

APPENDICES

BIOGRAPHY

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), English poet and novelist, famous for his depictions of the imaginary county “Wessex”. Hardy’s work reflected his sense of tragedy in human life.

Thomas Hardy was born in Egdon Heath, in Dorset, near Dorchester on June 2, 1840. His father was a master mason and a building contractor. Hardy’s mother whose tastes included Latin poets and French romance, provided for his education. After schooling in Dorchester, Hardy was apprenticed to architect. He worked in restoration of churches. In 1874 Hardy married Emma Lavinia Gifford. At the age of 22 Hardy moved to London and started to write poems, which idealized the rural life. Unable to find a public for his poetry, he turned to fiction. His first novel, *The Poor Man and the Lady*, was written in 1867, but many publishers rejected the work. His first book that gained notice was *Far From the Madding Crowd* (1874). After its success Hardy devoted himself entirely to writing and produced a series of novels, among them *The Return of The Native* (1878) and *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

Tess of D’urbervilles (1891) came into conflict with the Victorian morality. Hardy’s next novel *Jude to the Obscure* (1895) aroused even more debate. In 1896, disturb by the public uproar over the unconventional subjects of two of his greatest novels, Hardy announced that he would never write fiction again.

Emma Hardy died in 1912 and in 1914 Hardy married his secretary, Florence Emily Dugdale. From 1920 through 1927 Hardy worked on his autobiography. He died in Dorchester, Dorset, on January 11, 1928. His ashes were cremated in Dorchester and buried with impressive ceremonies in Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey.

SYNOPSIS

At the beginning of the novel, Bathsheba Everdene is a beautiful young woman without a fortune. She meets Gabriel Oak, a young farmer, and saves his life one evening. He asks to marry her, but she refuses because she does not love him. Upon inheriting her uncle's prosperous farm she moves away to the town of Weatherbury.

A disaster befalls Gabriel's farm and he loses his sheep; he is forced to give up farming. He goes looking for work, and in his travels he finds himself in Weatherbury. After rescuing a local farm from fire he asks the mistress if she needs a shepherd. The mistress of the farms turns out to be Bathsheba. She agrees to hire him. As Bathsheba learns to manage her farm she becomes acquainted with her neighbor, Mr. Boldwood, and on a whim she sends him a valentine card with the words "Marry me". Boldwood is obsessed with her and he becomes her second suitor. Bathsheba refuses him because she does not love him.

On one night, Bathsheba meets a handsome soldier, Sergeant Troy. Unknown to Bathsheba, he has recently impregnated a local girl, Fanny Robin, and almost married her. Troy falls in love with Bathsheba, enraging Boldwood. Bathsheba travels to Bath to warn him of Boldwood's anger, while she is there, Troy convinces her to marry him. Gabriel does not approve of the marriage. A few weeks after his marriage to Bathsheba, Troy sees Fanny, poor and sick; she later dies giving birth to her child. Bathsheba discovers that Troy is the father.

Grief-stricken at Fanny's death and riddled with shame, Troy runs away and is thought to have drowned.

With Troy supposedly dead, Boldwood becomes more and more emphatic about Bathsheba marrying him. Troy sees Bathsheba at a fair and decides to return to her. Boldwood holds a Christmas party, to which he invites Bathsheba and again proposes marriage. Bathsheba tells him she will marry him if Troy does not return in six years. She refuses to wear the engagement ring from him. When she is at the point of leaving, Troy arrives to claim her. Boldwood's anger is exploding. He shoots Troy dead. He is sentenced to life prison. A few months later, Bathsheba marries Gabriel. They live happily together.

