

**SALLY WAINWRIGHT, Writer, Director & Executive Producer**

I grew up near Haworth so it was a place I was always taken to as a child. My dad particularly was a keen historian so I remember being taken to the parsonage from being tiny.

I may be wrong but I was worried there would be a preconception out there that the Brontë sisters were a little bit like Jane Austen or a little bit like Louisa M Alcott, these little ladies who wrote nice novels. And I wanted to show the reality of their lives in somewhere like Haworth.

***(Cutaway to drama)***

*And not only had he trashed the place and taken everything, everything of value.*

I wanted to tell this quite convoluted long tale for the audience and I needed to come up with an interesting way to do that. And rather than there just being one narrator, Emily telling Anne, if you've got Emily telling Anne but then you see Emily being told the story herself by Miss Patchett. I just thought it was a more compelling way to tell the tale that would engage the audience.

***(Cutaway to drama)***

*I didn't catch the details.*

*Lucky you!*

It was about doing as much reading as I could and then trying to put that to one side before I sat down to start writing the script and bringing them to life. And it was quite scary. I remember starting to write the first scene with them as adults when Charlotte returns home and she walks into the kitchen and Anne's there warning her that Branwell and the dad are having an argument in the parlour. And I was quite nervous about giving them voices and worrying about how they would actually speak and if it would feel authentic. And it's that mix of trying to write in a way that feels like it probably is how people spoke 200 years ago but is also vibrant enough to attract the attention of a modern audience.

***(Cutaway to drama)***

*Sometimes a man must sink to the bottom before he can turn his life around.*

The novels and Emily's poetry were the things I kept closest to me. I find it really hard to talk about poetry but it has a very profound effect on me. I can't imagine anybody being clever enough to write like that. The way that she uses language, the way she chooses words, and to get it down in such a succinct form.

I think people who get hooked on the Brontës become passionate about them. They do seem to have an unusual effect.

I'd love it if people watch this and went to find out more about the Brontës in whatever shape or form.

END OF RECORDING

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