

Thomas Hardy

A LAODICEAN

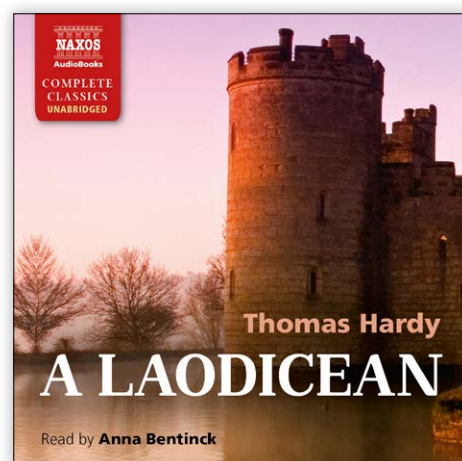
Read by **Anna Bentinck**

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Subtitled 'A Story of To-day', *A Laodicean* occupies a unique place in the Thomas Hardy canon. Departing from pre-industrial Wessex, Hardy brings his themes of social constraint, fate, chance and miscommunication to the very modern world of the 1880s – complete with falsified telegraphs, fake photographs, and perilous train tracks. The story follows the life of Paula Power, heiress of her late father's railroad fortune and the new owner of the medieval Castle Stancy. With the castle in need of restoration, Paula employs architect George Somerset, who soon falls in love with her. However, Paula's dreams of nobility draw her to another suitor, Captain de Stancy, who is aided by his villainous son, William Dare...



Anna Bentinck trained at Arts Educational Schools, London (ArtsEd) and has worked extensively for BBC radio. Her animation voices include the series *64 Zoo Lane* (CBeebies). Film credits include the Hammer Horror *To the Devil... A Daughter*. Her many audiobooks range from *Shirley* by Charlotte Brontë, *Kennedy's Brain* by Henning Mankell, *Beyond Black* by Hilary Mantel, *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys and *One Day* by David Nicholls to *The Bible*. For Naxos AudioBooks, she has read *Five Children and It*, *The Phoenix and the Carpet* and *The Amulet* by E. Nesbit and *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and *Desperate Remedies* by Thomas Hardy.



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2 It is an old story...	7:57	25 The sombre mood quite vanished when...	11:13
3 Chapter 2	9:45	26 Chapter 12	10:06
4 She stood upon the brink of the pool...	9:04	27 The tunnel-cutting appeared a dreary gulf...	9:38
5 At this moment there was not in the whole chapel...	12:28	28 Chapter 13	6:12
6 Chapter 3	8:34	29 Rooks were cawing, sparrows were chattering there...	9:00
7 While looking at the pictures...	8:00	30 Chapter 14	7:07
8 Chapter 4	8:52	31 They walked on till they reached the old black pew...	7:08
9 She went out upon the terrace...	11:33	32 Chapter 15	12:03
10 As this remark called for no reply...	10:32	33 Somerset looked at Miss Deverell...	11:17
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12 He was an old man of tall and spare build...	12:07	35 Havill took the lad towards the tent...	10:07
13 It was quite late in the afternoon when Somerset...	7:17	36 Chapter 2	10:50
14 Chapter 6	7:07	37 They went down the town...	10:20
15 A latent power in the man, or boy...	10:30	38 Chapter 3	12:12
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17 There was a moment of embarrassment...	8:32	40 They came to a narrow brook...	9:54
18 Chapter 8	7:04	41 Chapter 5	11:07
19 These queries and thoughts occupied the mind...	8:06	42 'It is not so easy to avoid the sight...'	11:19
20 There was a silence of a minute...	7:39	43 Chapter 6	11:55
21 Chapter 9	8:03	44 Chapter 7	9:58
22 She signified that he was to sit down...	9:39	45 Book 3: Chapter 1	10:32
23 Chapter 10	12:25	46 De Stancy had turned the dialogue...	9:24

47	Chapter 2	10:02	79	'Well,' said De Stancy, looking him in the face.	6:42
48	The stock verbiage of the family memoir...	11:20	80	Chapter 4	14:22
49	Chapter 3	10:46	81	Chapter 5	7:08
50	De Stancy told Paula of Havill's misfortunes...	10:23	82	In this architectural dialogue over his sketches...	8:12
51	Chapter 4	10:02	83	Chapter 6	10:29
52	When the message was fairly gone out...	9:37	84	Chapter 7	7:35
53	Chapter 5	8:50	85	Paula had not the remotest conception...	8:10
54	The young man confessed his wish to know...	8:41	86	Chapter 8	11:52
55	Chapter 6	9:46	87	Chapter 9	7:01
56	The whole lucid explanation broke across...	11:19	88	When they had discussed the scene...	8:04
57	Chapter 7	8:35	89	Chapter 10	8:41
58	Chapter 8	13:28	90	Milly was one of the maids...	9:33
59	Chapter 9	7:32	91	'My darling; my Paula!' he said, seizing her hand.	8:51
60	Her eye caught Somerset's, and she stopped.	8:02	92	Chapter 11	7:27
61	Chapter 10	8:35	93	The funeral was over...	9:18
62	It was now time for him to see about starting...	9:42	94	'Sitting lonely and apathetic without a light...'	11:08
63	Chapter 11	13:43	95	Chapter 12	7:27
64	Though he saw her again after this...	12:19	96	Somerset began reflecting on what messages...	9:42
65	Book 4: Chapter 1	8:46	97	Chapter 13	11:26
66	Somerset had a suspicion that her order to him...	10:00	98	Chapter 14	6:19
67	Chapter 2	6:41	99	'My dearest Paula,' repeated De Stancy faintly...	8:15
68	He waited for the answer, one day, two days, a week...	7:40	100	Book 6: Chapter 1	9:13
69	Chapter 3	7:58	101	'He'll never forgive you,' said her aunt...	8:46
70	Although his haste had involved an unpleasant...	9:16	102	Chapter 2	8:26
71	Chapter 4	7:25	103	It was a gloomy place enough that she found...	10:41
72	Dare was at that moment the victim...	9:49	104	Chapter 3	10:58
73	Chapter 5	11:37	105	Though she slept badly that night...	11:32
74	Book 5: Chapter 1	7:32	106	Chapter 4	7:03
75	De Stancy did this with a hand that shook...	8:18	107	'He's the man she ought to have married,'...	7:12
76	Chapter 2	6:56	108	Chapter 5	7:46
77	Onward and upward they went...	7:34	109	Paula had first read this through silently...	10:11
78	Chapter 3	7:43			

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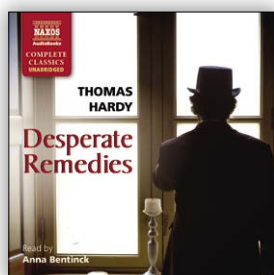
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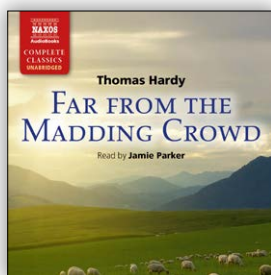
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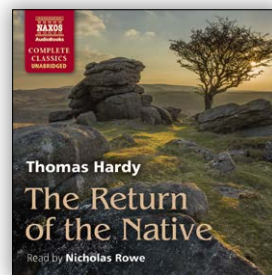
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