

## APPENDICES

### Synopsis of Tess of the D'Urbervilles

Thomas Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles begins with an accidental meeting between Parson Tringham and Tess 'father, John Durbeyfield. The parson tells Durbeyfield some very surprising news that he is a genuine descendant of the D'Urbervilles, a noble family once renowned in England. After hearing this, Durbeyfield spreads the news to all over Marlott, the village where both he and his family live, and starts making a grand plan with his wife to marry off his eldest daughter, Tess, with a gentleman who is the only remaining kindred of the D'Urbervilles, and rich.

At first, Tess refuses her parents' plan, but then she gives in, owing to the death of the family's horse, which has become her family's main source of living. Feeling guilty as the one responsible for its death, Tess goes to Trantridge to meet the gentleman himself, whose name is Alec, who offers her a job on his poultry-farm. She takes the job, even though she hardly likes Alec. On the other hand, Alec has been attracted to her since their first meeting. He seduces her on a few occasions and finally rapes her.

The rape brings destructive impact to Tess. She becomes pregnant and months later bears their child. Having been isolated a long time, Tess decides to find

a job elsewhere in a neighbouring field. It is not easy for her since she has to endure humiliation. Her burden increases when her child becomes ill before being baptized. Tess has no opportunity to call a minister so she baptizes it with the name of Sorrow.

A moment later, the child dies.

Two or three years later, Tess leaves Marlott to work at Talbothay dairy, where she falls in love with and marries Angel Clare. On their honeymoon, Tess confesses to her husband her dark past with Alec. Soon after listening to Tess' confession, Angel forsakes her by going to Brazil. Tess, having no one to rely on, returns home. Unfortunately, Tess' poor family makes her leave Marlott one more time. She heads for Flintcomb-Ash to work as a swede-hacker. At Flintcomb, she is badly treated by her employer. Worst of all, she meets her past enemy, Alec. Though his appearance is different now due to his new profession as a minister, Alec is still the same. He leaves his ministry so that he can seduce Tess freely. He also proposes to Tess by convincing her that Angel will never come back to her. At first, Tess fights him vigorously. Yet, when her family is driven out from Marlott, she accepts Alec's marriage proposal. Finally, their marriage comes to a tragic end. Tess kills Alec after seeing that Angel comes back. She runs away with Angel until a party of men capture and hang her for committing a crime.

## **Synopsis of The Cinder Path**

Catherine Cookson's The Cinder Path is a story about a kind-hearted young man named Charlie Macfell, who encounters a lot of misfortune in his life. When he is young, Charlie has to witness his father's cruelty. His father, Edward Macfell, keeps abusing Charlie and the rest of his family suffers mentally. Therefore, Charlie hates him very much. His hatred grows deeper when he sees his father give one of his guilty servants a severe punishment by flogging him on the cinder path. Ginger Slater, the young servant who later becomes Charlie's foe, has suffered many times from this punishment.

One day, Edward plans to marry off Charlie to Polly, the eldest daughter of his servant. Things do not run smoothly, however Arthur, Charlie's best friend and Polly's elder brother, murder Edward, since Arthur thinks that Edward will take Polly as a mistress. Because of his deep love for Polly and his close relationship with her family, Charlie conceals the crime.

After his father's death, Charlie is appointed the sole heir of the farm. Hence, he decides to end his study in town so that he can manage the farm, as he anticipates his family's ambition to own it. Charlie's decision brings nothing but misfortune. He must deal with his family's hostile attitude. Finding out about Charlie's involvement in concealing the crime, Slater threatens that if he cannot marry Polly, he will reveal his secret of the crime. Charlie gives up Polly. He marries Victoria, a woman of his own class. His marriage is a total failure. He cannot control his wife's wild behavior. They often quarrel. Not only that, but he also has to face the fact that Victoria is a prostitute. Wanting to get away from the hell he lives in, Charlie enters the army. There, he meets

by chance with his old foe, Slater, who turns out to be his senior. Slater, regarding him as a born-loser, seems pleased to bully and insult him.

Despite all the bitterness, Charlie is still able to be happy. He divorces his wife, falls in love with Nelly, his sister-in-law, and is given a promotion in rank as an officer. Then he starts a new life by dedicating himself to the army and fighting courageously in wars. Nevertheless, he continues to experience misfortunes. In a war, he meets Slater once again. As usual, Slater insults Charlie, he goes so far that Charlie shoots him dead. Luckily, Charlie escapes from the punishment. Not long after this, he is badly injured. On his recovery, Charlie has to swallow a bitter pill again. He is deceived by his sister, Betty, who empties the farm without his permission, then disappears. However, tries to console himself that he still has many precious things in his life, Nelly, the farm and above all, the fact that his enemies have walked out of his life one by one.

## **Biography of Thomas Hardy**

Thomas Hardy was born in the village of Upper Bockhampton, South Western England, on June 2, 1840. His father was a stone mason and a violinist, while his mother was interested in reading and relating the folk songs and legends of the region. No wonder Hardy had hidden talents in architecture, music, and particularly in literature.

At the age of eight, Hardy entered Julia Martin's school in Bockhampton. However, he loved teaching himself through the books he found in Dorchester, the nearby town. In 1862, he went to London, then he returned to Dorchester as a church restorer and a writer.

The first part of his career in writing was devoted to the novel. He produced many popular high-literary novels such as Under the Greenwood Tree (1872), Far from the Madding Crowd (1874), The Return of the Native (1878), The Mayor of Casterbridge (1886), The Woodlanders (1887), Tess of the D'Urbervilles (1891) and Jude the Obscure (1895). Moreover, he wrote five shorter novels, three collections of short stories, hundred of poems and an epic drama in verse, The Dynast (1908).

During the last two decades of his life, Hardy was as famous as Dickens. In 1910, he received the Order of Merit. Unfortunately, his happiness was interrupted by the death of his first wife, Emma, in 1912. But he did not grieve very long. He married Florence Dugale in 1914. After leading a successful life, Thomas Hardy finally died on January 11, 1928 and was buried in Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey.

## **Biography of Catherine Cookson**

Catherine Cookson was born on June 27, 1906, in Tyne Dock, Northeast England, as the illegitimate daughter of a poverty-stricken and abusive woman, Kate, whom she believed to be her elder sister. At the age of thirteen, Cookson left school and started working as a maid. Then she moved to Hastings, where she met her would-be husband, Tom Cookson. They got married in 1940.

Cookson's talents in writing had obviously been seen from an early age. After her marriage, she published over fifty highly popular works, which are divided into five categories, namely, novels: Kate Hannigan (1950), The Round Tower (which won the Winifred Holtby Award for the best regional novel in 1968), The Cinder Path (1978), and many others; serial books: Mary Ann, Mallen Family, and some others; picture books: Nancy Nutall and the Mongrel (1982) and The Moth (1986); collections: Selected Works (1978), Just A Saying (2002), and many others; non-fiction: Our Kate: An Autobiographical Memoir (1969), Kate's Daughter: The Real Catherine Cookson (2003), and many others.

Cookson was the recipient of many awards, both in literature, (such as the Winifred Holtby Award, and the Royal Society of Literature, which established her as one of the most popular regional contemporary English novelists), and in society, (such as being appointed a Dame of the British Empire in 1993 and an Honorary Fellow of St. Hilda's college, Oxford, in 1997). She never stopped writing until she died shortly before her ninety-second birthday, on June 11, 1998 in her home near Newcastle-upon-Tyne