

escape which leads to the question if Chris wants to not be pregnant and escape from the baby. This imagery is repeated slightly on, helping to develop the idea of being confined due to the pregnancy as she thinks she will be stuck in the house and will become unable to be a part of the world outside.

Gibbon also repeats “nothing”, showing that Chris has a lot of desperation and almost no hope left in her at all in this point of the novel.

This strange reaction to her pregnancy also causes her to become irrational when arguing with Ewan. She suddenly hates Ewan “with the health in his face”. He walks away from her, as she is being unusually harsh to him but her mood changes again and she feels guilty. She wants to go after him but he “spoils” it by demanding his breakfast and suddenly she becomes irrational again, going off on him. Her temper changes quickly - “it was as though she were dry within and his speech set a fire to it”. After he wants his breakfast, Chris has another sudden outburst and acts superior while telling Ewan he was hers, and is “living off [her] meal and [her] milk, you Highland pauper!”. She is completely out of control and he leaves her again.

She makes his breakfast and waits for him to return but he does not. She gets angry and blows on her father’s old whistle to make him come back but he still does not. The Chris throughout the rest of the novel would have just left him alone at this point but this irrational and out of character Chris instead screams at him and slaps him with such a force that “her fingers cried in agony and then went numb” and “the clap of the blow went echoing around Blaewearie”.

Due to her hitting him, he hits her twice and she loses her footing. She knows he will hit her again so she gets up and runs away, towards the standing stones. She has become suicidal and is repeating “never again”, and “the loch” which shows that she is wanting to drown herself in the loch and that she never wants to return to him.

The ending of this section also does not fit with the irrationality that has just been described as Chris is lying on the land and listening to the “whistling of the broom” while being totally relaxed. She thinks about it “Ewan would see to her, Ewan would take heed” which in turn does not at all fit in with her character or anything that has just happened.

Throughout *Sunset Song*, Lewis Grassie Gibbon portrays Chris as being admirable (minus her reaction to her pregnancy) by showing her strength, optimism and her strong relationship with the land.