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The characterization of Mattie

Mattie Silver is the cousin of Ethan's wife, Zenobia.

She starts living with them to help her sick cousin.

Mattie is the girl Ethan falls in love with and he can not express his love for her because this action goes against the values of the society in which they live.

Compared to Zenobia, Mattie has a shorter name and this changes the rhythm.

Unlike Ethan's wife, Mattie is described in the novel and the narrator talks about her and her origins, for example where she lives.

Mattie is very different from her cousin;

 She is not good at housework and she can not take care of people like her cousin.

She is a young girl, she is younger than Zenobia.

Ethan speaks differently about Mattie and Zenobia.

 He does this to emphasize the differences between the two women.

For example, in the chapters Mattie's voice is described as a seductive voice;

His smile is also described.

Mattie with Ethan tries to commit suicide but can not do it.

At the end of the novel Zenobia will take care of her because she is sick.