



P E N G U I N



C L A S S I C S

THOMAS HARDY

Far From the Madding Crowd

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FROM THE PAGES OF FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD

His Christian name was Gabriel, and on working days he was a young man of sound judgment, easy motions, proper dress, and general good character. (page 11)

He had just reached the time of life at which “young” is ceasing to be the prefix of “man” in speaking of one. He was at the brightest period of masculine growth, for his intellect and his emotions were clearly separated: he had passed the time during which the influence of youth indiscriminately mingles them in the character of impulse, and he had not yet arrived at the stage wherein they become united again, in the character of prejudice, by the influence of a wife and family. In short, he was twenty-eight, and a bachelor. (page 13)

The only superiority in women that is tolerable to the rival sex is, as a rule, that of the unconscious kind; but a superiority which recognizes itself may sometimes please by suggesting possibilities of capture to the subordinated man. (page 33)

It may have been observed that there is no regular path for getting out of love as there is for getting in. Some people look upon marriage as a short cut that way, but it has been known to fail. (page 42)

It is safer to accept any chance that offers itself, and extemporize a procedure to fit it, than to get a good plan matured, and wait for a chance of using it. (pages 48-49)

“Ah, he’s his grandfer’s own grandson!—his grandfer were just such a nice unparticular man!” (page 64)

She resolved never again, by look or by sign, to interrupt the steady flow of this man’s life. But a resolution to avoid an evil is seldom framed till the evil is so far advanced as to make avoidance impossible. (page 132)

It appears that ordinary men take wives because possession is not possible without marriage, and that ordinary women accept husbands because marriage is not possible without possession; with totally differing aims the method is the same on both sides. But the understood incentive on the woman’s part was wanting here. Besides, Bathsheba’s position as absolute mistress of a farm and house was a novel one, and the novelty had not yet begun to wear off.

(page 139)

“What difference does it make whose sweetheart she is, since she can’t be yours?” (page 236)

“There are considerations even before my consideration for you; reparations to be made—ties you know nothing of. If you repent of marrying, so do I.” (page 285)

“It is difficult for a woman to define her feelings in language which is chiefly made by men to express theirs.” (page 364)

Theirs was that substantial affection which arises (if any arises at all) when the two who are thrown together begin first by knowing the rougher sides of each other’s character, and not the best till further on, the romance growing up in the interstices of a mass of hard prosaic reality. This good-fellowship—camaraderie—usually occurring through similarity of pursuits, is unfortunately seldom superadded to love between the sexes, because men and women associate, not in their labours, but in their pleasures merely. Where, however, happy circumstance permits its development, the compounded feeling proves itself to be the only love which is strong as death—that love which many waters cannot quench, nor the floods drown, beside which the passion usually called by the name is evanescent as steam. (page 409)

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD



Thomas Hardy

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES
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