

Points to Ponder: Sylvia's Lovers Session 5

1) Below are Kester's remarks to Sylvia on her new situation as Philip's wife. How far do you agree that Sylvia has made a good match?

*so a'll only just mak' bold t' say as a think yo've done pretty well for yo'rself, gotten a house-full o' furniture' (looking around him as he said this), 'an' vittle an' clothin' for t' axing, belike, an' a home for t' missus in her time o' need; an' mebbe not such a bad husband as a once thought yon man 'ud mak'; a'm not above sayin' as he's, mebbe, better nor a took him for; What role does the sea and the coast play once Sylvia becomes Philip's wife?*

2) What does this section say about Sylvia's feelings on marriage-life as a wife and mother? Other than the loss of Kinraid, what makes Sylvia so unhappy with married life?

3) What might be the Evil Omens hinted at in the title of Chapter 31?

4) Sylvia says to Philip: 'Our being wed were a great mistake'. How far do you agree?

5) On his return Kinraid calls Philip 'You damned scoundrel'. How far do you agree with this statement?

6) What are your views on Kinraid's comments below?

*Sylvia!' spoke out Kinraid, bold and fervent, 'your marriage is no marriage. You were tricked into it. You are my wife, not his. I am your husband; we plighted each other our troth. See! here is my half of the sixpence.'*

7) Is this the 'saddest story ever told' and why might it be described as such?