

strongly in part one and the beginning of part 2, it occasionally filters through an old-lady haze, old lady phrases, making it softer where it should be sharp, spare and direct. I have tried to indicate the places where. There aren't really too many.

Story itself. In this draft it is still not quite clear where the focus of your story is. Whether it is the life of a very remarkable and enduring and distinctive and witty woman against the backdrop of 100 eventful years. Or whether you are using such a woman to convey a number of things you want to tell--what happened to her (your) people during the post-civil war and later years. How they were treated and how they dealt with their circumstances. In other words whether you are using Miss Jane mainly as the subject or mainly as the medium (protagonist/narrator).

In part one it is mainly the former. Miss Jane is the heroine, though there is of course very ~~strong background~~ much going on in the background. This continues into part two, the first several pages (which perhaps should still be part of part one).

Now for a while Miss Jane seems nothing but narrator, commentator, really, on conditions and events. And even though later ~~on~~ as Ned's (Professor Douglas's) mother, she is at the center of what happens, she continues very minor as a character. The marriage with Joe Pittman and Joe's death are very well told, but by then Jane seems to have become a different sort of person, and still seems a minor character (and incidentally seems to have lost her spunk). Whatever it is, the whole episode seems almost like a short story and somehow not to fit in tone.