Zenobia

Zenobia is Ethan’s wife. She doesn’t feel loved and so she pretends to be ill a lot of time. She understands that her husband in attrected to Mattie, her cousin, because she sees him kisses Mattie. So she wants to send Mattie away. She seems a bit cruel but it isn’t easy to bear the fact that one’s husband loves another woman , over all her cousin. For the situation she created (she wants to send Mattie away) , Ethan is frustrated. And so Ethan and Mattie decide to commit a suicide. Ethan becomes invalid and Mattie paralized.

In the past she wanted that her husband looked after her because she pretended to be ill. And now, maybe for the “legge del contrappasso” Zenobia has to look after Ethan and Mattie because they aren’t self-sufficient.

For the first time Zenobia seems cruel because the reader thinks that she wants to send Mattie away for her unefficienty and seems hypochondriacal because the reader doesn’t know why she thinks a lot about her health.

Then the reader understands that she feels neglected, not loved by Ethan and so she wants to receive attention by her husband.

In the last part of the novel the reader can see that now Zenobia is the person that has to look after someone. These people are Ethan and Mattie, who betray her.

The charter that in the first chapters seems the antagonist, at the end becames victim.

The author wants to convey situations that can happen in real life. Unfortunately , you can’t decide who to fall in love with , and if there isn’t love from a specific person , we can’t do anything about it.