

On the way back from the fire, Chris is assaulted by two men. One of them grabs her forcefully and roughly kisses her. She fights back, and kicks him and scratches him until he lets her go. This is an example of Chris being independent and being able to stand up for herself.

Also initially scared, she later feels aroused when thinking about the kiss. She ends up dreaming about him and wakes up with no shame of it at all.

Although we don't find this out until later, the man who kissed her is Ewan, her future husband,

English Chris makes a return after the death of her mother when the ignorant peasant Cuddistoun makes a sexist comment about how she belongs in the kitchen. This instantly outrages Chris. ("suddenly Chris hated the lot, the English Chris suddenly came back in her skin in a minute, she saw them the yokels and clowns everlasting, dull-brained and snide"). Chris has a large hatred inside of her for ignorance.

This results in the men having a conversation about how they think education is wrong and that is just makes people turn against each other (Ignorant opinion) and others believe it is very important and a blessing (heroic opinion).

EWAN

Ewan is introduced properly and we can instantly see an attraction between him and Chris. They both start blushing at the attraction. Grass Gibbon compares Ewan to "a wild cat". This is important - the wild cat is Scotland's most vicious beast and as John Guthrie is also compared to as a cat, we can take from this that there is a little bit of John in Ewan. To show how Chris is always undecided about things, we read that she "half liked his face and half hated it" regarding Ewan.

The Guthrie family are sitting waiting for the bells to ring to symbol New Year when they have a quick reflection of the year. John breaks the silence by asking why Jean left. ("God, I wonder why Jean left us?").

Will wants to comfort his father but he knows he can't due to the state of their relationship. This is another ruined relationship because of the corrupted teachings of the church.

Ewan turns back up at the house to wish Will a goodbye, and ends up seeing Chris again. Grassic Gibbon compares Ewan and John again regarding the darkness lingering in Ewan. ("Long and dark with his glowing eyes"). His innocence returns very quickly after. ("Chris saw his eyes, queer and soft and shy").

Chris isn't embarrassed by her attraction to him and this also shows us how she is not corrupted by anything she has been through. She compares his skin to the new milk which is the purest form of nourishment. She realises it was Ewan on the road that night and it is the first example of his brutality.

Ewan is the only main character that is stereotyped by Grassic Gibbon. He is one-sided character as he isn't from the area but from the Highlands.