

The Mayor Of Casterbridge Thomas Hardy

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under the influence of rum michael henchard sells his wife and daughter to a sailor years later the widowed wife returns to find her husband the mayor of casterbridge

this 1886 novel may be hardy s most intense and gripping narrative we first see the central character michael henchard as a drunken and unemployed hay trusser who sells his wife susan and his daughter elizabeth jane at a fair when he is eventually reunited with the two he has become the contented and prosperous mayor of a thriving market town but the downward spiral begins henchard s fall is hastened by a series of coincidences and quarrels and by his own jealousy and pride though the perspective on events that hardy gives us is often that of other characters elizabeth jane in particular henchard remains the central focus in the end he is a tragic figure bankrupt emotionally broken and an outcast from society prepared by one of the world s leading hardy scholars

this edition includes a critical introduction and a range of background materials from the period historical documents concerning such topics as the corn laws and the practice of wife selling and contemporary reviews help set this remarkable novel in the context out of which it emerged

one of hardy s most powerful novels the mayor of casterbridge opens with a shocking and haunting scene in a drunken rage michael henchard sells his wife and daughter to a visiting sailor at a local fair when they return to casterbridge some nineteen years later henchard having gained power and success as the mayor finds he cannot erase the past or the guilt that consumes him the mayor of casterbridge is a rich psychological novel about a man whose own flaws combine with fate to cause his ruin this modern library paperback classic reprints the authoritative 1912 wessex edition as well as hardy s map of wessex

the woman is no good to me who ll have her michael henchard is an out of work hay trusser who gets drunk at a local fair and impulsively sells his wife susan and baby daughter eighteen years later susan and her daughter seek him out only to discover that he has become the most prominent man in casterbridge henchard attempts to make amends for his youthful misdeeds but his unchanged impulsiveness clouds his relationships in love as well as his fortunes in business although henchard is fated to be a modern day tragic hero unable to survive in the new commercial world his story is also a journey towards love this edition is the only critically established text of the novel based on a comprehensive study of the manuscript and hardy s extensive revisions about the series for over 100 years oxford world s classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe each affordable volume reflects oxford s commitment to scholarship providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features including expert introductions by leading authorities helpful notes to clarify the text up to date bibliographies for further study and much more

a collection of six critical essays on the hardy novel arranged in chronological order of their original publication

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this ebook features the unabridged text of the mayor of casterbridge from the bestselling edition of the complete works of thomas hardy having established their name as the leading publisher of classic literature and art delphi classics produce publications that are individually crafted with superior formatting while introducing many rare texts for the first time in digital print the delphi classics edition of hardy includes original annotations and illustrations relating to the

life and works of the author as well as individual tables of contents allowing you to navigate ebooks quickly and easily ebook features the complete unabridged text of the mayor of casterbridge beautifully illustrated with images related to hardy s works individual contents table allowing easy navigation around the ebook excellent formatting of the text please visit delphiclassics.com to learn more about our wide range of titles

excerpt from the first chapter one evening of late summer before the nineteenth century had reached one third of its span a young man and woman the latter carrying a child were approaching the large village of weydon priors in upper wessex on foot they were plainly but not ill clad though the thick hoar of dust which had accumulated on their shoes and garments from an obviously long journey lent a disadvantageous shabbiness to their appearance just now the man was of fine figure swarthy and stern in aspect and he showed in profile a facial angle so slightly inclined as to be almost perpendicular he wore a short jacket of brown corduroy newer than the remainder of his suit which was a fustian waistcoat with white horn buttons breeches of the same tanned leggings and a straw hat overlaid with black glazed canvas at his back he carried by a looped strap a rush basket from which protruded at one end the crutch of a hay knife a wimble for hay bonds being also visible in the aperture his measured springless walk was the walk of the skilled countryman as distinct from the desultory shambling of the general labourer while in the turn and plant of each foot there was further a dogged and cynical indifference personal to himself showing its presence even in the regularly interchanging fustian folds now in the left leg now in the right as he paced along

set in a fictional town of casterbridge the mayor of casterbridge is a 1886 novel by one of the most read and critically acclaimed novelists of nineteenth century thomas hardy it is one of his wessex novels set in rural england

thomas hardy was an english author of the naturalist movement although in several poems he displays elements of the previous romantic and enlightenment periods of literature such as his fascination with the supernatural he regarded himself primarily as a poet and composed novels mainly for financial gain the bulk of his work set mainly in the semi fictional land of wessex delineates characters struggling against their passions and circumstances in a fit of drunken anger michael henchard sells his wife and baby daughter for five guineas at a country fair over the course of the following years he manages to establish himself as a respected and prosperous pillar of the community of casterbridge but behind his success there always lurk the shameful secret of his past and a personality prone to self destructive pride and temper subtitled a story of a man of character hardy s powerful and sympathetic study of the heroic but deeply flawed henchard is also an intensely dramatic work tragically played out against the vivid backdrop of a close knit dorsetshire town

the mayor of casterbridge thomas hardy the mayor of casterbridge 1886 subtitled the life and death of a man of character is a novel by british author thomas hardy it is set in the fictional town of casterbridge based on the town of dorchester in dorset the book is one of hardy s wessex novels all set in a fictional

rural england hardy began writing the book in 1884 and wrote the last page on 17 april 1885 within the book he writes that the events took place before the nineteenth century had reached one third of its span literary critic dale kramer sees it as being set somewhat later in the late 1840s corresponding to hardy s youth in dorchester at a country fair near casterbridge wessex a young hay trusser named michael henchard gets drunk on rum laced furmity and argues with his wife susan he decides to auction off his wife and baby daughter elizabeth jane to a sailor mr newson for five guineas sober the next day he is too late to recover his family when he realises that his wife and daughter are gone he swears not to touch liquor again for as many years as he has lived so far

from the stunning opening wife selling scene at one time a not uncommon phenomenon in england to the final playing out his tragedy michael henchard proves to be violent selfish greedy and crude at the same time he possesses magnanimity humility and a comparison that always pleased hardy

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some timely advice henchard persuades him to stay and offers him a job as his corn factor rudely dismissing a man named jopp to whom he had already offered the job hiring farfrae is a stroke of business genius for henchard who although hardworking is not well educated thomas hardy om 2 june 1840 11 january 1928 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 he was highly critical of much in victorian society though hardy focused more on a declining rural society

the tragic story of michael henchard and his painful quest to be forgotten an unforgettable tale of love greed and loss p 4 of cover

the man was of fine figure swarthy and stern in aspect and he showed in profile a facial angle so slightly inclined as to be almost perpendicular he wore a short jacket of brown corduroy newer than the remainder of his suit which was a fustian waistcoat with white horn buttons breeches of the same tanned leggings and a straw hat overlaid with black glazed canvas at his back he carried by a looped strap a rush basket from which protruded at one end the crutch of a hay knife a wimble for hay bonds being also visible in the aperture his measured springless walk was the walk of the skilled countryman as distinct from the desultory shamle of the general labourer while in the turn and plant of each foot there was further a dogged and cynical indifference personal to himself showing its presence even in the regularly interchanging fustian folds now in the left leg now in the right as he paced along

the mayor of casterbridge from thomas hardy

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