



Wuthering Heights

Author
Emily Brontë

Year Published
1847

Original Language
English

SYMBOLS

Where Passion Meets Obsession

One of the most famous romances of all time, *Wuthering Heights* tells the story of Heathcliff and Cathy, who are raised in the same household on the wild moors of England. The pair become passionate soul mates whose love soon grows into a dangerous obsession that cannot be contained, even in death.

Weather

Keeps *Wuthering Heights* in tumult; symbolizes the passionate emotions of the characters

Ghosts

Represent memory and obsession; Cathy's ghost haunts Heathcliff

Moors

Symbolize the passion—and danger—of Heathcliff and Cathy's childhood love

Hair

Symbolizes the intertwined lives of the characters

Author



EMILY BRONTË
1818–48

Brontë published one novel in her lifetime, *Wuthering Heights*—and never lived to see its success. She grew up in England alongside two sisters (who would become famous authors) and a brother. Little is known of Brontë's life, which adds to the mystery of her work.

Wuthering Heights by the Numbers



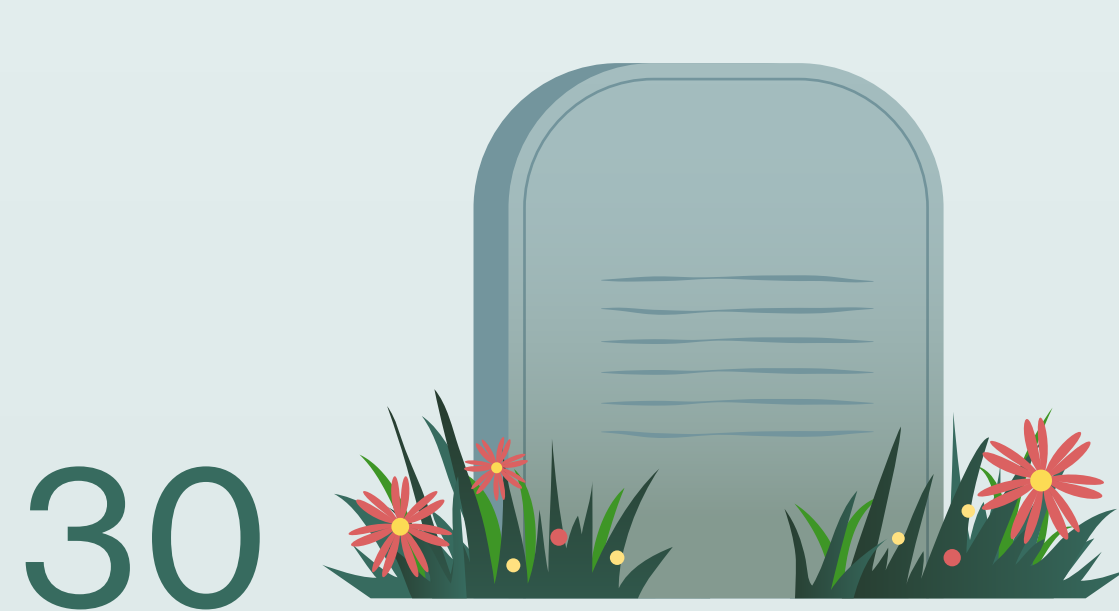
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Pages from Brontë's original manuscript that have been found



17

Chapters dedicated to each love story in the novel



30

Brontë's age when she died of tuberculosis—the same disease that killed multiple characters in the novel



£50

Amount Brontë paid to have her manuscript published after it was repeatedly rejected

Themes



Revenge

Heathcliff is obsessed with revenge and holds grudges against his foster brother, his romantic rival—and even his lover, Cathy, for dying.



Belonging

Most characters in the novel are outsiders looking for belonging, whether it be in a family, in a relationship, or in society.



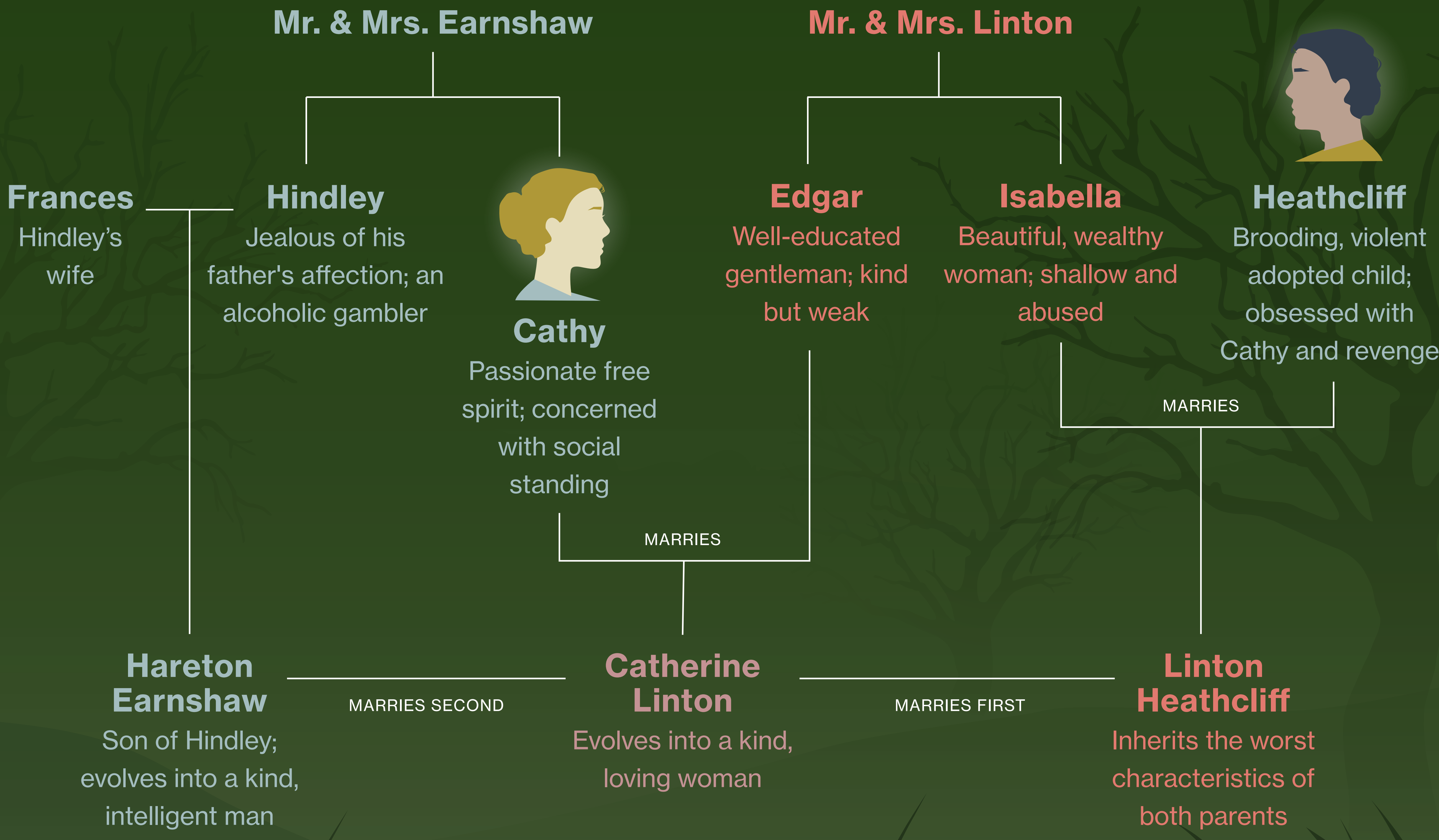
Love & Obsession

Scholars still debate whether Cathy and Heathcliff love—or are merely obsessed with—each other. Unhealthy doses of both permeate their relationship.

Main Characters



■ Earnshaw Family ■ Linton Family



Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same.

Cathy, Chapter 9