

This story centered on the conflict of cultural identity. She says that if she called herself English, she was told that she is not English, but a horrid colonial. Since Rhys can relate to the characters in her story, this enabled her to become an influential women's writer of the twentieth century. One day, Eddie's mother and their housekeeper Mildred went into the room and started pulling books off the shelves and piling them into two heaps. She felt out of place in Dominica, but estranged from her European roots. The narrator and her friend Eddie are both English descending children growing up in the Caribbean. Both children are unsure of their true cultural identity. Both children struggle with their cultural identity because they have English roots, but are growing up in the Caribbean. Jean Rhys had similar life experiences as the narrator and Eddie. She was raised in Dominica, but had a Welsh father and Creole mother. The narrator is a full blown white English girl while Eddie has an English father and colored mother. Eddie's father is obsessed with his English heritage and expects Eddie to be too. Eddie claims that he does not like strawberries or daffodils, which are English, even though his father constantly talks about them. The narrator states that her relations with the few 'real' English boys and girls she had met were awkward. Eddie and the narrator tried to prevent the books from being burned by both of them grabbing and saving one. When people who had never seen England before talked about it around Eddie, he remained silent. This gave the narrator doubts about 'home.' Both children were also ridiculed by the black children. When Eddie's father died, Eddie claimed the room and books as his own. Eddie's mother planned to burn one of the piles of books.