

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

the mayor of casterbridge thomas hardy the mayor of casterbridge the life and death of a man of character is an 1886 novel by the english author thomas hardy one of hardy s wessex novels it is set in a fictional rural england with casterbridge standing in for dorchester in dorset where the author spent his youth it was first published as a weekly serialisation from january 1886 the novel is considered to be one of hardy s masterpieces although it has been criticised for incorporating too many incidents a consequence of the author trying to include something in every weekly published instalment

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

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 textplease 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 shamble 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

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

thomas hardy om 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

while drunk the young michael henchard sells his wife repenting he gives up drink and builds himself into a powerful man but never manages to overcome his reckless and defiant nature

set in the fictional town of casterbridge the mayor of casterbridge is thomas hardy s tragic story of michael henchard who over indulges in alcohol at a county fair and decides to auction off his wife and daughter to a sailor when he recovers his sobriety mr henchard realizes his

mistake but it is too late to get his family back devastated he decides not to touch alcohol again for the next twenty one years the novel advances eighteen years to find the teetotaling henchard as the mayor of casterbridge and a successful grain merchant when his wife and daughter return to town a precipitous decline in henchard s fortune is set in motion in the end michael henchard all he values in life and all those people he loves to his rival henchard is a visible proof of the fact that fiction displays the human heart in conflict with itself a faustian striver who is ambitious in business as a corn chandler he becomes mayor but loses the three women who have meant most to him in life henchard dies in an obscure hut desiring to be completely forgotten by the world as with all of thomas hardy s classic novels the descriptions of the town folks and the flora and fauna of wessex are beautifully written hardy is the best regional novelist in all of english literature this novel is one you should read and enjoy

the mayor of casterbridge from thomas hardy

a guide to reading the mayor of casterbridge with a critical and appreciative mind encouraging analysis of plot style form and structure also includes background on the author s life and times sample tests term paper suggestions and a reading list

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 compassion that always pleased hardy

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