

Tess of the d'Urbervilles

Thomas Hardy

Retold by
Pieter Koster

LEVEL B2

© Global ELT LTD 2017

This reprint edition is published in the UK
with permission from Woongjin Compass Co. Ltd.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means,
electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise,
without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Series Editor: Ken Method
Acquisitions Editor: Jordan Candlewyck
Content Editor: Joanne Park
Copy Editor: Meg Foley Wiersema
Cover Illustrator: Stacy Budnick
Cover/Interior Design: Design Plus

www.globalelt.co.uk

ISBN: 978-1-78164-425-6



Contents

CHAPTER 1	Sir John d'Urberville and His Daughter	3
CHAPTER 2	Plans and Accidents	9
CHAPTER 3	Alec d'Urberville	13
CHAPTER 4	On the Road to Trantridge	17
CHAPTER 5	One Dark Night	21
CHAPTER 6	Tess Returns to Marlott	25
CHAPTER 7	Sorrow Comes and Goes	29
CHAPTER 8	Tess Begins a New Life	33
CHAPTER 9	Angel Clare	38
CHAPTER 10	Love on a Dairy Farm	42
CHAPTER 11	Angel Clare Makes a Decision	46
CHAPTER 12	The Proposal and Its Consequence	50
CHAPTER 13	To Marry or Not to Marry?	54
CHAPTER 14	Tess Says "Yes!"	58
CHAPTER 15	To Tell or Not to Tell?	62
CHAPTER 16	Time to Tell	66
CHAPTER 17	Forgiveness Is Not All	70
CHAPTER 18	The Parting of the Ways	74
CHAPTER 19	Tess and Angel Visit Their Parents	78
CHAPTER 20	Working in Winter	83
CHAPTER 21	Tess Goes to Emminster	87
CHAPTER 22	The Return of Alec d'Urberville	91
CHAPTER 23	At the Threshing Machine	96
CHAPTER 24	A New Crisis	101
CHAPTER 25	On the Road to Nowhere	105
CHAPTER 26	The Return of Angel Clare	110
CHAPTER 27	Justice Is Done	115
	New Words	116
	Playlet	119
	Workbook	121

Sir John d’Urberville and His Daughter

Preview Questions

1. How much do you know about your family history?
2. What sorts of festivals do you have where you live?
3. Do your parents ever embarrass you? Explain.

One evening, towards the end of spring, a middle-aged man was walking from the village of Shaston to his home in Marlott, carrying an empty basket. He was not well-dressed, and the way he walked made it clear that he had been drinking. On the road, he met an elderly parson riding a horse and wished him a good evening.

“Good evening, Sir John,” replied the parson.

The man with the empty basket stopped and spoke to the parson. “Excuse me, **Pastor** Tringham, but this is the third time this month that I’ve met you and you’ve called me Sir John. Everybody knows that I am not Sir John but plain old Jack Durbeyfield. You know that I buy and sell things and hardly make enough money to feed my family. Why do you call me Sir John?”

The pastor **hesitated** before replying. “I am doing some research into the history of the area,” he said at last, “and I have discovered that you are descended from an ancient and knightly family called d’Urbervilles. The family came to England with William the Conqueror in the eleventh century. Members of your family owned a lot of the land in this area and built huge houses and castles. Knighthood is not **hereditary**, but if it were, you would be Sir John now.”

Durbeyfield expressed his surprise and began to think very highly of himself. However, Pastor Tringham explained that very few people knew of the connection; therefore, knowledge of it was useless since he had no claim to any land or houses.

5 “However, I thought you might be interested in knowing about it,” he continued.

“Well, I have heard that our family once had two horses instead of one. I do have a spoon with a coat of arms on it at home, but I never imagined that we had been as rich and important as you say we were,” said Jack Durbeyfield. “Where does the rich part of our family live now?”

10 “In the graves of the cemetery at Kingsbere, I’m afraid,” replied the old pastor. “There are none of them living, and your family no longer owns farms, houses, or lands of any kind. There are some other cottagers in the villages around here who are also **descendants** of great families, but it means nothing to anybody except students of history like me.”

“I think it is wonderful news, Pastor Tringham, and I think you should come and have a drink with me to celebrate!”

20 Pastor Tringham, however, declined the invitation. “You’ve had more than enough already, Durbeyfield,” he said before continuing on his way.

Durbeyfield sat on the grass at the side of the road to think about his new **status**, which sounded very impressive to him. Just then, he saw a young man walking towards him and so he called out to him.

“Carry this basket for me!” he told the lad. “Go to the hotel in Marlott, and tell them to send a carriage for me.”

30 The young man refused, so Durbeyfield told him about his new name and ancestry. The young man was still not impressed, but when Durbeyfield offered him a shilling, one of the few that he

had, the lad changed his mind and agreed to go. Jack Durbeyfield lay down among the flowers in the grass and waited for his carriage to arrive.

5 The village of Marlott is in the northeast part of the Valley of Blackmoor in Wessex, about four hours from London. It is a **fertile** and sheltered part of the valley with lots of small farms and forests. It was once known as the Forest of the White Hart and had some interesting historical stories and customs. One of those customs was Club-Walking Day, on which all the women
10 of the village dressed in white gowns and marched around the village carrying a stick in one hand and a bunch of white flowers in the other.

It happened that on the day Durbeyfield met the parson, Club-Walking Day was being celebrated. The women of the village
15 were just marching past the Pure Drop Inn when one of them called out, “Look, Tess Durbeyfield! Isn’t that your father riding home in a carriage?”

One of the pretty young women turned to look. She had large red lips, large blue eyes, and a bright red ribbon in her hair. She
20 saw her father sitting in a carriage waving his hand above his head and singing, “I’ve got a family grave at Kingsbere!” Everybody else laughed but Tess. She was embarrassed. Her father seemed to be making a fool of himself once again.

At the end of the march, the women began their dance in a
25 field just outside the village. A little while later, in the afternoon, the young men of the village arrived to watch the dancing, and some of them began to dance with the girls. Among the **spectators** were three well-dressed young men with backpacks. They were brothers on a walking tour through the valley, and they leaned
30 over the gate to watch the girls. The youngest of them put down his backpack and opened the gate.

N E W W O R D S

Chapter 1

pastor *n.* a minister in a church

hesitate *v.* to pause because you are unsure

hereditary *adj.* passing from parent to child

descendant *n.* a person who is born into a certain family

status *n.* an individual's position in society

fertile *adj.* productive

spectator *n.* a person who watches

Chapter 2

cradle *n.* a baby's bed

tub *n.* a large round container for bathing or washing

stable *n.* a building where you keep horses

wagon *n.* a heavy cart pulled behind a horse

Chapter 3

extinct *adj.* no longer living

widow *n.* a woman whose husband has died

blush *v.* to become red in the face with embarrassment

reluctant *adj.* unwilling to do something

acquaintance *n.* somebody that you know

poultry *n.* domestic birds such as chickens, ducks, turkeys, and geese

Chapter 4

insist *v.* to express a strong wish

appropriately *adv.* properly

resist *v.* to say no to something or someone; to fight against

trap *n.* a horse carriage

avoid *v.* to prevent something from happening

dodge *v.* move quickly out of the way to avoid someone or something

fowl *n.* a pet or barnyard bird

pet *v.* to stroke (an animal)

Chapter 5

outskirts *n. pl.* the part of town furthest away from the centre

barn *n.* a large farm building or shed

glow *n.* a light given off by something heated or burning

out of the frying pan into the fire *id.* to go from a bad situation to a worse one

lane *n.* a narrow road

Chapter 6

sneak *v.* to move quietly so that nobody notices

annoyed *adj.* bothered to the point of impatience or anger

shy away from *phr.* to move suddenly away from someone or something in a state of fear or shock

chatter *n.* talk about unimportant things

Chapter 7

harvest *n.* the season when ripened crops are gathered

reap *v.* to cut down a crop of wheat, corn, or other grains

bind *v.* to tie up

wake *n.* trail left behind by something

stubble *n. pl.* cut stalks of a crop remaining in a field after the crop has been harvested

steadily *adv.* without stopping

plunge *v.* to bring suddenly into some condition

baptise *v.* a (Christian) tradition to put water on the head of a young baby

emerge *v.* to come out of something

Chapter 8

herd *n.* a group of animals such as cows

acre *n.* a measurement of land, about 4000 square metres or 4800 square yards

heron *n.* large, bird that lives by rivers and eats fish



Tess of the d'Urbervilles

Cast

Mrs. Brooks Angel Tess Alec d'Urberville

Scene 1

Mrs. Brooks is standing at a bench preparing a breakfast tray. She works quietly, humming a tune to herself. She puts plates, bowls, a pot of tea, and some bread on the tray. Finally, the tray is ready, and she carries it out of the room. As she goes out, we see a large, sharp knife on the tray.

While she is gone, there is a knock on the door. She does not return immediately, and the knock is repeated. Just as it begins a third time, she hurries back into the room without the tray. She goes across to the door and opens it.

We hear a man's voice.

Angel: Excuse me, Madam. I'm sorry to disturb you so early in the morning, but I am urgently looking for Tess d'Urberville. Is she in your household?

Mrs. Brooks: Do you mean Mrs. d'Urberville?

Angel: Yes, yes. I know it is very early, but if she is awake, please tell her that a gentleman is here to see her.

Mrs. Brooks: I have just made breakfast, but I will see if she is dressed. What name shall I give?

Angel: Angel.

Mrs. Brooks: Mr. Angel?

Angel: No, no, just Angel. She will know.

Mrs. Brooks: You'd better come and wait inside.

Angel comes into the room on one side and stands, waiting nervously while Mrs. Brooks leaves the room on the other side.

Angel: (*smiling nervously*) Well, at least she is using her real name and allowing herself to be known as a married woman. That's very encouraging. I wonder what she is doing here.

He continues to wait until, at last, Tess appears. She stands in the doorway by which Mrs. Brooks had left the room and stays near the door. Mrs. Brooks stands behind her, but not in the room. Tess is beautifully dressed. When Angel sees her, he holds out his arms to her, but she does not go to him.

Angel: Tess, can you forgive me for going away? Can't you come to me?

Tess: (*in a hard voice*) It is too late.

Angel: I was wrong, and I should never have gone away, but I have realised my mistake and learnt to see you as you are, my love.

Tess: Too late, too late. Don't come close to me, Angel. You must keep away.

Angel: But surely you still love me, my dear wife, even though I have been sick. I have come to find you and take you to meet my parents.

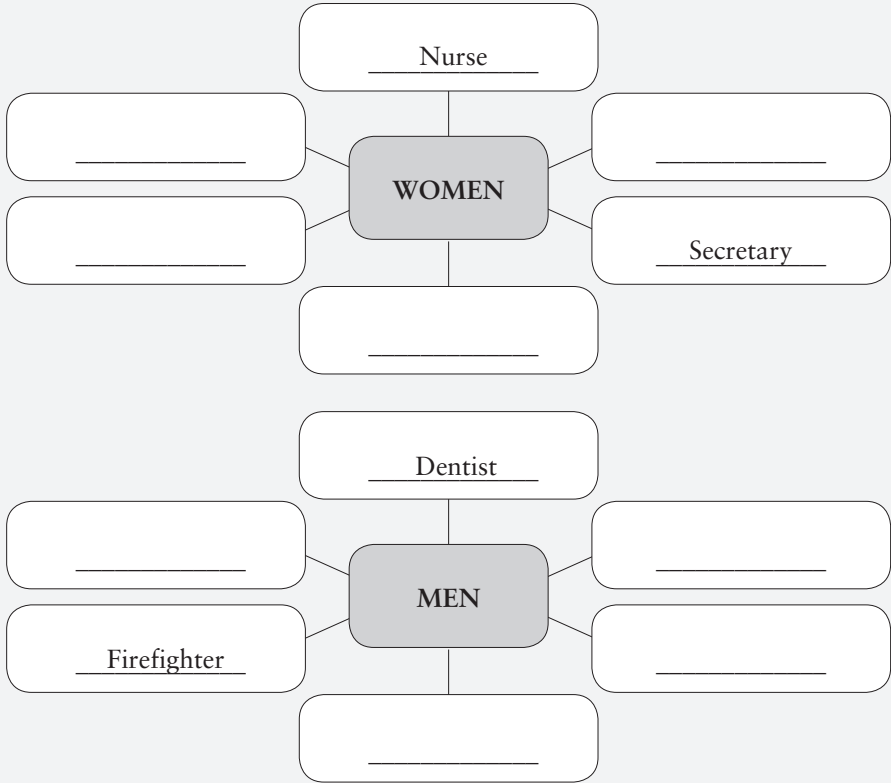
Tess: Yes, oh yes, but it is too late. Don't you know? How did you come here if you do not know what has happened?

Angel: I made enquiries and found the way.

Tess: I waited and waited for you, but you did not come. I wrote to you, but

Before You Read

- I. Think about the different expectations for men and women in society today. What jobs and roles are traditionally filled by men and women?



Choose one job from each gender and explain what attributes you think make the job suitable for a man or woman.

MAN: _____

WOMAN: _____

II. Scan through the book and write the answers.

- Chapter 1 John learned _____.
 He learned it from _____.
- Chapter 3 Tess went to _____, where Lady d'Urberville lived.
 There, she took care of a _____.
- Chapter 6 Tess left Trantridge with her _____.
 She was followed by _____.
- Chapter 9 Angel Clare had _____ brothers.
 He was working at _____ Dairy.
- Chapter 11 The girls walked to the _____.
 They were stopped by a _____.
 _____ carried them across.
- Chapter 14 Tess said yes when Angel asked her to _____.
 Tess wanted to tell Angel about _____.
- Chapter 19 Tess visited her _____.
 Tess's mother told her she was a _____.
- Chapter 22 Tess had not seen Alec d'Urberville in a _____.
 He followed her on the _____.

Sir John d'Urberville and His Daughter

I. Put the sentences in order from 1 (first) to 5 (last).

- _____ The men and women of the village danced.
- _____ The pastor explained that very few people knew about John's family history.
- _____ John heard about his family history.
- _____ John gave a boy a shilling to do him a favour.
- _____ The pastor told John that he had had too much to drink.

II. Choose the best answer.

1. Why did the pastor call John "Sir John?"
 - a. It was just a joke.
 - b. He had discovered some interesting history about John's family.
 - c. The pastor wanted to be very respectful to John.
 - d. John recently had been made a knight.
2. Which of the following is NOT true?
 - a. John's family had once been rich.
 - b. John had a spoon with a coat of arms.
 - c. John's family had a lot of money now.
 - d. John's family once had two horses.
3. What did John ask the young boy to do?
 - a. Get him something to drink
 - b. Send a letter to a house
 - c. Get some food
 - d. Get a carriage
4. How was Tess described?
 - a. As having blue eyes and wearing a green sweater
 - b. As having blue eyes and wearing a red ribbon
 - c. As having brown eyes and wearing a green sweater
 - d. As having brown eyes and wearing a red ribbon

III. Circle the correct word.

1. The (pasture / pastor) spoke to the village about God.
2. They didn't (hesitate / estimate) to go into the burning house to save the girl.
3. John was annoyed to hear that baldness is (elected / hereditary).
4. Adam was surprised to learn he was a (descendant / descent) of the duke.
5. She knew her (status / statues) would be elevated by the marriage.
6. The couple (declined / decided) the offer on their house because they wanted to stay.
7. The winning driver was very (unsure / impressive) during the race.
8. The people decided to settle near the river because the land there was (futile / fertile).
9. The ball went into the crowd and hit a (spectator / spectacle) on the leg.
10. Adam was (determined / terminated) to get into a good university.

IV. Write a summary by answering the questions.

1. What did Jack Durbeyfield discover?
2. What did he think when he was told this?
3. Where was John's eldest daughter that day?
4. Who did Tess meet and what happened?

Summary: _____

