

Lady Chatterley's Lover

Constance, his wife, was a ruddy, country-looking girl with soft brown hair and sturdy body, and slow movements, full of unusual energy. She had big, wondering eyes, and a soft mild voice, and seemed just to have come from her native village. It was not so at all. Her father was the once well known R.A., Sir Malcom Reid. Her mother had been one of the cultivated Fabians in the palmy, rather pre-Raphaelite days. Between artists and cultured socialists, Constance and her sister Hilda had what might be called an aesthetically unconventional upbringing. They had been taken to Paris and Florence and Rome to breathe in art, and they had been taken also in another direction, to the Hague and Berlin to great Socialist conventions, where the speakers spoke in every civilized tongue, and no one was abashed.

The two girls, therefore, were from an early age not the least daunted by either art or ideal politics. It was their natural atmosphere. They were at once cosmopolitan and provincial, with the cosmopolitan conventionalism of art that goes with pure social ideas.

They had been sent to Bresden at the age of fifteen, for music among other things. And they had had a good time there. They lived freely among the students, they argued with the men over the philosophical, sociological and artistic matters, they were just as good as men themselves: only better, since they were women.

D.H. Lawrence.
Lady Chatterley's Lover.

QUESTIONS

1. What was Constance like?
2. What kind of upbringing did Constance have?
3. Where had they been taken?
4. Was Constance impressed by politics? Why?
5. Take out from the text all the sentences in the passive and say what tense is the verb. Then, put one of the sentences into the active.
6. Write a summary of the text in 60 words.
7. Vocabulary:
Mild:
Breathe:
Argue:
Upbringing: