The Cone Gatherers Chapters 3 and 4

**In Chapter Three** we are introduced to the character of Roderick Runcie Campbell. Note down the main points about his character.

Duror puts the first part of his plan into action by speaking to Mrs Morton and lying about Calum. She has no “apprehensions of evil”. Any sympathy we may have felt for Duror is now eroded by his deliberate actions.

* He deliberately misleads her into thinking that she has some hope of a relationship with him.
* He lies to her about what Mrs Lochie has supposedly said about them- he wants to anger her
* She believes him because she trusts him, and has affection for him,

( page 35…”it never occurred to her that he was lying. She had always thought……she would refuse.”) and he knows this.

* He questions her about the cone gatherers ( she maintains that they are good men of good reputation- the truth) and then lies about what he has “seen” Calum doing in the woods- exposing himself “and worse”. He implies that Calum may be a danger to “wee lassies”
* He marvels that he can remain so calm when “within him was a roaring, like a storm through a tree” ( Reference to the turmoil within that he is able to hide.)
* She says that if Calum was accused of indecency it would “destroy them completely. The wee one would be dragged off to jail or the asylum, and the big one would break his heart..” She is not to know that this is what Duror wants.

Think about Duror. How does the reader feel now, compared to feelings about Duror at the end of Chapter Two?

**Chapter Four:**

We are introduced to the character of Lady Runcie Campbell. Note down the main points about her character.

Duror now puts stage two of his plan into action by involving Lady Runcie Campbell. He knows her goodness, but he also knows how this conflicts with her social status, and he uses this knowledge to manipulate her.

* He knows he is mired in evil. (p41-42): “Now, when he was going to lie again, this time knowing that it would implicate her in his chosen evil…….helped.” How does the imagery used in this section symbolise this knowledge, and the choice that Duror knows he is making?
* Duror is successful in his plan to involve Neil and Calum but knows fully he is wrong to do so:

(“Now he thought, now comes the lie; the obscene gesture; the spitting upon her lovely generous face”)

and Lady Runcie Campbell phones Mr Tulloch to ask that Calum and Neil can be used for the deer drive.

* We see what is going on in Duror’s mind- he can look at his own actions calmly and with “neutrality” and can look with incredulity on all the “villainy” that is being “schemed” by him. He knows that the “good” part of his life is over and that if he was by the cone gatherers hut, he would then “not only understand and approve of what he had done, but would find in it his only possible consolation and release.”

Lady Runcie Campbell speaks twice to Mr Tulloch.

* Explain what happens during the second phone call, how we know her feelings about it (p48)- look at her word choice and tone, and what struggle is going on within her.
* Explain how Duror manages to manipulate her so that he gets the outcome he desires.

What **theme** is being conveyed by this section of the novel?

Explain why this is such a **key event** in the plot.