An Exaltation of Larks: Venery, Symbolism, and the Hunt in Emily Brontë's Masterpiece

Emily Brontë's only novel, *Wuthering Heights*, is a complex and multifaceted work that has captivated readers for generations. One of the most striking aspects of the novel is its use of nature and landscape to explore themes of love, loss, and revenge. In particular, Brontë's use of animals and hunting imagery is both powerful and evocative.



An Exaltation of Larks (Venery Book 1) by Suanne Laqueur

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One of the most iconic images in *Wuthering Heights* is that of the skylark. Larks are small, brown birds that are known for their beautiful singing. In the novel, larks are often associated with freedom and hope. For example, when Catherine Earnshaw first meets Heathcliff, she is described as being "as light as a lark" (Chapter 3). This suggests that Catherine is a free spirit who is not bound by the conventions of society. However, larks are also associated with venereal disease in *Wuthering Heights*. In Chapter 12, Hindley Earnshaw refers to Heathcliff as "a venomed serpent" (Chapter 12). This suggests that Heathcliff is a dangerous and untrustworthy character. The fact that larks are associated with both freedom and venereal disease suggests that they are a complex and ambivalent symbol.

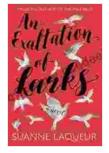
In addition to larks, Brontë also uses other animals to explore themes of venereal disease and the hunt in *Wuthering Heights*. For example, dogs are often used to represent loyalty and companionship. In Chapter 13, Nelly Dean describes Heathcliff's dog as being "as savage as a wolf" (Chapter 13). This suggests that Heathcliff is a dangerous and untrustworthy character. However, dogs are also used to represent love and affection. In Chapter 20, Catherine Earnshaw refers to Heathcliff as her "dog" (Chapter 20). This suggests that Catherine loves Heathcliff despite his flaws.

The hunt is another important symbol in *Wuthering Heights*. Hunting is often associated with power and masculinity. In Chapter 1, Mr. Earnshaw goes on a hunting trip and brings back a young boy named Heathcliff. This suggests that Heathcliff is a trophy that Mr. Earnshaw has won. However, the hunt is also associated with violence and death. In Chapter 12, Hindley Earnshaw kills a dog that belongs to Heathcliff. This act of violence foreshadows the violence that will occur later in the novel.

Brontë's use of animals and hunting imagery in *Wuthering Heights* is both powerful and evocative. These symbols help to explore themes of love, loss, and revenge. They also provide insight into the characters'

motivations and desires. Ultimately, Brontë's use of nature and landscape in *Wuthering Heights* is essential to the novel's meaning and impact.

Wuthering Heights is a complex and multifaceted novel that explores a wide range of themes. Brontë's use of nature and landscape is essential to the novel's meaning and impact. The novel's use of animals and hunting imagery is particularly striking and evocative. These symbols help to explore themes of love, loss, and revenge. They also provide insight into the characters' motivations and desires. Ultimately, Brontë's use of animals and hunting imagery in *Wuthering Heights* is a testament to her skill as a writer and her ability to create memorable and enduring characters.



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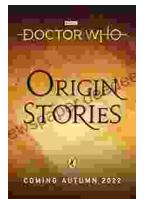
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