

## APPENDICES

### **Synopsis of The Mayor of Casterbridge**

In his drunkenness, Michael Henchard, an unemployed man, ends up selling his wife, Susan, and his baby daughter, Elizabeth-Jane, to a sailor. The next day, he finds that they are gone and he swears to God that he will not drink alcohol for twenty one years. Three months after the sale, Elizabeth-Jane dies. Shortly after that, Susan and the sailor have another baby girl, to whom Susan gives the same name as her late daughter's. Eighteen years later, thinking that the sailor has died, Susan, together with Elizabeth-Jane, seeks Henchard. Susan learns that Henchard is now the mayor of Casterbridge and later remarries him without telling the present Elizabeth-Jane about their past.

Meanwhile, Donald Farfrae, Henchard's new business manager, is rising in popularity. Jealous, Henchard fires him and forbids him from approaching Elizabeth-Jane. Then, Susan falls ill and after her death Henchard finds out the truth about Elizabeth-Jane. Henchard becomes cold towards Elizabeth-Jane, and suddenly his long gone lover, Lucetta Templeman, arrives in town. She immediately befriends Elizabeth-Jane and falls in love with Farfrae, then the two soon get married. Meanwhile, Henchard loses his wealth due to his debts and starts drinking since his twenty-one-year oath is over.

Lucetta asks Henchard to give her all the letters during their affair, but the sealed letters are read by the messenger in an inn. When the scandal surfaces, Lucetta is shocked and falls ill, she dies shortly afterwards. The next day, Newson, who is thought to have died, arrives at the town looking for his daughter. Henchard lies to Newson, who leaves at once but later returns and reunites with Elizabeth-Jane. Henchard leaves Casterbridge while Farfrae and Elizabeth-Jane plan their marriage. At the wedding, Henchard approaches his step-daughter and promises her that he will not trouble her any more. A month later, Elizabeth-Jane and Farfrae look for Henchard but they find out that he is already dead, leaving a message that tells people not to remember him.

### **Biography of Thomas Hardy**

Thomas Hardy was an English poet, novelist and short story writer. He was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1840 in Dorset, England. His father, also named Thomas, was a stone mason and violin player and his mother, Jemima, taught him to read and write. Hardy studied at a local national school in Lower Bockhampton in 1848, then he was sent to a non-conformist school in Greyhound Yard, Dorchester in 1850. By sixteen, Hardy finished his formal education.

Hardy started writing poetry during his stay in London in 1860's, but he was not able to get his works published. In 1867, he returned to Dorset and wrote his first novel, *The Poor Man and the Lady* which was rejected by the publisher. In 1874, Hardy married Emma Lavinia Gifford and in the same year, his novel entitled *Far from the Madding Crowd*, won him public notice. Then in 1878, *The Return of the Native*, brought him more success and it was followed by *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, which is often considered as his first masterpiece.

Unfortunately in 1891 and 1895, Hardy's novel, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and *Jude the Obscure* received heavy criticism. This made him stop writing prose and returned to poetry. Hardy compiled and published his earlier poems entitled *Wessex Poems* in 1898.

In 1912, Hardy's wife, Emma, died and this shocked him. However, fourteen months after his wife's death, Hardy married Florence Dugdale, who was his admirer. In autumn 1927, Hardy fell seriously ill and finally died on 11<sup>th</sup> of January 1928. In his life, Thomas Hardy wrote 14 novels, more than 40 short stories, over 900 poems and 2 dramas. He was also regarded as the most outstanding writer of his time.

Source : “Diniejko, Andrzej”, “Fincham, Tony”