



Tess of the D'Urbervilles: The Stage Version, as Adapted by the Author (Annotated)

Thomas Hardy

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- Includes an introductory essay placing the stage version in the context of Hardy's life and time, and an up-to-date bibliography of relevant critical works.

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) is recognized as one of the greatest novelists who ever wrote in English, and *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, originally published in 1891, is his masterpiece. It is the tragic story of a strong and dignified woman who is destroyed by a ruthless playboy and punished by the era's strict moral codes, but who is determined to seize control of her own destiny. Early readers were shocked by novel's frank portrayal of female sexuality, religious skepticism, and scandalous violence, even as they were gripped by its compelling story. Even after over a century, the work has lost none of its power to move and captivate its audience.

In 1894 Hardy wrote a stage adaptation of this path-breaking work. It went unperformed till 1924, when it was produced by The Hardy Players, an amateur theatre troupe supported by the author. A year later it was put on in London, to great acclaim, though for some reason it has been largely forgotten ever since. It is long overdue for rediscovery. The play is a captivating drama, which captures all the suspense and tragedy of the original novel. Ideal for both professional and amateur productions, it deserves a modern revival. The stage version also provides a fascinating look into how the author saw the essence of his work, as he distilled it to a fraction of its original size. Also, for students and general readers, it provides an authoritative abridgement of the work, allowing the reader to understand the novel's plot and key themes in a very short time, at the same time concentrating its emotional impact.

Lexicos Publishing is proud to present the only ebook edition of this important work, and the first edition in any format for over sixty years. It has been meticulously edited and formatted for Kindle. This theatrical version does not appear in any edition of Hardy's collected works.

Purchase of this ebook grants the buyer an unrestricted license to use the text for either amateur or professional productions without the payment of royalty.

"It is Hardy's magnum opus, one of the great novels of all time." D. F. Hannigan, *Westminster Review* (1892)

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