

AN OUTLINE STORY OF 'THE RAINBOW'

Tom Brangwen and Lydia Lensky Affair

Tom Brangwen was descended from a long line of small landholders, who had owned Marsh Farm in Nottinghamshire for many generations. Tom was a man of the soil, living along on his farm with only an old woman for his company and housekeeping. Then a Polish widow, Lydia Lensky, became the housekeeper of the vicar of the local church. She brought her small daughter, Anna, with her. Within a few months Tom Brangwen found enough courage to present the widow with a bouquet of daffodils one evening in the Vicar's kitchen and to ask the woman to be his wife.

Their marriage was a satisfactory one, judged by the standards of the world. Tom was kind to his step-daughter. Later he had two sons by his wife. But knowing his step-daughter was easier for him than knowing Lydia. The fact that they were of different nationalities, cultures and even languages kept the couple from ever becoming intellectually intimate with one another. There were times when either one or both felt that the marriage was not what it should be for them, that they were not fulfilling the obligations which their mating had pressed upon them. On one occasion Lydia even suggested to her husband that he needed another woman.

Anna Lensky and William Brangwen Affair

Little Anna was a haughty young girl who spent many hours imagining herself a great lady or even a queen. In her eighteenth year a nephew of Tom Brangwen came to work in the lace factory in the nearby village of Ilkeston. He was only twenty years old; the Brangwens at Marsh Farm looked after him and made him welcome in their home.

Anna Lensky and Young Will Brangwen fell in love, with naive, touching affection for each other. They soon announced to Tom and

Lydia that they wished to be married. Tom leased a home in the village for the young couple and gave them a present of twenty-five hundred pounds, so they would not want because of Will's small salary.

The wedding was celebrated with rural pomp and hilarity. After the ceremony the newly-married couple spent two weeks alone in their cottage, ignoring the world and existing only for back to the world of reality. Her decision to give a tea party both bewildered and angered her husband, who had not yet realized that they could not continue to live only for and by themselves. It took him almost a lifetime to come to that realization.

Shortly after the marriage Anna became pregnant, and the arrival of the child brought to Will the added shock that his wife was more a mother than she was a married lover. Each year a new baby came between Will and Anna. The oldest was Ursula, who was always her father's favourite. The love which Will wished to give his wife was given to Ursula, for Anna refused to have anything to do with him when she was expecting another child, and she was not satisfied unless she was pregnant.

In the second year of his marriage Will Brangwen tried to rebel. He met a girl at the theatre and afterward took her out for supper and a walk. After that incident the intimate life of Will and Anna began to gain in passion, intense enough to carry Will through the daytime when he was not necessary to the house until the night-time when he could rule his wife. Gradually he became free in his own mind from Anna's domination.

Ursula and Anton Skrebensky Affair

Since Ursula was her father's favourite child, she was sent to high school. That privilege was a rare thing for a girl of her circumstances in the last decade of the nineteenth century. She drank up knowledge in her study of Latin, French, and algebra. But before she had finished, her interest in her studies was shared by her interest in a young man. The son of a Polish friend of her grandmother's was introduced into the house, young, blond Anton Skrebensky, a lieutenant in the British Army. During a month's leave he fell in love with Ursula, who was already in love with him. On his next leave, however, she drove him away with the love she offered to him. He became afraid of her because of that love; it was too possessive.

After finishing high school, Ursula took an examination to enter the university. Having passed the examination, she decided to teach in a school for some time, for she wanted to accumulate money to carry her through her education without being a burden to her parents. Anna and Will were furious when she broached the subject of leaving home. They compromised with her, however, by securing for her a position in a school in Ilkeston. Ursula spent two friendless, ill-paid and thankless years teaching at the village elementary school. At the end of that time she was more than ready to continue her education. She decided to become a botanist, for in botany she felt she was doing and learning for herself things which had an absolute truth.

Then one day, after the Boer War ended, Ursula received a letter which upset her completely. Anton Skrebensky had written that he wished to see her again while he was in England on leave. Within a week he arrived in Nottingham to visit her at school. Their love returned for each of them with greater intensity than they had known six years before. During the Easter holidays they went away for a weekend at a hotel, where they passed as husband and wife. They went to the continent as soon as Ursula had finished classes for the summer. Even then, however, Ursula did not want to marry Skrebensky; she wanted to return to college to take her degree. But Skrebensky continued to press increasingly for marriage. He wanted Ursula to leave England with him when he returned to service in India.

Meanwhile Ursula had so neglected her studies that she failed in her final examination for her degree and had to study to take them over again before the summer was finished. When Ursula failed in her examination a second time, Skrebensky urged her to marry him immediately. In India, he insisted, her degree would mean nothing anyway. In the meantime they went to a house party, where they realized that there was something wrong in their mating, that they could not agree enough to make a successful marriage. They left the party separately and a few weeks later Skrebensky was on his way to India as the husband of his regimental commander's daughter.

After he had gone, Ursula learned that she was pregnant. Not knowing that he was already married, she wrote to Skrebensky and promised to be a good wife if he still wished to marry her. Before his answer came from India, Ursula contracted pneumonia and lost the child. One day, as she was convalescing, she observed a rainbow in the sky. She hoped that it was the promise of better times to come.

THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE NOVEL

(1) TOM BRANGWEN

As a School-boy

Tom Brangwen is a typical Lawrence man. We are given an idea of his personality through a number of incidental comments. He was the youngest child of his parents and as such was the favourite of his mother. She wanted to make him a gentleman. When he was twelve, he was sent to a Grammar School in Derby. He did not want to go, but it was his mother's resolution which compelled him to go. Tom went unwillingly to school and was a failure from the very beginning. He was dull-witted, and never successful in his studies. He knew instinctively that he would cut a sorry figure at school, but still he went in obedience to his mother's wishes. Though he was a clever; intelligent boy in other ways, yet he could not concentrate on his studies. So he felt humbled and cast down. He suffered from inferiority complex. However, as a child he had the richness of heart and his feelings were full of thrill when his teacher recited a poem by Shelley or Tennyson. He cultivated warm friendship with one of his class-fellows but could not feel at home there.

As a Farm Labourer and Youth

Tom was glad to leave school and come back to the farm to which he belonged. He was glad of the active labour and the smell of the soil and very soon his native humour and comic wit rose up to drive out the traces of melancholy born of his failure at school. At the age of seventeen the burden of the farm fell upon him as his father fell from the stack and broke his neck. He settled at the Marsh with his mother and sister, applied himself to his work.

The young man grew up very fresh and alert with zest for every moment of life. He worked and rode and drove for the market, visited taverns with his companions and got tipsy occasionally. Once in his drunken state he was allured by a prostitute to have intercourse with her, and when he came to his senses he felt shocked and tormented, for as Brangwen he attached great sanctity to women, and also because there was a lurking fear in his heart that he might have caught some disease from his contact with the fallen woman. But his youthful buoyancy got over the anguish of his heart, though he was tormented now with sex desires and his imagination recurred frequently to lustful scenes. Thus

to be with him, the futility of him, the way his hands hung, irritated her beyond bearing. She turned on him blindly and destructively, he became a mad creature, black and electric with fury. The dark storms rose in him, his eyes glowed black and evil, he was fiendish in his thwarted soul. "He was like some dark power trying to get hold of her. She wanted him, loved him, and yet his indifference, his dark moods, maddened her." But his dark moods soon passed away, and he loved her again. After a quarrel, he would suddenly realise that he had hurt her. Then his heart would flame with love for her, and they would be reconciled. However, every conflict ended in the victory of Anna.

His Dependence upon Anna

Without Anna, William felt that his life was incomplete. He depended entirely upon her, and could not do without her. Without her it would be death. It was a great pain to him because he felt that his wife was thrusting him off from her, gradually and relentlessly. He wanted Anna more and more. In his soul, he was desolate as a child, he was so hopeless. Like a child on its mother, he depended on her for his living. So he sought a workable adjustment with her.

His Love for Ursula

In search of fulfilment, he made up with Anna. Yet he was dissatisfied. He turned for fulfilment to his growing daughter Ursula. He established a sort of Oedipus relationship with her. He would often take her out with him, and found great satisfaction in her company. There was a streak of perversity in his character. He would jump into the swimming tank from great heights, with the child on his back. Once he swang with Ursula so high in a swingboat that the people looked at them with amazement.

A Union of the Mystic and the Sensualist

To conclude, William was a union of the mystic and the sensualist, but there is no contradiction in his character. For the dark subterranean impulse emphasized in him flows in two channels, church mysticism and sexual orgasm, which have been described in language which underlines their fundamental affinity. Thus he calls the church 'she' and his entry into it has been depicted by means of sex-symbolism. "His soul leapt up into the gloom, into possession, it reeled, it swooned with a great escape, it quivered in the womb, in the hush and gloom of fecundity, like seed of procreation in ecstasy." In the same way his ecstasy in the church is equated with his exaltation in matrimonial union with his bride which precedes it: "Here in the church, 'before' and 'after' were folded together, all was contained in oneness, Brangwen came to his consummation."

(5) URSULA BRANGWEN

Her Physical Appearance

The eldest child of William and Anna Brangwen, she belongs to the third generation of the Brangwens. As a child she was tawny, having a curious downy skin. So she was named Ursula. She was vigorous and

by all who knew him. He had two fine sons. All went well with him, till he was drowned prematurely in the great flood at the Marsh.

(2) LYDIA LENSKEY (MRS. TOM BRANGWEN)

Lydia's Charming Personality

Lydia Lensky, the Polish widow, has a charming, fascinating personality. When Tom Brangwen first met her, "her face was pale and clear, she had thick eyebrows, and a wide mouth, curiously held." Her mouth is peculiar, it is an ugly-beautiful mouth, and this fact has been again and again emphasized by the novelist. She has a strange fascination about her, a curiously foreign look, and Tom is at once taken in by her. She is a foreigner, a superior lady, and Tom's senior in age. In these respects, she closely resembles Frieda Weekley, the wife of D. H. Lawrence.

Her Past Life

Lydia was the daughter of a Polish land owner and his wealthy German wife. Her father died before the rebellion and she married, quite young Paul Lensky, an intellectual, educated at Berlin, who returned to Warsaw, a doctor and patriot. She also became a patriot and learned nursing as mark of her emancipation. They had two children and stood in the centre of the rebellion when it came. Her husband was eloquent and fiery and found himself in hot waters in Warsaw, so they crossed into the south of Russia. Lydia was more temperate, but she was dragged behind by her ardent husband. He worked very hard till nothing remained in him but his eyes. Lydia followed him like his shadow and echoed his ideas. But when her two children died Lydia was plunged into darkness and moved about, a silent and shadowy figure in the grip of terror. They fled to London where her husband could not stick to his job because of his proud and quarrelsome nature. They were penniless, but very proud. He lived in a sort of hallucination, but bravely shielded his wife from the ignominy of her position. But she remained passive, dark and always in shadow.

By the time their last child, Anna, was born he had been reduced to skin, bone and ideas. In silent dejection she nursed both and when her husband died she felt relieved. England fitted her mood because she could live there alone in the crowd. "She was like one walking in the underworld where the shadows throng intelligibly but have no connection with one."

Her Pathetic Suffering

After her husband's death she was in great suffering and difficulties. It was the Church that kept her and her child alive. Then she got a job as a nurse to an ill Rector of Yorkshire. She felt "as if crushed between the past and the future, like a flower that comes above ground to find a great stone lying above it." Soon the Vicar too died and she shifted herself to a place near the Marsh to keep house with another Vicar. It was at this juncture that she met Tom Brangwen.

The boys did not respond to love; they became careless and undisciplined. They insulted her, jeered at her, and went to the extent of throwing stones at her. They brought her into trouble with the authorities. Her life became a hell. She felt miserable and wretched. Gradually, iron entered her soul, and one day she caned the boys mercilessly. The class was disciplined, but she felt unhappy and frustrated. She had acted against her convictions, and this caused her great anguish. But she persisted with courage and determination and completed her two year's term at school.

Anton's Return and Ursula's Refusal to Marry

From the school, again like the novelist himself, she went to the College at Nottingham. She found there that nobody was interested in the sincere pursuit of knowledge. She took interest in the study of Botany. It was in the second year of her stay at the College, that Anton returned to England and came to her. Her joy knew no bounds. She found pleasure in her company. They were constantly together and moved together as husband and wife. They enjoyed physical love. Anton proposed to marry her. But she refused. The result was anger and frustration. He left her, married another girl-friend of his and left for India.

Her Self-Discovery

It was after his departure that Ursula discovered that she was with child by him. Now she realised that it was her duty to marry him, and be a good wife to him. But all in vain. She had an abortion. Thus her link with Anton was broken. Anton was now only a memory, a pleasant vision and no more. She saw a rainbow in the sky. And the rainbow is a symbol of hope and promise. She looked forward with hope to the future. Her illness resulted in the birth of her new self. She could now perceive the process of a new life slowly emerging from the death in the hearts of men as well as around them on the face of things. She thought that a new Convent of God shall save humanity from the deluge of death.

(6) ANTON SKREBENSKY

Anton Skrebensky is a military engineer. He is young and handsome. He has a robust health and all the charm and attraction of an impressive young man. He has greyish eyes, and a thick nose. He has brown hair soft and thick as silk, his skin fine and his figure slight and beautiful. Ursula thinks him to be wonderful and distinct, gentlemanly and self-supporting.

Skrebensky is a representative young man of the modern, industrialized society. He establishes pre-marital sex relations. He enjoys sex. But he is sincere. He wants to marry Ursula, but finding Ursula not prepared for marriage, he hastily marries another girl-friend. He should have waited for sometime to save Ursula from the inevitable doom.

He is a man of strong nationalistic and patriotic feelings. Duty to his nation to him is more important than Ursula. His physical love is warm, but spiritually it is a cold love. That is why it does not mature in fulfilment. It is his body that attracts Ursula and not his soul.

hard, indifferent, brutally callous to everything but just the immediate need, immediate satisfaction."

When she was a girl of sixteen, smouldering with her desires and dreams, her visions and revisions, she happened to meet young Skrebensky, an enginner in the army, on one month's holiday. And she began to play the game of love, daring and dangerous and reckless. She was prepared to defy the world to taste the honey of this love.

Awakening of Love and Sex

In her meetings with Anton Skrebensky she developed a feeling of enjoying the physical contact of the male body. The touch of his body was voluptuous. One day he put his arms round her, and very gently drew her towards him. She was in a delicious swoon. And then he kissed her. That night she went to bed all warm with electric warmth, and slept so sweetly and soundly. Love and sex were thus roused in her. Once they went into the shed, and played and kissed. "And he kissed her, asserting his will over her, and she kissed him back, asserting her deliberate enjoyment of him."

"She was very beautiful then, so wide open, so radiant, so palpitating, exquisitely vulnerable and poignantly, wrongly, throwing herself to risk." It roused a sort of madness in Anton. "Like a flower shaking and wide-opened in the the sun, she tempted him and challenged him, and accepted the challenge...." Ursula felt that it was through this love and sex that she would realise her maximum self. Soon, they had full pre-marital sex experiences. Then Anton went away. Separation from him was an agony for her. The Boer War was declared in South Africa, and Anton forgot Ursula in the discharge of his duty to his nation. Ursula felt a sense of disaster, fear of some black dread possessed her. She was depressed and morbidly sensitive. She wanted to adventure into the man's world of business and work. Therefore, she persisted in her studies.

Her Lesbian Tendencies

Ursula's sexual life had been awakened and she formed a kind of lesbian relationship with one of her mistresses, Winifred Inger. Inger was a proud, athletic woman, fond of swimming and rowing. She was aged twenty-eight, fearless and modern, independent and clever. Everything about her was so wellordered, betraying a fine, clear spirit, that it was a pleasure to sit in her class. They were in love with each other. Ursula felt a kind of intoxicated delight in the presence of Miss Winifred Inger, and longed for physical contact with her. Inger was firm-bodied like Diana and while swimming kissed Ursula. "Ursula was dazed. They were now lovers, with their love tacitly confessed." But this type of relationship also could not continue for long. Their relationship ended when Winifred married her uncle Tom Brangwen.

As a Teacher

Like the novelist Lawrence, she too takes to teaching as a career. She becomes a mistress at the Ilkeston school for young boys. She wanted to be kind and sympathetic, and in this way to win the love and respect of the boys. But she soon found that practical life was entirely different.

active, and a great favourite of her father. She is the central figure in the novel, for the major part of the novel is concerned with her. She is the symbol of the modern emancipated woman who has shaken off parental authority and who carves out her own independent career; and seeks fulfilment in her own way.

Her Childhood and Education

As a child she loved her father strongly, She was a sensitive child, proud, spirited and independent. Her father loved her, but often he rebuked her, and then she would hide herself beneath the sofa, and sob and weep. Very early in life she learned to harden her soul against all that was outside her. Whenever, he bullied her, she hardened herself and withdrew into a separate world of her own. She was a fearless child.

As she grew up and began to go to school with her brothers and sisters, she, as the eldest child, was burdened with the duty of looking after them, which irked her greatly because life at school was far from being peaceful as quarrels with other children were violent and frequent. The Brangwen children possessed the pride and isolation of their parents and could not brook the slightest show of arrogance in others.

As Ursula became a girl of twelve her mind began to fill up with illusions. As she went to Miss Grey's school in the town, she was elated to find an atmosphere of refinement and quiet free from the smoke, and confusion of the industrial area. She was happy to find herself seated on the hill of learning above the noise and confusion of the world below. She was intelligent, but not laborious and was soon disgusted with all learning and the routine as well as with the discipline of the school. "She felt she could always do as she wanted if she managed to avoid a battle with Authority and the authorized power."

Her Illusion of Religion

Then there was her illusion of religion which asserted itself on Sundays, which were very precious to her. She recalled stories about Christ and a good many Biblical texts, some of which thrilled her, for she applied them to her own life. When she recalled how the Sons of God saw the daughters of men, they found them fair and took them wives, she thought that had she lived in those days she should certainly have been chosen by them. Thus, she was living a double life, the Sunday-life of visions and illusions, and the weekday-life, of facts and actualities. She took delight in Christian rituals and ceremonies, but was anguished to think that they were not so thrilling in realization as in anticipation. Christian myths and legends excited her imagination.

Her Adolescence

As she passed from girlhood to adolescence, her soul was troubled and confused. The cloud of self-responsibility gathered upon her, she became aware of herself as a separate entity, who must do something and more realistic. She

strange satisfaction, etc. She also disliked her mother's way of laughing at things and her silent overriding of vexatious propositions. Thus she was also suffering from the Oedipus Complex, she had father-fixation in her mind. In comparison to her mother, she loved her stepfather more and more.

Her Love for William Brangwen

At the age of eighteen, her cousin William Brangwen from Nottinghamshire, a junior draftsman in a lace factory entered her life. He was twenty at that time. Soon he became a frequent visitor at the Marsh. From the very first, Anna was curiously amused and interested by this young man. There seemed to be sudden instinctive connection between them. The two, William Brangwen and Anna Lensky, were constantly thrown together. The attraction was mutual and they began to meet secretly but fearlessly to taste the sweets of their first love. Her love was too strong for any reasoning. She was hot and impulsive as ever.

Her Married Life

So Anna and Will were married and for a few days lived in a state of bliss, forgetful of the world and its business, aware only of their present moment which was their eternity. But as they descended to the solid earth their difference came to the surface and the result was a fierce and prolonged duel. What she resented was William's constant clinging to her; his desire to fuse with her, which was like a dead weight crushing her separate individual self which she was determined to guard jealously. He resisted, became dark, sombre and dangerous, asserted his right to be respected by her, drove her into fear and panic, but she was invincible.

Her Domesticity and Adjustment

Meanwhile Anna was getting lost in the storm of fecundity and procreation, filling the house with children, who became the centre of her attention and her joy. She loved her husband as the father of her children and gave him whatever physical satisfaction she could possibly provide. But a time came when her husband got tired of his dull domesticity and conventional union with his wife. He stayed out one evening, had an escapade with a girl and returned home with strange fire in his eyes. Anna noticed the change, understood its meaning and roused herself to meet the new challenge which her husband was offering her. Instead of restraining or admonishing him, she eagerly instigated him to start the game of lustful intercourse in which there was no love, tenderness, and moral consideration, but savage animal desire to enjoy the whole mystery of the body and all the natural and unnatural delights which its several parts could yield. Thus she liberated her husband from tension and made him fit for taking interest in his work, creative and professional and final fulfilment through his work.

However, she displayed remarkable domesticity and adjustment. She found fulfilment in child-bearing. She became the proud mother of eight children. In the end we find her happy and complacent, and it is this

he moved about for some time with a cloud over his countenance and a strained look in his eyes.

His father died when he was seventeen; his mother when he was twenty-three, and his sister got married. He was left alone. Life became dull and empty. He often thought of marriage and settlement in a peaceful domesticity. When he was twenty-eight, he caught sight of a foreign woman, a German widow of a Polish doctor, living with her young daughter. Soon he married Lydia Lensky.

His Married Life

His marriage made a great difference to Tom Brangwen. It created in him mixed feelings. "He loved her, wanted her, and knew he could not live without her and yet at other times he felt antagonistic to her because she was so unknown, so mysterious, and because he knew so little about her past. But whenever, he looked at her head, he knew that she was his woman, the woman destined for him." Sometimes he felt that she did not wholly belong to her, and had a curious vague fear that she might go away. From time to time she talked to him of her past, of her girlhood with her parents, and then she seemed to be so remote and distant, as if she were back in that distant past with her father. On such occasions, he felt that there was a distance between them, and a raging fury against her would overtake him. It was the feeling of mother-fixation that sometimes hampered his happy relationship with his wife. It was the mother-image which came in the way of his establishing satisfactory relations with women. Nevertheless, as a husband he lived an honest and noble life. He also began to love his step-daughter Anna. Quarrels and reconciliations became the routine of life with his wife. He was often furious at the small ugly-mouthed woman, so silent, and to him so cold and selfish. Sometimes, his anger would break out against her, and then, "she turned upon him like a tiger, and there was battle." But they never went too far, and ultimately they made it up, and were one again.

Tom's Love for Anna

After Lydia's pregnancy, Lydia became more and more indifferent to her. Her indifference was unbearable to him, and he was often mad with rage, with the desire to break her, and make her aware of himself. But he gave no outward expression to his inner frustration and antagonism.

So he turned more and more to the little child, Anna, for sympathy and love, and soon, they were like lovers, father and child. He would often take her out with him when he went to the town, or to his pub to have a drink. Her company consoled and soothed him. As the child grew up, he took keen pleasure in teaching her, and loved to talk and laugh with her. "They made a little life together."

Prosperity and Contentment with Adjustment

However, with the passing of time, Tom succeeded in working out a sort of adjustment with his wife, and then they lived a happy married life. He matured into a prosperous farmer much honoured and respected

Her Love for Tom Brangwen

Lydia was attracted by the body of Tom. She hesitated for sometime because the man was not of her sort, but she felt the rooted security that he offered and, besides, he was like morning. "The warmth passed into her and she opened as a flower, and offered herself to him." At last they were married: Her married life was an alternating rhythm of love and hate, attraction and repulsion, quarrels and reconciliations. She was all radiant and bright, giving herself fully to the hour. But she led her married life silently and adjusted to the new situations. She lived with her two sons and a stepdaughter. She lived a life of fulfilment.

(3) ANNA LENSKY (MRS. WILLIAM BRANGWEN)

Her Personal Appearance

Anna Lensky, the daughter of Lydia by her Polish husband, is a lady of great charm and fascination. As a child she was indomitable, full of repartee, and lovely "with her fair hair, apple-blossom face and black eyes." She was like a little heroine, and people liked to talk and play with her. She attracted the attention and love of her stepfather. At the age of seventeen she was touchy, spirited and moody, sudden and incalculable. She was tired of the hushed, peaceful atmosphere at home and wanted to get away. But nothing satisfied her. Going to Church on Sundays, reading books and visiting friends – all were tried and found tasteless in the end. She loved driving with Brangwen in his carriage, and he frequently took her to market with him. When people shouted greetings at Brangwen and Brangwen shouted back, Anna would also shout with him, and then the two would laugh together, her eyes shining brightly. Soon she was a known figure in the market place. She pleased all with her quick replies and repartees.

Self-Centred

In Cossethay and Ilkeston she was always an alien. She had plenty of acquaintances, but no friends. Very few people whom she met were significant to her. They seemed part of a herd, undistinguished. She did not take people very seriously. She was rather self-centred and egotistical. She had two brothers, Tom and Fred, but though she loved them, she did not care much for them. She was too much the centre of her own universe, too little aware of anything outside.

Proud and Spirited

She wanted to be royal, her stepfather was sympathetic to her and allowed her to have her own way. The result was that Anna, spoiled by the love of her stepfather, pursued her splendid lady ideals, and at sixteen she was very lofty and sensitive, with all the shortcomings of the Brangwens. She did not like any coarseness and vulgarity, and would flush when Tom Brangwen returned home drunk. As an adolescent, she was touchy, full of spirits, and very moody, quick to flush, and always uneasy, uncertain. For some reason or the other, she felt bored, turned more to her father. She had hatred for her mother. She was maddened by her mother's dark muzzle and insidious ways, utter surety and confidence.

complacency of her, which enrages and maddens the more progressive, and modern Ursula.

(4) WILLIAM BRANGWEN

His Personality

William Brangwen is the nephew of Tom Brangwen. He is the son of Alfred settled at Nottingham. He comes to Ilkeston as a draughtsman in a lace factory, and soon becomes a frequent visitor at the Marsh. He was a young man of twenty-one at the time, tall and uncouth and yet self-possessed. With a dash of shyness, he has a wide mouth, a black moustache forming on his upper lip. He is interested in churches and in church architecture and as he settles in drawing room of his uncle and begins to talk of the various styles of church and its parts, his voice rings and vibrates and thrills Anna like a running flame coursing through her frame. "He had golden-brown, quick, steady eyes, like a bird's, like a hawk's which cannot look afraid." He had a fascination about him that could attract Anna Lensky.

His Passion for the Church

His passion for the Church was instinctive. He sang in the Choir, was interested in church architecture, was influenced by Ruskin. Even the church architecture interested him. He believed in the church, had full faith in it, and later on in the novel when Anna made fun of his faith, he was deeply pained and frustrated. His favourite work was wood-carving and he was fashioning the creation of Eve, and thus dealing with the Biblical themes.

His Love for Anna

William loved Anna from the very first day. A flame kindled round him, making his experience, passionate and glowing, burningly real. He came frequently to the Marsh and talked innocently, without reserve. Love of Anna transformed him. Warm and sensuous, he was in an electric state of passion, as one night he kissed her. Soon they were lovers, and as the courtship proceeded they became a world unto themselves, oblivious of the presence of others. Then they wanted to marry. When their parents objected, they did not listen to their advice. William remained firm and unyielding so that they had to yield to his wishes. He may not have enough money, but he could not live without his Anna. He could be happy with her even in a cottage. All that mattered was that William should love her and she should love him and they should live kindled to one another. But soon they had to return to the outside world and follow the usual routine. William did not like this. He wanted things to go on as they had been going, but she wanted the lead, outer world again, and was enthusiastic about her preparation for it. William was pained. To him it seemed, as if, she had brushed him aside. This was the first beginning of antagonism between them.

His Married Life

His married life was shadowed by the clouds of the antagonism and quarrels between them.