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## Paranormal activities in *Wuthering Heights*

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### Abstract

Paranormal activities have important and integral part of the novel *Wuthering Heights*. Each and every character goes through such horrific experiences which shudder the audiences. The novelist uses ghosts, dreams and haunting landscapes to show that love, Memory and obsession do not end with death. Characters like Lockwood, Heathcliff, Isabella, Villagers encounter with cosmic powers, Mystic atmosphere at Heathcliff's death, Raging of storm on the moors, Isabella's encounter with witches, Supernatural occurrences in Lockwood's dream, Heathcliff's encounter with Catherine's ghost and Lockwood's encounter with Catherine's spirit create an atmosphere of horror and fear. All these happenings reflect intense emotions and a bond that defies morality, enhancing the novel's gothic atmosphere and deep psychological themes of obsessive love, memory and revenge. The introduction of paranormal elements in the novel justifies the belief of the people, their superstitions, conventional faith at the time they lived.

Keywords: Paranormal, Encounter, Gothic, Obsession, Revenge, Conventional and Shudder.

*Wuthering Heights* is one of the famous gothic novels of Emily Bronte. It creates terror in the eyes of audience. The novel is filled with supernatural happenings which shudder the audience. It is based on the ghost of Catherine Earnshaw who appears to Lockwood in the beginning. Her spirit constantly searches Heathcliff symbolizing their true and obsessive love. The ghostly encounters blur the line between reality and imagination. Even villagers report Heathcliff & Catherine's ghost. The novelist used gothic elements to explore eternal bonds, revenge and the inescapable past, creating a deeply atmospheric gothic novel.

### Paranormal Events & activities

Lockwood visits at Heathcliff's *Wuthering Heights* to meet him. The night is stormy. He plans to stay at *Wuthering Heights*. He experiences strange happenings at night. He finds a tree branch knocking against his window. When he tries to remove the branch from the window, he gets hold of the icy hand of a woman who tries to come inside through the window. He screams. Heathcliff enters the room hearing his scream. Heathcliff is deeply shaken and emotional, begging Catherine's ghost to return. Lockwood also goes through such an experience when he is listening to a sermon with Joseph

about sins. At the end of the sermon, Lockwood rises and orders the people to drag the speaker. The preacher orders the assembly to punish Lockwood. Joseph is the first person who attacks Lockwood.

Heathcliff's encounter with Catherine's ghost in *Wuthering Heights* is one of the most emotionally powerful moments in the novel. Lockwood tells Heathcliff about the ghost at the window in terror. He rushes to the window and throws it open. He calls out desperately to Catherine, begging her to return: "Come in! Come in!" He admits that he has been tormented by her presence for years and requests her not to leave him again. Catherine is buried after her death. Heathcliff is lunatic in his love and starts digging her grave in order to take Catherine's dead body in his arms. Doing so, he finds someone sighing at the grave. He stops digging. Heathcliff sees a ghost and loses his sense. Finally, he dies. It reveals Heathcliff's unconditional love and obsession for Catherine. Villagers report another incident of supernatural happenings. They claim the ghost of Catherine and Heathcliff together on the moors suggesting their souls found unity only in death. It symbolizes their eternal, restless bond and unresolved passion.

There is also figurative use of witches in connection with Isabella in the novel. Though the character Isabella does not literally encounter witches. Once the word "Witches" has been used in a figurative sense to describe a child's tantrum by Nelly Dean in Volume 1, Chapter 6, "Isabella – I believe she is eleven, a year younger than Cathy – lay screaming at the farther end of the room, shrieking as if witches were running red hot needles into her." There is no direct reference of witches' encounter with Isabella in the novel.

The death of Heathcliff is one of the most mystic and supernatural episodes in the novel. Emily Bronte creates an atmosphere of terror and fear where the boundary between life and death, reality and the spiritual world becomes blurred. Before his death, Heathcliff speaks repeatedly of Catherine's presence. He assumes to see her everywhere, calling him. He loses his interest in food, sleep and revenge. The novelist uses nature as a mystic force to create an atmosphere of supernatural elements – Wind, Rain and Open windows. The moors have been used for freedom and spirits. His death occurs with the window open symbolizing a passage between worlds. Nature seems to welcome him. The expressions on Heathcliff's face are terrifying at his death. His eyes are open and fixed. His face bears a strange, triumphant smile. Nelly Dean feels disturbed and afraid to close his eyes. Villagers claim to see Heathcliff and Catherine wandering the moors.

In *Wuthering Heights*, the raging of storm on the moors is a key symbol. It creates an atmosphere of terror and fear in the novel. It reflects the wild, untamed nature of the moors which parallels the violent emotions and passions of the characters, especially Heathcliff and Catherine. The raging of storm on the moors is a powerful symbol of passion, chaos and the uncontrollable forces shaping the characters' lives. Catherine tells Nelly Dean that she will marry Edgar, not Heathcliff because of his low status. Heathcliff overhears the conversation and leaves at once. A storm rages on the moors. Lots of trees were uprooted. It creates an atmosphere of terror and mystic.

The villagers also encounter the ghost of Catherine and Heathcliff on different occasions. It emphasizes the restless nature of the characters' souls. It reinforces the novel's gothic mood, making *Wuthering Heights* a place of mystery, fear and suspense. An old man says that he has seen the ghost of Catherine and Heathcliff on the moors every rainy night. Even a shepherd says that his sheep do not move on because of the presence of the ghost of Heathcliff and Catherine.

Gothic elements intensify the emotional drama, reflect inner passions, highlighting themes of love and revenge. These elements include haunted houses, ghosts, storms, the wild moors and violence. Storms, darkness and supernatural occurrences mirror the inner turmoil and passion of the characters – especially Heathcliff and Catherine. The gothic elements make the novel more dramatic and compelling, drawing readers into a world of mystery, danger and extreme emotion.

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