

This unexpected power I am up against, its unasked hold on me, is

implacable
as ~~frightening~~ in its way as the Atlantic ever was. This too is a

sick scaredness--and yes, I will say so, with the tint of thrill there

in it, too--of the kind that gripped me in the steerage compartment of

the Jemmy, down in the iron hole in the water.

just so lame a

its

It did go on in ~~half~~ lame fashion for the next year, and then the

South Fork

s

next after that. The school saved me, gave my thought a place to go

other than running back over the plight Rob had put me in.

'Course, your neighbor Williamson--fellow with quite

a few cows, as I hear it--has decided he's gonna try to lawyer the
the situation to death. That's happening here and there, guys taking
the Forest Service to court to see if they can keep on being the main
hogs at the trough because they've always been the main hogs. If any
of you got deep pockets enough, that's one way you could go."

change

insert? Lucas never marries Nancy because he wants her to be free to take any better chance, any better man?

--or simply ignore his ~~reason~~ reason?

Sinking of Titanic--one of Angus's students has home-made telegraph?

..."That 's another thing I don't savvy. How can she let you?"

... "I can stop you, you know. You're not of age ~~yet~~ for more than
a year yet."

"I hope you won't do that."

"Varick. Behave toward me the way you feel you have to. But
not your mother. Go to her and tell her you take her side in all ~~th~~ this,
tell her you're on the outs with me, tell her whatever the hell.

But don't pull away from her." I tried to stare the urgency of what

I was saying, tried to hold in the pain this was costing me. "If you'll
stay on terms with her, I won't stop you from staying on with Stanley."

Varick nodded.

possible variation, ch. 5

this argument couldn't go on perpetually. "Rob, don't give me guff
about something that's not any of your business, all right?"

2nd winter together, Angus buys Adair new deck of cards without even asking

Varick came rushing to me, a little before noon. "The chickens!

Come see!"

The chickens were roosting, as if for night...

When he asked me to teach him how to swim, I had to tell him I couldn't; Rob was the one who could.

"You'll have to ask your Unk."

--Varick learns in the beaver dams beneath Breed Butte. Angus never ceases to say prayer of thanks when Varick came home safe from swimming.

--I knew a person could drown in a teacup if he didn't know swimming.

--It was the one activity that made me nervous, Varick swimming... I made him promise, cross his heart, he would always have someone with him.

"Life isn't that simple. There are others we have to think of."

She gave me her half-smile, her straightforward way of teasing: "But I'll think of you if there's ever a spare moment."

"You'll do more than that," I decreed. "You'll write

more

"Let's," she contributed firmly. "It'll brighten the time for both of us."

"Anna, just tell me this." I faced her seriously now. "Do I have the prospect I want to have?"

improve

"Angus, from the first time you walked into my schoolroom, that's been the one question I can answer yes."

Lucas tried to invoke peace. The next time I stopped at the Gros Ventre mercantile for supplies to take to Davie and the Two Medicine band, the message was there that Lucas needed to see me.

cut from trail drive, ch. 4

Anna's Valier words the last time we were together. Given that a person

can have only one life, I have what I want most. I got off Scorpion,

scooped up a tired and lagging lamb, and granted him a ride with Davie
ferried him to ride

in the wagon. How much better if we had never met. Maybe so, maybe no.

For you, I mean. After a last glance west I swallowed away my invincible

cut
new bid
line.

change

changed, in ch. 5

also known as Adair. You bewildered yourself by asking how you had

myself

got swallowed into all this, so I tried ^{instead} to set myself to wait it

through. Waiting was what I had practice in.

by now

Angus does a prayer in imitation of the Scotch preacher: ...give us a year of white bread...(done by Mac in dialect in Eng Crk, but done straight here by Angus)

--possible chapter ending?

insert mentions of Adair:

--ch. 3, when Rob's daughter is born, Angus says he's surprised she wasn't named for Adair; Rob says he knows you McCs like to work a name to death, but he wants a fresh one on each of his children.

---later in ch., during '93-'97 hard times, they have the consolation that times were hard in Scotland too; Rob is a little better as correspondent than Lucas was, but he hears the wheelshop has folded, his brothers and father become industrial "cogs" of some sort. His father won't come to America because Lucas did?

ch. 4--revision to be done

C, after Aug. '86 reading, suggests more scenes with Angus and Varick together are needed.

--Stanley should appear whenever possible

--background is needed to set up Rob chiding Angus about meeting Anna in Valier. In their argument, maybe have Angus straight-out tell Rob he's still in love with Anna.

change King's Remembrancer to Rememberer?

Lucas's will:

--another missive from the hand of--no, from where the hands of Lucas were.

From the air there...;

Toussaint is @ Sun. home riding Angus goes to, late in . bk.

- mention "Withrow boy Varick chummed c" as another rider;
don't mention him as "Dude"

ch. 4, ms pp 90-90A: possibly move the ash smell piece to earlier, Angus-Adair
dialogue about Montana never getting easier for her?
--or cut it entirely?

Ann McCartney comment, on reprise of Lucas's "Anancy is part us and part them," when Angus and Rob are at Toussaint's: the original reference was so far back she didn't get this one.

touch her inside

(Angus-Anna love scene)

lovegift
slow writhe

in Gros Ventre's growth in 'Steaders, mention Catholic landowner developing the
part of town the Heaneys live in, in Eng Crk.

dup. p.

no

pp. 87-88: Nancy is a bit simple. It's not just clear (whether mental or what happened in Starvation Winter).

were never going to

From the start, Adair and I together did not add up to a tidy life.

She was barely over the threshold when Rob and I had to trail his

Varick trails the sheep with Angus when they go onto the Reservation in 1914.
He is 15; make some resonances from that to Jick's age in Eng Crk.

Adair refuses to go with them; Angus wonders if she's staying home alone to practice to be childless, now that Varick is getting big enough to be out on his own, working for Stanley etc.

if "Here is a shape of life I can fit myself to" is used in ch. 4 trail drive,
intro it earlier--ch. 2 when ~~in~~ Lucas talks about his lack of hands, have him
say something about "my life ~~hasn't~~ didn't take the shape I intended, did it.
But I've tried to wear it as not too bad a fit, Angus."

sheep shearing, or possibly other work around the sheep or homestead: Wn Folklore
article (Sc Hn ideas file) abt "rhythm of 'tricks'" in assembly line work, of
learning how to control how your time goes into a job. "separate bits, pieces,
tricks, techniques" of assembly line worker's knack.

Lucas pouring?

It didn't take time at all.

and then

You at rambunctious seven, ~~now~~ in the spring of a year Toussaint
would aptly ~~have been~~ call that 19-and-7. A Saturday morning amid

The pattern of America, being put onto the land.

"Will you write? Your mother--"

"Sure. Often as I can."

1/2 on bet.
"Would you mind ^{if I...if I} ~~if, if~~ write back?"

That'd be--all right."
"No, ~~as right ahead.~~"

And then you at rambunctious seven-going-on-eight, in the spring

of ^{the} ~~x~~ year Toussaint Rennie ever after spoke of as that 19-and-7. A

You went on, in the next few years, to your lariat period of lassoing the chopping block, the dog, the chickens--and fortunately got over that.

"Just when I'd about got used to all it could do in that Kalispell
country, here I am on the other side of the Divide."

down,
in bed.

"Angus, what--what if we can't have any children." She wadded the dish towel until her hands disappeared into it. "If I can't have any children."

And you, Adair; what did you know then of the portion of a
husband I was, and the portion I wasn't?

cut on
move

it. We'll have children." ⁴¹ So at first, we didn't see it for the
calamity it was. But ~~half a year later~~, when Adair miscarried again,
this time three months into her term, the situation hit home to us.

migaine

"You can imagine Ninian setting the Lord straight on the sort of year he wants--Oh Lord, we ask you on this Hogmanay, give us a year of white bread and none of your gray."

That drew a general laugh, and then we began to do justice to Judith's cooking.

Was our child conceived in one of those dawns, a son of the sun? I

change!

hoped so. With everything in me I hoped so.

Double death was in that losss of our child-to-be.

The loss of that child-to-be

It had to happen

~~unknown~~

happened as nastily as possible, a morning when I had just

ridden out of sight on my way to the school. If Rob hadn't come to

the sheep shed on some errand and gone on up to the house to OO Adair,

she would have been alone with

One after another now I had to swallow each lonely season and
try to keep it down. I suppose Scotch Heaven's assumption was, seeing

band of sheep. Against the day when I would have heart enough to go

back into the sheep business, whenever that would be, I bought his

improve

foresaw only Anna. Here, exactly at the point where I at last knew where my life ought to go, I was set adrift with Adair. I wondered, every minute, whether I was up to this.

We began our marriage in prosperity, although because it was a prosperity based on sheep there was every chance that it would be only momentary.

I was never more glad of his company than the morning early that
lambing time when he and I, fresh from the shed, came ~~into~~ into the kitchen
bearing a chilled ^{newborn} lamb apiece.

"Company for you, Adair," sang out Rob.

under our
arms
..4

"You're ready for town, are you?" The ~~May~~ afternoon, there in that first year of Dair and myself, when we were to go to ^{Gros} ~~La~~ Ventre for provisions. "Or can you stand to be away from the company of the sheep for that long?"

"Adair has put up with smelly shedmen at her table and lambs in her oven," Adair informed me. "She is more than ready for town."

Only slowly--too slowly--

did I realize that each of those gazes was of resentment.

As the days slowed with cold, I still could tell myself that at least

Adair would not have to go through a time,

we
were
what was
my

notice the columns of solitaire laid out on the sideboard; Adair amid her chores would stop to turn up a card, play it where it belonged, and then go on about whatever she had been doing. It came to me often that winter, the oddness that it had to be George Frew to carry word of Adair to Scotch Heaven; the oddness too that I, who had never cared overmuch what people said, was perturbed to know without even having to hear it what was being said of Adair: "She's different."

acac, /a ac
to
on down

now

That December, when Adair miscarried again--this time four months
into her term--she was the one who stayed grievous.

It made a torment for your mother--there is no less way ^{to} ~~of~~ saying ~~it~~ it--

to see you heading out of sight toward the South Fork school on the back

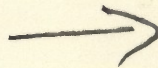
of your mare Brownie. She was seeing also Davie Erskine that ^{awful} ~~horrible~~

day of 0 years before. I had my own fear; not of your judgment, certainly

it had
never
left
her
eyes

119H

Rob was a million per cent for the idea, although he couldn't resist tacking on: "I never thought I'd see the day, McAngus, that you'd start sounding like me--'more sheep, that's the ticket we need.'"



Those next few were bitter years for me.

a blankness
Her place in the world, an emptiness now . Anna, my word in the air

since the first instant I saw her, erased

known logic worked, there. Not possible that I could lose something

I never truly possessed, am I right? Yes, but it felt as though I

had. It felt harsher than that, because in any thought of Anna now

the loss doubled: I had not attained ~~and I was with~~ her in the first place

and now all chance of attaining her was gone too.

now?

cut from ch. 4,
Angus - Anna scene

Here was the time, here and now, rare time to ask of her ~~whether~~ if
the two of us even yet had a chance of fitting together. If when our
children were grown...if Adair someday at last left the homestead and
with it me...if Isaac the incalculable was a labyrinth that a woman
might hesitate to spend all the rest of her life with...

much more of it than you do, Scotch Heaven; this I didn't ^{seem to} know any of
the tune of. Varick, Adair, Rob--and Anna as ever--had ^{extracted} ~~extracted~~ from
my life whatever portions of themselves it suited them to, and I knew
nothing to do but trudge along with whatever was left.

stick struck. Any ~~thinking~~ moment of my thought that wasn't on Varick

the next ~~many~~ several days was on Anna, how close to having her I felt

whenever How one or another
when I was with her and yet ~~how~~ the edge of circumstance that somehow

always kept us apart. Yes, that must be luck,

on how some edge of circumstance

"Have you ever changed your mind any about Scotland?" (Dair)

"No. Evidently you haven't either." (Angus)

--late in ch. 4, shd Adair make it plain to Angus she may go back to Scotland when Varick is grown? ("I'll feel I've done all I can do here.") Thus, when Angus meets up with Anna at the Two Med, he is looking toward the prospect of being wifeless in not many years.

I had my own fret: not of your judgment, certainly not of your capability

not of your capability/on horseback, but of the odd moment, the

unpredictable that would not really be your fault, nobody's fault and

yet the disaster would have happened.

*Too well I
knew that*

*✓ Known
with a
great*

Too well I knew that, a circumstance in which there was nothing to be

done.

The next morning Varick and I took the buggy to school, Adair
rode down on Scorpion in the afternoon, and w the three of us embarked
for Gros Ventre.

Just once in this span of years were the two of us anywhere near
alone. It came ~~when~~ before school began that fall, when the county
superintendent called all ~~teachers in the~~ ^{- school} country teachers to a meeting
in new Valier.

✓
cut
Two's

I measure the next span of years by Varick. He was born into
one century, one era of the Two Medicine country, and by the time he
was 00, different time and place had been brought around him. Or so
it seemed to me, watching this son~~x~~ of mine and Dair.

a
danger
you old

"Pure wonderful," Lucas chimed in, and I agreed.

"Now we've to g figure how to get them there," Rob said.

now that the sun had been up for a few hours. I felt I'd already had

as much as a day could hold, my time with Anna

cut from ms p, 20B,
ch. 4

And I was working on getting Adair ^{a/} ~~that~~

~~she so wanted~~ every way I knew, Adair would have been the first to
admit that.

The next year, and then the next after that, it did.

"Nobody has the right to cost me my son."

"You brought this on yourself. All I did was to open Varick's
eyes to the kind of father he has."

I suppose Scotch Heaven's assumption was, seeing ~~Adair ensconced in~~

Adair ensconced in a rented house in town with Varick, that she and I

had had a falling out and Rob was aloof to me because of that. But

then here she was, like the turn of the calendar from May ^{into} ~~in~~ June

each year, at the homestead with me again, wasn't she. And Varick nearby,
~~Frank MacGill~~

working for Stanley at the ranger station or up in the national forest.

*It was
another
time, I*

Changed this in ch. 5 revise

33

Scotch Heaven's assumption, seeing Adair ensconced in a rented house in town with Varick during that next school year and then the next after that, of course was that

In a way, then, your mother and I

Insofar as either of us could, then,

--and it will always be argued how far

that really is--your mother and I strove to

~~Samuel~~ ~~Ninian's son Samuel, who was of an age with Varick.~~ You find

Varick himself ever taller, like a young tree, and adding his quiet

beyond-the-schoolbook capabilities the way a tree adds its rings of

growth.

"We can't agree, then. So we have to let these do the deciding."

I brought out the deck of cards. "Go ahead, you can cut first.

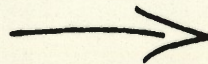
If you draw the low card, you win, we don't sell the sheep now.

If I draw it, I--"

"I'm not cutting at all." He could have saved his mouth those words; his face said them all too plainly.

Damn him, he seemed to take pleasure in being perverse. "Cutting for it is the only fair way to decide," I tried.

"How big a fool do you take me for?" He looked both riled and contemptuous now. "This isn't any case of



594--strengthen Angus's reaction to Rob wanting to kill Scorpion; also, reflection on how evil Rob has become, this winter?

595- ~~last~~ line, show Rob's bitterness.

Rob was

^ dangerously silent (talkative?)

- S's diary in drinking periods


cut from p. 595 in final revise

Rob let out a heavy breath. "All right, all right," he grumbled,

"~~The immortal~~ Scorpion has the luck on his side today. But it's

going to take more than that for the rest of us to make it through

this goddamn winter."



, blizzard Bedouins.

possible: pp. 24-5, tossing wood chip to attract attention--have Angus think of this later, about Adair?

Isaac Reese goes into cattle business in WWI.

"and away we hurled" (or some similar usage abt going fast, as when Angus rides
in Rob's car from Valier: see Sc-Eng pamphlet in Sc Lingo file)

possible revise: Rob goes out away from hay sled, Angus beyond him, etc.

eating ^{one}
again?
buffalo,
cattle,
sheep,
winter
didn't + case
what it all
Hous. Men.

A once in a lifetime winter, Rob telling Toussaint. It depended
on the size of the lifetime, didn't it. Toussaint there on the Two
Medicine ranch...

I saw them when I was in town. Varick had passed his point of saying
nothing to me, ~~but~~ but he said very little. The distance was there,
not just between himself and myself but between ~~him~~ ^{us} what he had thought
I was and what he now saw me as.

*declared
spring*

Rob and I were unfortunately some distance ahead of Adair in declaring an end to winter. We did so the March morning when he and I, fresh from the lambing shed, came into the kitchen bearing a chilled newborn lamb apiece.

Welcome as the going of winter weather was to this wife of mine

"If you'd like, Angus," Adair said. Did she understand too that Anna was the example behind my asking? In our marriage, nothing was ever sure. "I wouldn't mind, no."

Amprover?

of the music, She heard the horseman's silv'ry call, 'Come braid your

golden hair, of that first night of dancing with her here in my schoolroom.

Up from the great trench of the Two Medicine River the Gros Ventre-
to-Browning road ^{wove} ~~traced~~ itself in a narrow braid of wheeltracks worn
into the ground, and as the end of the afternoon neared I watched as a
wagon began to climb the road from the river toward our shearing ~~pen~~ operation.
Curious as to whether this might be Rob, resorting to hoof and wheel
if his automobile had disgraced itself again, I kept watch between my

Steel on grindstone and whetstone, the ^{keen-edged} ~~whetting~~ chorus of the

shearers sharpening for the day. The sheep had been wrangled up against the chute mouth by Davie and the shearing crew's barely-helpful choreboy, a creeping coyotish ^{person} ~~person~~ named Garland Hebner.

I leaned over into the corral and felt the wool on three or four ewes' backs for dew; dry enough to shear, now that the sun had been up

113

improve -
cripping
sheep,
etc.

They were a
kind of
reaction -

Making the sheep leave the country they had been accustomed to all
spring was sheer work, on the horse and off. You could all but hear