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VENGEANCE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF EMILY BRONTE'S *HEATHCLIFF* AND MARTINA COLE'S *MARIE*

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ABSTRACT

Emily Bronte published *Wuthering Heights* in 1847 and passed away the following year. In this novel, she created the protagonist Heathcliff, an orphan who after adoption became victim of everyone's hatred & cruelty thus deprived of all basic aspect of life. He grew up with a feeling of extreme vengeance as motive of life and teaches everyone a lesson for their wrong doing. Martina Cole came up with *Faceless* in the year 2001 with Marie Carter as the lead. Her family disliked and disowned her because of her rebellious and un-conventional approach towards life. It made her go astray in life, getting associated with wrong people thus ending up in prison on charges of murdering her two friends. After being released from prison, she learnt about the conspirator who damaged not only her life but also the life of her children, parents etc.

This article explores how *Heathcliff* and *Marie* were created equal by their respective creators. Vengeance was part of their existence. They were alike in the treatment met to them by society and family, experienced deception in love, and defied society norms. Finally both Emily and Martina make their respective protagonist succeed in their own way of vengeance.

Keywords: Vengeance, Deception, Rebel, Hatred

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INTRODUCTION

Heathcliff and Marie Carter were created equal by Emily and Martina respectively. They were painted with the same brush. They came from the same part of the globe although lived with a gap of a century. Heathcliff lived in 18th century England while Marie came from the 19th century of England. They both were rebel in their tender age and met a treatment of hatred and anger during their growing years.

"The former was a boy of fourteen, but when he drew out what had been a fiddle, crushed to morsels in the great coat, he

blubbered aloud; and Cathy, when she learned the master had lost her whip in attending on the stranger, showed her humor by grinning and spitting at the little stupid thing..... (17)"

Heathcliff was subjected to physical abuse. "He seemed a sullen, patient child; hardened perhaps to ill-treatment; he would stand Hindlay's blows without winking or shedding a tear (75). In case of Marie, she met a bad treatment mainly from her mother and younger sister.

Since young age, both defied normal society norms. In fact they both developed extreme

feeling of vengeance in due course of time. Heathcliff developed feelings for revenge out of the ill-treatment met due to Hindley as well as failed love with Catherine soon, he escaped from the clutches of his perpetrators. After several years, he returned as a strong person with a firm determination and plan to take revenge and punish the wrong doers. In case of Marie, after releasing from prison learnt about the miserable life of her parents, children and even grandchild through the hands of the same man who had ruined her life i.e. Patrick. Her extreme wrath results into a conspiracy against him and ultimately succeeding in it. Lastly, Bronte and Cole placed their protagonist as the one who either overcome their feeling of revenge or gets revenge as god's will.

First of all, let us compare the physical appearance of Heathcliff and Marie. Both of them possessed an unconventional look. Heathcliff is described as 'gipsy brat', 'as dark almost as if it came from the devil' & 'dirty ragged, black haired child, big enough both to walk and talk'. (32) In case of Marie, she possessed 'lush body' & 'carved from stone'. Due to her extreme good look, 'men either adored her or wanted to fight her'. 'The permanent frown was gone revealing smooth unwrinkled skin. Her high cheekbones, the envy of more than a few screws and prisoners over the years, gave her face a Nordic beauty. Full, curving lips made her face look enigmatic, interesting. Her cool blue eyes were softer than usual (1).

Next both Heathcliff and Marie were rebellious by nature. At Wuthering Heights, Heathcliff 'often escaped with Catherine to moors in the evening and remain there all day'. (41) Once on being banished from sitting room for making noise, he with Catherine stepped out of the house and didn't return till late at night. Coming to Marie, at young age only she had experimented with drugs, alcohol and sex. She was caught red-handed in the act with her Maths teacher, charged her school mates five cigarettes for sex etc. 'No matter what her mother did, beat her, grounded her, put her in care, Marie wouldn't change (113)'. In fact, her own mother developed a notion that Marie caused trouble so as to become centre of attention.

Both the protagonist met the same fate in love in one or the other way. Heathcliff's dreams of marrying Catherine shattered on learning about her romantic involvement with Edgar. 'It would degrade me to marry Heathcliff now; so he shall never know how I love him: and that, not because he's handsome, Nelly, but because he's more myself than I am. Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same; and Linton's is as different as a moonbeam from lightning, or frost from fire. (9.92) On the contrary, Marie was never seriously in love with a particular individual. In fact it was due to her early physical encounters, at the age of fifteen, she had her daughter Tiffany and by seventeen delivered her son Jason. She had two different kids with radically different father i.e. one black and one white 'for the love that had destroyed everything in her life. Was still destroying her even after all these years (203) '.

Finally, both Heathcliff and Marie got the opportunity to take revenge from their respective targets. It is striking that both got the opportunity to exercise their control and execute revenge but one lost the desire to do so and one ended up getting it as god's will. In case of Heathcliff, in spite of having all Hindley's wealth, ill treating and depriving his son Hareton of all basic aspects of life, he could not prevent his closeness with Cathy. Hareton often stood by Cathy during ill treatment and often sat with Cathy in leisure. With passage of time, Heathcliff felt Hareton's and Cathy's profound love for each other. In fact at one point of time, he ended up confessing to Nally about his desire to let go his feeling of revenge. The major reason for this change was his strong feeling of Catherine's presence and that was tormenting him further. It is striking to note that Marie Carter on learning about the sufferings of her family, children, grandchild, the death of her daughter Tiffany and worst being her false implication in the double murder due to one man Patrick Connor further fuelled her desire to take revenge. After a lot of strategies, meticulous planning she hatched a plan to kill Pat. But as she got the opportunity to kill him, she found him already murdered in the hands of his own rivals. One would say it was god's way of punishing a sinner and getting justice for Marie.

It is quite interesting to note the portrayal of the lead characters by Emily and Martina. Both are shown as quite adventurous, rebellious, and fun-loving individual. Undoubtedly, both were emotionally weak, with carefree attitude and prone to apathy in their tender age. As a result grew up in an environment of deprivation and hatred thus developing a sense of extreme wrath toward wrong doers. It was their firm determination to teach a lesson to culprits that they worked hard in respective direction so as to attain their ultimate goal-revenge. Heathcliff who was an orphan with almost no education escaped from Heights and later emerged with lot of wealth and controlled the life of almost all individual's there thus devastating them. Similarly, Marie who was victimized and made culprit in a double murder case spent her twelve years in prison. After being released from there and later on learning about her false implication as well as miserable life of her family due to a single individual gave her firm determination to chalk out a plan to take revenge. Though none i.e. neither Heathcliff nor Marie could take vengeance as one overcame that feeling with passage of time and another one got it in a disguise.

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