

## The Well-Beloved

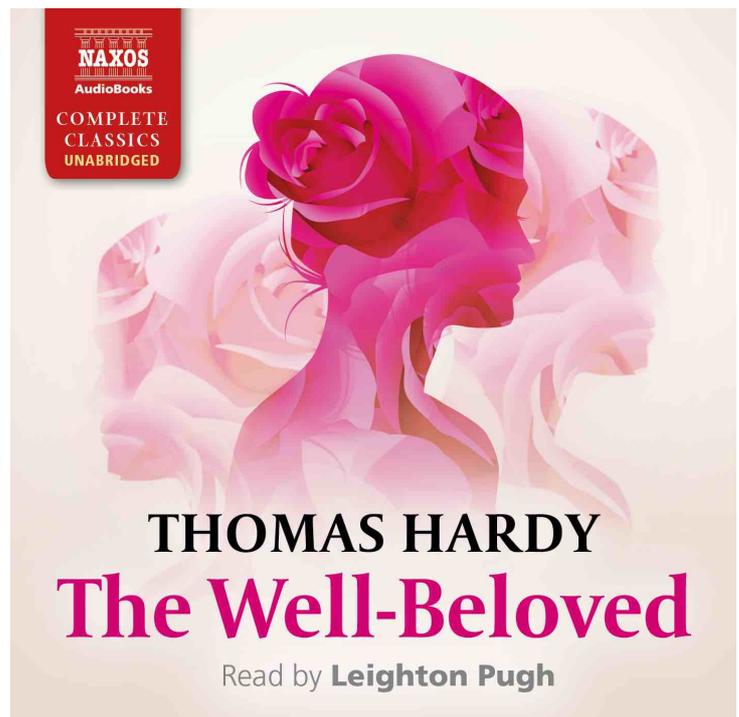
By Thomas Hardy  
Unabridged  
Read by Leighton Pugh

### DESCRIPTION

Jocelyn Pierston, a successful sculptor, is helpless in the face of 'the well-beloved': the manifestation of perfect womanhood that seems to move like a will-o'-the-wisp from one acquaintance to the next. It shapes his whole life. Where his artistry involves permanence - cold stone objects - his heart is caught by ephemeral beauty. After years spent in London, a return to his rocky birthplace, the Isle of Slingers, sparks Pierston's extraordinary involvement with three generations of the Caro family. As a reworking of his earlier *The Pursuit of the Well-Beloved*, it is the last novel that Hardy wrote, in 1897 - not a realist work, but instead a rather fantastical exploration of male desire.

### SALES AND MARKETING POINTS

- Leighton Pugh, a popular Naxos AudioBooks reader, paces the novel beautifully and draws in his listeners.
- A welcome addition to the extensive Naxos AudioBooks collection of unabridged Hardy novels, which includes *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, *The Mayor of Casterbridge* and *The Return of the Native*.



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