie herself to a perishing little monkey like you? You want whipping for your dastardly tricks!

**Cathy:** Stay all night? Ellen, I'll burn the door down, but I'll get out.

**Linton:** Won't you have me and save me? You *must* obey my father, you *must*!

**Cathy:** Linton, know this – I love my papa better than I love you.

*Heathcliff re-enters. Cathy backs away from him.*

**Heathcliff:** Your courage is well disguised. You seem damnably afraid.

**Cathy:** I *am* afraid, because if I stay papa will be miserable. How can I endure to make him miserable when he is dying. Mr Heathcliff, let me go home. I promise to marry Linton. Papa would have wanted us to when we are of age. Why do you force me to do what I will do willingly?

**Heathcliff:** I shall enjoy myself remarkably in thinking your father will be miserable. And your promise to marry Linton will be fulfilled before you quit this place. Your father's happiest days were over when your days began. He cursed you, I dare say, for coming into the world – I did, at least.

**Cathy:** I'll marry Linton within the hour if I may go to Thrushcross Grange afterwards. Mr Heathcliff, you're a cruel man but you're not a fiend. You won't, from mere malice, destroy all my happiness. Have you never loved anybody in all your life? Never? You can't help being sorry and pitying me.

**Heathcliff:** Keep away from me or I'll kick you. How the devil can you dream of fawning on me? I detest you!

*Heathcliff exits. Nelly crosses to Lockwood. While she speaks, we see Heathcliff arriving with the minister. Cathy and Linton join them and the marriage takes place in mime behind her.*

**Nelly:** We were kept for five days, during which time Cathy was forced to marry Linton. Even after the marriage, Heathcliff did not allow her to go though her father was dying. Only when Linton was persuaded, without his father knowing, to leave a door unlocked were we able to make good our escape.