

# THOMAS HARDY THE HAND OF ETHELBERTA

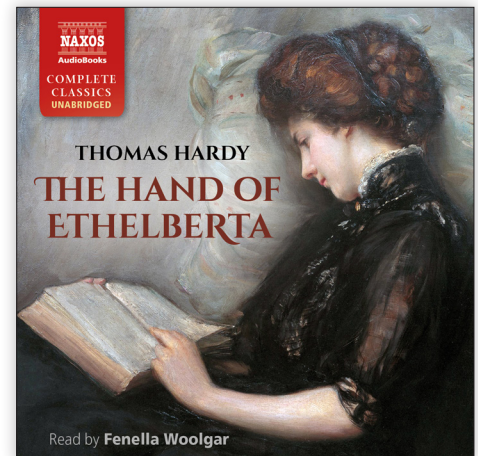
Read by **Fenella Woolgar**

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Opportunistic, shrewd and beautiful, Ethelberta resolves to disguise her humble beginnings and elevate her position in society. Crafting her career as a society poet and staging her family as her servants, she proves admirably adept at sustaining her own web of deceit as she reinvents herself and navigates the attentions of four different suitors. The wealthiest is not the one she loves... what will she do? This is a light-hearted, urban tale, offering a different side of Thomas Hardy. The master of pastoral realist novels was presenting a 'somewhat frivolous narrative', which nevertheless displayed his acute consciousness of class divisions and continues to delight those who discover it within his better-known works.

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**Fenella Woolgar** trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA). Shortly after graduating, she starred in Stephen Fry's film *Agatha* and has since performed in films by Mike Leigh (*Vera Drake*), Richard E Grant (*Wah-Wah*) and Woody Allen (*Scoop* and *You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger*). She has worked in theatre at the National Theatre and The Old Vic, and won the Clarence Derwent Award for Best Supporting Actress in the West End in 2012. Her audiobook credits include *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins, published by Naxos AudioBooks.

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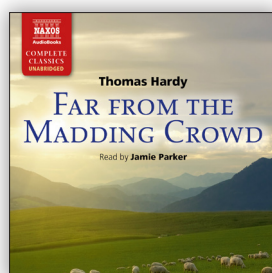
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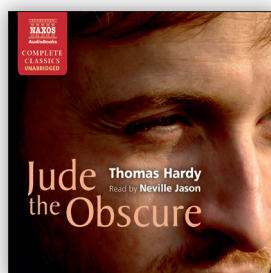
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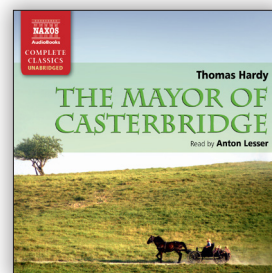
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