

As one of the most renowned poets and novelists in English literary history, Thomas Hardy's books are must-reads. With striking language he creates unforgettable characters, depicts beautiful landscapes and composes stories which manage to truly touch your heart.

Biography of Thomas Hardy Thomas Hardy , English poet and author of the naturalism movement wrote *Jude the Obscure* ; What brains they must have in Christminster and the great schools, he presently thought, to learn words one by one up to tens of thousands! Somebody might have come along that way who would have asked him his trouble, and might have cheered him by saying that his notions were further advanced than those of his grammarian. But nobody did come, because nobody does; and under the crushing recognition of his gigantic error Jude continued to wish himself out of the world. What does it mean to my future? How does it stand towards my past? Hardy muses in his Preface to the edition of *Jude* about a bishop who burnt a copy of his book "probably in his despair at not being able to burn me. Inspiring many other authors including Virginia Woolf and D. His birthplace, built by his great grandfather, is now a museum owned by the National Trust. Young Thomas was given to quieter childhood pursuits, often spending time alone wandering the countryside, exploring the flora and fauna, gaining a profound connection with nature and the familiar sights and sounds of his rural home county. His mother had a great influence on his imagination, entertaining him with stories and songs, many of which would later inspire his Wessex tales. As a young boy Hardy attended the Stinson church with his family, was a voracious reader, learned to play the violin and attended local schools studying Latin, Greek, French, classical literature, and assisted his father in his various building projects. At the age of sixteen he was taken on as apprentice to John Hicks, an architect in Dorchester. He conducted surveys and excelled as draughtsman, working for Hicks until when he left for London to work with architect Arthur Blomfield. Around this time he met Henry Moule who would become a friend and mentor. His wrote his first, but never published novel *The Poor Man and the Lady* in Back in Bockhampton due to ill-health he secured a position with Hicks where in he met Emma Lavinia Gifford She was working at the rectory in St. Juliot, Cornwall, a building project he was working on. They married in London in and would have no children. Emma died suddenly on 27 November Hardy worked on his next novel *Desperate Remedies* ; In the long and intricately inwrought chain of circumstance which renders worthy of record some experiences of Cytherea Graye, Edward Springrove, and others, the first event directly influencing the issue was a Christmas visit. He also found time for that which he is not so well-known today, poetry, published in such collections as *Wessex Poems and Other Verses* , Poems: Thomas Hardy was bestowed many honours during his lifetime, including being nominated President of the Society of Authors in ; the Order of Merit from King George V in ; the Gold Medal from the Royal Society of Literature in ; an honorary degree from Cambridge University, and an honorary fellowship of Magdalene College, Cambridge. He died at his home Max Gate in Dorchester on 11 January ; his heart is buried in the cemetery of St. The poetry of motion is a phrase much in use, and to enjoy the epic form of that gratification it is necessary to stand on a hill at a small hour of the night, and, having first expanded with a sense of difference from the mass of civilised mankind, who are dreamwapt and disregardful of all such proceedings at this time, long and quietly watch your stately progress through the stars. After such a nocturnal reconnoitre it is hard to get back to earth, and to believe that the consciousness of such majestic speeding is derived from a tiny human frame. Merriman for Jalic Inc. The above biography is copyrighted. Do not republish it without permission. Neither the barman or the two locals knew anything about it, but the landlady did know the Hardy connection. The widow of ex-soccer legend Robin Friday worked there as barmaid till recently. It is understandable that he might wish to restore his stories to how he originally meant them to be, after they had first been published serially in magazines. Magazine publishers would often want to censor anything that might be controversial. In a way, serialization in magazine format is like one media and book form another. You would not expect a film adaption to be exactly like the book. However the problem is that between one edition of one of his books and another there can be significant changes. For a start, he writes sad stories. His writing is sympathetic to working country people, but I doubt most of them would have been

able to understand his work. One evening we listened to a guest speaker who had written a book about her experiences running around the world all the way. One of my clubmates bought a copy. When I asked her about it later, she said it was alright, but that she had been reading Thomas Hardy recently and the quality of writing suffered by comparison. I thought it was interesting that she liked Thomas Hardy. Later it occurred to me that this clubmember had been a shop steward, was a feminist, and a local, standup poet. Hardy seems very sympathetic to working class men and women at the wrong end of power relationships. He was a renowned poet too. The fact this club member spends a lot of Looking at the map at the front of my copy of Tess, I notice even Reading, the town where I live, seems to have been re-named Aldbrickham. Of the other nearby towns, Oxford seems to have been renamed Christminster. Wantage seems to have been renamed Alfredston, probably after Alfred the Great, who is said to be born there. Windsor has been renamed Castle Royal. I guess Quartershot is Aldershot, while Kennetbridge is Newbury. Posted By kev67 in Hardy, Thomas 5 Replies.

Chapter 2 : 10 Classic Thomas Hardy Poems Everyone Should Read | Interesting Literature

"Under the Greenwood Tree" is considered one of the best Thomas Hardy books in order and also was his first book as a novelist. Thomas Hardy was born in Stinsford, England in the and completed his university education from the King's College London.

Thomas Hardy was an established English novelist and poet when war broke out. At age 74, he was also a half-century older than many of the men who would fight and die on the Western Front. He grew up in an isolated cottage on the edge of open heathland. Though he was often ill as a child, his early experience of rural life, with its seasonal rhythms and oral culture, was fundamental to much of his later writing. He spent a year at the village school at age eight and then moved on to schools in Dorchester, the nearby county town, where he received a good grounding in mathematics and Latin. In he was apprenticed to John Hicks, a local architect, and in , shortly before his 22nd birthday, he moved to London and became a draftsman in the busy office of Arthur Blomfield, a leading ecclesiastical architect. Driven back to Dorset by ill health in , he worked for Hicks again and then for the Weymouth architect G. Though architecture brought Hardy both social and economic advancement, it was only in the mids that lack of funds and declining religious faith forced him to abandon his early ambitions of a university education and eventual ordination as an Anglican priest. His habits of intensive private study were then redirected toward the reading of poetry and the systematic development of his own poetic skills. The verses he wrote in the s would emerge in revised form in later volumes e. In 1868 he wrote the class-conscious novel *The Poor Man and the Lady*, which was sympathetically considered by three London publishers but never published. In his next novel, however, the brief and affectionately humorous idyll *Under the Greenwood Tree*, Hardy found a voice much more distinctively his own. In March Hardy had been sent to make an architectural assessment of the lonely and dilapidated Church of St. She actively encouraged and assisted him in his literary endeavours, and his next novel, *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, drew heavily upon the circumstances of their courtship for its wild Cornish setting and its melodramatic story of a young woman somewhat resembling Emma Gifford and the two men, friends become rivals, who successively pursue, misunderstand, and fail her. The resulting novel, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, introduced Wessex for the first time and made Hardy famous by its agricultural settings and its distinctive blend of humorous, melodramatic, pastoral, and tragic elements. The book is a vigorous portrayal of the beautiful and impulsive Bathsheba Everdene and her marital choices among Sergeant Troy, the dashing but irresponsible soldier; William Boldwood, the deeply obsessive farmer; and Gabriel Oak, her loyal and resourceful shepherd. Middle period Hardy and Emma Gifford were married, against the wishes of both their families, in September. At first they moved rather restlessly about, living sometimes in London, sometimes in Dorset. His record as a novelist during this period was somewhat mixed. *The Hand of Ethelberta*, an artificial social comedy turning on versions and inversions of the British class system, was poorly received and has never been widely popular. *The Return of the Native*, on the other hand, was increasingly admired for its powerfully evoked setting of Egdon Heath, which was based on the sombre countryside Hardy had known as a child. The serious illness which hampered completion of *A Laodicean* decided the Hardys to move to Wimborne in and to Dorchester in . It was not easy for Hardy to establish himself as a member of the professional middle class in a town where his humbler background was well known. He signaled his determination to stay by accepting an appointment as a local magistrate and by designing and building Max Gate, the house just outside Dorchester in which he lived until his death. *Wessex Tales* was the first collection of the short stories that Hardy had long been publishing in magazines. *Tess Durbeyfield*, the erring milkmaid, and *Jude Fawley*, the studious stonemason. She has an illegitimate child, suffers rejection by the man she loves and marries, and is finally hanged for murdering her original seducer. Poetry Hardy seems always to have rated poetry above fiction, and *Wessex Poems*, his first significant public appearance as a poet, included verse written during his years as a novelist as well as revised versions of poems dating from the s. *Poems of the Past and the Present* contained nearly twice as many poems as its predecessor, most of them newly written. Some of the poems are explicitly or implicitly grouped by subject or theme. His best poems can be found mixed together with inferior verse in any

particular volume, and new poems are often juxtaposed to reworkings of poems written or drafted years before. The range of poems within any particular volume is also extremely broad—from lyric to meditation to ballad to satirical vignette to dramatic monologue or dialogue—and Hardy persistently experiments with different, often invented, stanza forms and metres. The Dynasts as a whole served to project his central vision of a universe governed by the purposeless movements of a blind, unconscious force that he called the Immanent Will. The sudden death of Emma Hardy in brought to an end some 20 years of domestic estrangement. In Hardy married Florence Emily Dugdale, who was 38 years his junior. In his ninth decade Hardy published two more poetry collections, *Late Lyrics* and *Earlier and Human Shows* , and put together the posthumously published *Winter Words* . Following his death, on January 11, , his cremated remains were interred with national pomp in Westminster Abbey , while his separated heart was buried in the churchyard of his native parish. Equally important—particularly in terms of their suitability to film and television adaptation—is their nostalgic evocation of a vanished rural world through the creation of highly particularized regional settings.

Chapter 3 : A Great Book Study: Tess of D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

Thomas Hardy has books on Goodreads with ratings. Thomas Hardy's most popular book is Selected Works Of Thomas Hardy: Far From the Madding Cr.

It also might be the only real crowd-pleaser among his great works. The whole secret of fiction and the drama lies in the constructional part lies in the adjustment of things unusual to the things eternal and universal. The writer who knows exactly how exceptional and how non-exceptional his events should be made, possesses the key to the art. But if we take them to mean of longer lasting importance than most things, then I think Hardy is onto something. A writer may have to find the exceptional or novel to make a work interesting but, however much coincidence, horror, fantasy or other bizarre elements are in a work, he has to connect them with the mainstream of deep concerns that real people have. That is, if the writer wants to reach readers as Hardy has. The standard academic line on Hardy is that he shows the futile struggle of individuals against an indifferent force that rules the world and plays ironical tricks on frail humanity. Hardy is just a realist. As he says of a poet in one of his short stories, "he was a pessimist in so far as that character applies to a man who looks at the worst contingencies as well as the best in the human condition". Coincidences often drive his plots and certainly his characters often suffer tragically but not always. As happens in Shakespeare, Dickens, Tolstoy, Irving and all the greats, past and present. But the protagonist in any Hardy novel is more likely to be in conflict with his own very human obsessions, or struggling with rigid and unjust social codes, than against some faceless fate ruling the universe. Somehow, shortly after you start ploughing through his awkward constructions, you stop noticing it and are swept away with the story and characters. I mentally classify Hardy with several other writers of the late Victorian and turn-of-the-century era—Joseph Conrad, Samuel Butler, perhaps Henry James—as transitional artists. They wrote intensely on issues of conscience, struggling to escape past moral strictures to find, each in his way, a new understanding of human behaviour for the age to come. They developed writing styles that heralded the grittier, more realistic, more psychological work to come, but still had feet in the older grand tradition. Thomas Hardy was born near Dorchester which would become Casterbridge in his stories in southern England. He planned to take holy orders but lost his faith in his twenties. After studying architecture in London, he returned to Dorchester where he did architectural work, while writing on the side. His first novel to be published was *Desperate Remedies*, followed by the still-popular *Under the Greenwood Tree*, which combines a love story with the travails of lovable village rustics. But it was two novels later with *Far from the Madding Crowd* that Hardy made his name. This is a heart-rending story of forbidden love across social classes, betrayal and tragedy in a rural setting, and—surprise—with a happy ending. His perceived flouting of morality in the work again roused condemnation by clergy, critics and even friends. In disgust, Hardy gave up novel writing altogether. At which point one of the strangest transformations in literary history occurred. The great novelist became a great poet. From his first collection of Wessex Poems in to *Winter Words* published in his final year, he produced over poems. You are most likely to find them today in editions of selected or collected works. A three-volume blank-verse epic, *The Dynasts*, was published from to. Rather he produced poetry in the language of everyday conversation. Often with a critical or ironic social perspective. And often restating his allegiance to the enduring truths of nature and the human heart. However, to me his verse today sounds stilted and old-fashioned. Although he considered his poetry more important than his prose, I think he made his point more effectively spread over the wider canvas of novels than in the condensed poetic form. I even prefer his short stories—at least the best of them. He often produced short fiction to make money in the periodical market and many of the tales were crafted for the sentimental demands of those readers. But the best stories are quite diverting even today. Look for a volume that includes his two best stories, in my opinion, "The Three Strangers" and the near-novella "The Distracted Preacher", which opened and closed *Wessex Tales*. Odd trivia about Hardy: The ingénue in Casterbridge is Elizabeth-Jane. The two women Hardy married were Emma and Florence Emily.

Chapter 4 : Thomas Hardy | Great Writers Inspire

Thomas Hardy OM (2 June - 11 January) was an English novelist and poet. A Victorian realist in the tradition of George Eliot, he was influenced both in his novels and in his poetry by Romanticism, especially William Wordsworth.

But unlike *Grapes of Wrath*, I did not hate it. Instead, I was emotionally invested. Tess is a beautiful, poetic young lady, unlucky to be the poor daughter of a drunk, unemployed father and an anxious mother. When her parents learned that they were descendants of an honorable ancestor of a similar name, whose well-off relations lived some miles from them, her mother sent Tess to make an introduction, in hopes of getting a job -- or a husband, which ever was more convenient. Instead, Tess met an arrogant male relative, Alec, who gave her a lowly job on the farm, and then took advantage of her innocence. He certainly was attracted to her beautiful physical image, but her feelings for him were never mutual. By the next chapter, Tess had returned home with her new baby and was an embarrassment to the community. Unfortunately, her baby died. In shame, she decided to leave home again, to make a fresh start where no one knew her story. She found enjoyable work as a dairymaid and made companions. But a new man, Angel, a well-to-do son of an uppity preacher, moved to the farm. He wanted to take up farming, as opposed to college or seminary. She expected to expose her past before they married, but each opportunity failed; even the letter she wrote explaining the truth, which contradicted her image, did not reach him in time before the wedding. She wanted to tell him on the day of the wedding, but he prevented her. Then on the night of their honeymoon, they revealed their secret sins, and Tess finally was able to tell Angel that she was not as pure as he believed. Neither was he, but his hypocrisy was not as blinding as her impurity. His image of her was shattered. Basically, he decided he must leave for a while. Being distraught, he left the continent! For at least a year he was absent from his wife, while she lived in abandonment and shame for what someone else had done to her life; she bore this heavy burden, as if it was entirely her own. One day the farm workers were listening to a new "preacher. He recognized Tess and was suddenly bewitched. For several pages he begged Tess to give him a chance. He never asked forgiveness; but he wanted to make "reparations," marry her, and take care of her and her family. He never knew about the pregnancy and he expressed regret for having ruined her. Nonetheless, she rejected him and never believed his conversion. Even I believed his conversion and thought she was being too pride-filled. After a few more pages, Alec revealed his true self. He was wicked, and the reader could see what Tess already knew. He was a fraud. He admitted that his religion was only a phase, and since he found Tess again, his religion was over. He resorted to stalking her. Tess wrote a desperate letter to Angel, begging him to come home and save her from the evil that was going to ruin her again. The letter awaited his return. And unbeknownst to Tess, Angel finally admitted he should have never left his wife. They tried to find a new place, but it was complicated. Meanwhile, Alec relentlessly made all attempts to rescue Tess and her family; with his money and connections, his proposals to make life easier for them all were very attractive and generous. Because of her desperate situation - somewhere between a rock and a hard place - Tess rebelled and wrote a scathing note to Angel telling him she was done with him. It almost seemed out of character. She promised to never forgive him. Angel did eventually return home and immediately went on a quest to find his wife. The reader was left to believe that Tess took Alec up on his offer to comfortably house her mother and siblings. Nonetheless, he continued looking, and when he found her, "It was too late. I personally concluded that Thomas Hardy, while alive, had zero hope in humanity. He only understood torture of the heart and soul and mind. He absolutely detested religion, twisting Scripture and mocking Christianity. He saw life as utterly hopeless. Sharon Gently Mad wrote several reviews of biographies on Thomas Hardy , and they helped me understand the madness behind the tragedies. But this one must have been written during an exceptionally bad week for Hardy. He chose not to give anyone a chance. There is deep symbolism throughout, which is always intriguing to discover and decode its meanings. Hardy likes to use natural symbols to express his ideas about human nature. In addition, it is not very difficult to draw conclusions, and I found myself writing down the next thing that would happen before I read it because it is so easily drawn out. I also enjoyed the reading experience. Nonetheless, this ending was dreadfully insane, and the characters were dubious, hypocritical, and

false -- obviously, not very likable. But I still cannot forget the reading journey, and so I will always remember this story. Is this book for you? Are you already a Hardy fan because you have read his other works? Then I would encourage you to read this, too, just to have the experience and knowledge of having read it. You may not like the story overall, and that is ok; but you may get something better out of it anyway. I would not recommend this one as my first Hardy, or you may never read another. He is full of shocking revelations, and if you are unfamiliar with his ways, you may not appreciate those unhappy surprises. Also, Hardy loves to use unique vocabulary, and that may be too cumbersome for those still becoming acclimated to his style. Some people call it "flowery" language, though it is beautiful and interesting. It only adds to the complication, though, when the author is at the same time smacking you in the face with insulting and offensive character traits and dreadful plot twists. So tread carefully with this one. Tess flung herself down upon the undergrowth of rustling speargrass as upon a bed.

Chapter 5 : The Best Thomas Hardy Novels | Interesting Literature

Thomas Hardy was born near Dorchester (which would become Casterbridge in his stories) in southern England. He planned to take holy orders but lost his faith in his twenties. After studying architecture in London, he returned to Dorchester where he did architectural work, while writing on the side.

So Hardy followed his advice and he did not try further to publish it. He subsequently destroyed the manuscript, but used some of the ideas in his later work. Wessex had been the name of an early Saxon kingdom, in approximately the same part of England. Far from the Madding Crowd was successful enough for Hardy to give up architectural work and pursue a literary career. Over the next twenty-five years Hardy produced ten more novels. Then in , they moved for the last time, to Max Gate , a house outside Dorchester designed by Hardy and built by his brother. Its subtitle, A Pure Woman: Faithfully Presented, was intended to raise the eyebrows of the Victorian middle classes. Jude the Obscure , published in , met with an even stronger negative response from the Victorian public because of its controversial treatment of sex, religion and marriage. Some booksellers sold the novel in brown paper bags, and the Bishop of Wakefield , Walsham How , is reputed to have burnt his copy. The reader is forced to reconsider the conventions set up by society for the relationships between women and men. Nineteenth-century society had conventions, which were enforced. In a novel structured around contrasts, the main opposition is between Swinhoe and Lady Viviette Constantine, who are presented as binary figures in a series of ways: Far From the Madding Crowd is an example of a novel in which chance has a major role: In Hardy published his first volume of poetry, Wessex Poems , a collection of poems written over 30 years. While some suggest that Hardy gave up writing novels following the harsh criticism of Jude the Obscure in , the poet C. Sisson calls this "hypothesis" "superficial and absurd". Thomas Hardy wrote in a great variety of poetic forms including lyrics , ballads , satire, dramatic monologues , and dialogue, as well as a three-volume epic closet drama The Dynasts  08 , [32] and though in some ways a very traditional poet, because he was influenced by folksong and ballads , [33] he "was never conventional," and "persistently experiment[ed] with different, often invented, stanza forms and metres, [34] and made use of "rough-hewn rhythms and colloquial diction". They had been estranged for twenty years and these lyric poems express deeply felt "regret and remorse". Holst also wrote the orchestral tone poem Egdon Heath: A Homage to Thomas Hardy in Although his poems were initially not as well received as his novels had been, Hardy is now recognised as one of the greatest twentieth-century poets, and his verse has had a profound influence on later writers, including Robert Frost , W. Auden , Dylan Thomas , and, most notably Philip Larkin. He was baptised at the age of five weeks and attended church, where his father and uncle contributed to music. As a young adult, he befriended Henry R. Bastow a Plymouth Brethren man , who also worked as a pupil architect, and who was preparing for adult baptism in the Baptist Church. Hardy flirted with conversion, but decided against it. The irony and struggles of life, coupled with his naturally curious mind, led him to question the traditional Christian view of God: Once, when asked in correspondence by a clergyman, Dr A. Grosart, about the question of reconciling the horrors of human and animal life with "the absolute goodness and non-limitation of God", [50] Hardy replied, Mr. Hardy regrets that he is unable to offer any hypothesis which would reconcile the existence of such evils as Dr. Grosart describes with the idea of omnipotent goodness. Grosart might be helped to a provisional view of the universe by the recently published Life of Darwin and the works of Herbert Spencer and other agnostics. He also showed in his writing some degree of fascination with ghosts and spirits. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.

Chapter 6 : German addresses are blocked - theinnatdunvilla.com

Thomas Hardy () wrote 14 novels, so picking a top ten won't prove too difficult a task. What are the best Thomas Hardy novels? This is undoubtedly going to prove a difficult and controversial issue, but we thought we'd take this chance to select the ten we think are worth reading - and we've even.

Mary, Henry, and Katharine. Hardy learned to read at a very young age, and developed a fascination with the services he regularly attended at Stinsford church. He also grew to love the music that accompanied church ritual. His father had once been a member of the Stinsford church musicians - the group Hardy later memorialised in *Under the Greenwood Tree* - and taught him to play the violin, with the pair occasionally performing together at local dance parties. Whilst attending the church services, Hardy developed a fascination for a skull which formed part of the Grey family monument. He formed an important friendship with Horace Moule. Horace Moule appears to have suffered from depression, and he committed suicide in It was in that Hardy first met Emma Gifford, his future wife. Hardy married Emma in and they moved to London for a short period, before returning to Dorset in The house was designed by Hardy and built by his brother Henry. Hardy maintained that it was only through poetry that he could express his ideas, and in his later years, managed to write more than nine hundred poems on a diverse range of subjects. In his first collection of poems were published; entitled *Wessex Poems and Other Verses*, the poetry also contained various quirky illustrations drawn by Hardy. Emma died on 27 November , two years after Hardy was awarded the Order of Merit. At this point in time, husband and wife were estranged, both living separate lives at Max Gate. Using his depressing experience of matrimony as evidence, Hardy had written extensively on the problems with English marriage and inflexible divorce laws, describing the intense unhappiness they caused. Poems of , which he dedicated to Emma. Hardy married Florence Dugdale in She was reportedly incredibly hurt by the love poems Hardy wrote to Emma after her death. On 11 January , Hardy died at Max Gate. His heart was buried separately from his body, interred in the same grave as Emma at their local church in Stinsford. Florence Hardy died in

Chapter 7 : The best novels: No 29 " Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy () | Books | The Guardian

*Victorian novelist and poet Thomas Hardy focused much of his work -- including classics like *Far from the Madding Crowd* () and *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* () on man's futile struggle against unseen forces.*

Chapter 8 : Thomas Hardy | Biography, Books, Poems, & Facts | theinnatdunvilla.com

Thomas Hardy, OM (2 June - 11 January) was an English novelist and poet. A Victorian realist in the tradition of George Eliot, he was influenced both in his novels and in his poetry by Romanticism, especially William Wordsworth.

Chapter 9 : Thomas Hardy | Books | The Guardian

*Sharon @ Gently Mad wrote several reviews of biographies on Thomas Hardy, and they helped me understand the madness behind the tragedies. At least with *Return of the Native* and *Far From the Madding Crowd* there were somewhat happy endings after the tragic story smacked you across the face.*