

10

..... Then she locked herself in her bedroom where she remained for three days and nights, refusing all offers of food. At last she appeared, asking for food and water as she believed she was dying.

“Where is that dull being?” she asked.

“If you mean Mr Linton”, I replied, “He is in the library, reading”.

“I am near death and he is reading!” she exclaimed.

She went and opened the window. A cold wind blew in and she stood there, in her nightdress.

“I wish I were girl again,” she cried. “Feel that wind Nellie. It comes straight from the moor.”

“Please,” I cried. “Come to bed! But she did not move and refused to shut the window.

When Edgar Linton saw her, he immediately called the doctor. After examining her, he said:

“If she is kept absolutely quiet, then she may return to health.”

But something happened which made that impossible. Isabella disappeared.

“She’s runaway with Mr Heathcliff,” one of the servants told us. “They were seen leaving the village together”.

“Must we go and look for her, Sir?” I asked.

“She went of her own free will,” he answered. “Do not speak of her again. From now on I have no sister”.

The runaway couple remained absent for two months. Catherine was shattered. She developed brain fever and was seriously ill; her mind wandered. Edgar watched over her day and night.

“You must take care of yourself, Mr Linton,” the doctor told him. “You are risking your own life for your wife but she will never be the same person again.”

At last the doctor told us that the danger had passed. Her husband’s joy was double, because Catherine was also expecting a

baby.....(*to be continued*)