


NAXOS
AudioBooks

Thomas Hardy
Tess of the D'Urbervilles

Read by **Imogen Stubbs**

**CLASSIC
FICTION**



NA392812D

1	On an evening in the latter part of May...	4:17
2	The village of Marlott...	5:11
3	As for Tess Durbeyfield...	4:46
4	Her mother at length agreed to this arrangement...	3:45
5	The haggling business...	4:26
6	He had an almost swarthy complexion...	7:22
7	As the moment for the girl's setting out drew nigh...	5:43
8	The chief pleasure in Trantridge...	6:26
9	She was silent...	8:12
10	It was a Sunday morning in late October...	4:38
11	It was a hazy sunrise in August...	6:27
12	On a thyme-scented, bird-hatching morning...	5:07
13	When the milking was finished...	6:44
14	Tess had never in her recent life been so happy...	6:17
15	Clare, restless, went out into the dusk...	3:14
16	It was not till that evening...	6:43
17	An up-hill and down-dale ride...	4:43
18	Her refusal, though unexpected...	4:04
19	'Now, who mid ye think I've heard news o' this morn...'	5:40
6	One afternoon several of the dairyman's household...	3:58
20	She mounted again beside her lover...	5:05

21	Tess wrote a most touching and urgent letter...	5:57
22	They gently led her back...	5:55
23	Angel felt that he would like to spend a day...	4:31
24	New Year's Eve broke – the wedding-day.	4:39
25	They drove by the level road...	6:13
26	Her narrative ended...	3:50
27	'Tess, am I to believe this?'	5:17
28	Midnight came and passed silently...	6:51
29	It was three weeks after the marriage...	7:41
30	More than eight months subsequent...	4:52
31	The solitude was at last broken...	5:23
32	He looked sullenly at her...	6:40
33	The moment that she moved...	7:13
34	'The fact is,' said d'Urberville drily...	6:51
35	He did not accompany her further...	7:09
36	At length it was the eve...	5:52
37	It was evening at Emminster Vicarage.	7:55
38	Broken in heart and numbed...	8:12
39	Their long repose at the manor-house...	6:08
40	The city of Wintonchester...	5:14

Total time: 3:55:36

Thomas Hardy

Tess of the D'Urbervilles

Thomas Hardy was born near Dorchester on June 2nd 1840. It was in 1862, when he moved to London to pursue a career in architecture, that he began to write, but he did not begin his first novel until he moved back to Dorset in 1867 to become assistant to John Hicks, an architect and church restorer. Only fragments survive of this first novel, *The Poor Man and the Lady*, but he continued to write and in 1871 *Desperate Remedies* was published, followed by *Under the Greenwood Tree* (1872) and *A Pair of Blue Eyes* (1873). In 1874 Hardy married his first wife, Emma Gifford, and in the same year *Far from the Madding Crowd* was published to considerable acclaim. Four years later he moved back to London; *The Return of the Native* was published in the same year and he became a prominent figure in literary circles.

Returning again to Dorset in 1885, Hardy continued his regular output:

The Mayor of Casterbridge (1886), *The Woodlanders* (1887) and a collection of short stories, *Wessex Tales* (1888). *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* was published in 1891 and his last novel, *Jude the Obscure*, appeared in 1895. Towards the end of his life, Hardy turned to the writing of poetry. Emma died in 1912 and in 1914 he married his secretary, Florence Dugdale, with whose help he began his autobiography, *The Early Life of Thomas Hardy*. This was published posthumously, as he died on January 11th, 1928. His ashes were laid in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey and his heart was buried in the grave of his first wife at Stinsford, next to the tomb of his parents.

Thomas Hardy is admired not only for the power of his storytelling, but for his evocation of the English landscape. He wrote in his notebooks: 'My art is to intensify the expression of things as is done by Crivelli, Bellini, etc., so that the heart

and inner meaning is made visibly visible.' He was thus not just interested in the landscape as a mirror for the mood or circumstances of the characters, but he wanted there to be no separation between the two, and it is this unity that gives his novels their particular force and intensity: the tranquil Vale of Blackmoor is Tess's innocence; the Chase somehow colludes in her seduction; her affair with Angel is also a love affair with the Vale of the Big Dairies; Flintcomb-Ash is an active participant in Tess's destitution; the altar-stone of Stonehenge offers itself for her ultimate sacrifice.

If the individual is indivisible from the landscape, it would seem that mechanisation also has a part to play, and that part is invariably malevolent. We see Tess suffer on the threshing machine, and her long, wet journey to the railway station marks the real beginning of her inevitable tragedy. In part she is that rural idyll which would soon be eclipsed, and finally swept away by the turning of the century.

Notes by Heather Godwin



Imogen Stubbs has worked extensively on stage in the West End and across the country, with major roles in *A Streetcar Named Desire* opposite Jessica Lange, *Uncle Vanya*, *Othello*, *Heartbreak House* and the title role in *St Joan*. Her major film credits include Viola in *Twelfth Night*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Jack and Sarah*. She has been seen on TV in her own detective series *Anna Lee*, as well as *After the Dance*, *The Rainbow* and *The Browning Version*.

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Music programming by Neville Jason

Credits

Abridged by Heather Godwin. Produced by Neville Jason

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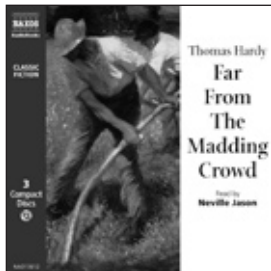
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Thomas Hardy
Tess of the D'Urbervilles

Read by **Imogen Stubbs**

In Tess Durbeyfield, Thomas Hardy created one of the most tragic heroines of English literature. Against a backdrop of a changing and haunting landscape, Tess battles for her freedom from penury and abuse. The story of her heroism and fortitude, as her destiny is relentlessly played out, is moving and unforgettable.



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Produced
by Neville
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**Total time
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