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1886 Thomas Hardy's novel *Casterbridge Mayor* First edition title pageAuthorThomas HardyIllustratorRobert BarnesCountryUnited KingdomLanguageEnglishGenreNovelPublishedLondon[1]PublisherSmith Elder & Co[1]Publication date1886[1]Originally published as Two volumes[1] *Casterbridge Mayor: The Life and Death of a Man of Character* is an 1886 novel by British author Thomas Hardy. One of Hardy's Wessex novels, this novel is set in a fictional rural England, where Casterbridge is located next to the Dorchester in Dorset. It was first published as a weekly serialization from January 1886. Roman is considered one of Hardy's masterpieces, but has been criticized for containing too many events: a result of the author trying to include something in each weekly published installment. Plot summary Henchard Susan and Elizabeth-Jane wessex Michael Henchard argue with his wife Susan as they go to the fair with 21-year-old straw-trusser at a country fair near Casterbridge. Rom-lacen furnity drunk she closed her auction, along with their baby daughter Elizabeth-Jane, for Richard Newson, a passing sailor, five guineas. Sober and remorseful the next day, it's too late to locate his family. He swears I'll never touch liquor again for 21 years. Susan, who believes the auction is legally binding, lives 18 years as Newson's wife. After Newson disappears at sea, Susan, lacking any way of supporting, decides to call Henchard again, taking her daughter with her. Susan didn't tell Elizabeth-Jane about Henchard, and the young woman only knows that there's a relationship with marriage. Susan discovers that Henchard is a very successful straw and grain merchant and mayor of Casterbridge, known for his loyal sobriety. He avoided explaining how he lost his wife, allowing people to think he was a widow. When the couple are reunited, Henchard recommends re-marrying Susan after a fake courting, which in her opinion is to be the simplest and most discreet way to solve problems and prevent Elizabeth-Jane from learning their shame. To do so, however, she would have to cut off her engagement to a woman named Lucetta Templeman. Donald Farfrae, a young and energetic Scot passing casterbridge, helps Henchard by showing him how to recover the sub-standard grain he bought. Henchard likes the guy, convinces him not to emigrate and hires him as a corn factor, roughly turning down a man named Jopp. The role of Farfrae is extremely successful and increasingly eclipses his employer. After Elizabeth-Jane's attention, Henchard dismisses her and Farfrae sets himself up as an independent trader. Farfrae manages himself with conscientious integrity, but Henchard is so determined to destroy his opponent that he's doing risky work. That proves disaster. Susan gets sick and dies shortly after the couple re-marry, and leaves Henchard a letter to open on Elizabeth-Jane's wedding day. Henchard reads the letter, is not properly sealed, and learns that Newson - Elizabeth-Jane - died as a baby, not Elizabeth-Jane's daughter. Henchard's new knowledge causes him to be cold with the second Elizabeth-Jane. Elizabeth-Jane Lucetta, the new comet, accepts a position as a friend resulting in her social ruin unaware that she had an affair with Henchard. Lucetta, who was rich after inheriting from her aunt and learning that Henchard's wife had died, came to Casterbridge to marry him. However, meeting Farfrae, she becomes attractive to him, and he told her. Henchard's financial problems convince him to marry Lucetta quickly. But he's in love with Farfrae, and they run away for a weekend to get married, without telling Henchard. Henchard's loan is collapsing and going bankrupt. Farfrae buys Henchard's old job and tries to help Henchard by hiring him as a kalfa. Lucetta asks Henchard to return his old love letters, and Henchard ask Jopp to take them to him. Jopp, who still bears a grudge that has deceived the position of the factor, opens the letters and reads them aloud in an inn. Some townspeople publicly embarrass Henchard and Lucetta and create their sculptures in Skimmington. Lucetta was so devastated by the show that she collapsed, miscaed and died. The next day, Newson - who transpires who wasn't lost at sea - came to Henchard's door asking about his daughter. Henchard, who values his kindness to her, fears losing his friendship and tells Newson that he is dead. Newson leaves in sadness. After 21 years, Henchard's abstinence vows are over and he starts drinking again. Discovering that he was finally lying to her, Newson returns, and Henchard disappears from a conflict. The day Elizabeth-Jane married Farfrae, she returns timidly to reconcile. He scolds her, and she leaves for good. Later, regretful of his coldness, he and Farfrae set out to find him. They come too late and find out he died alone. They also find his last written statement: his last wish is to be forgotten. The main characters are Michael Henchard: Casterbridge Mayor Susan Henchard (Newson) becomes straw trusser: Henchard's wife, Newson Richard Newson sold: sailor; Susan bought and lives with her for many years as her de facto husband Elizabeth-Jane: Susan's daughter by Henchard; A baby dies as Elizabeth-Jane: Susan's daughter by Newson; Farfrae married Donald Farfrae: after Henchard, he becomes Mayor of Casterbridge; Scottish Lucetta Templeman (Le Sueur): Jersey in a relationship with Henchard; Farfrae marrys Joshua Jopp: a manager with a grudge against Henchard. Bertram Windle, from Thomas Hardy's Wessex in 1902, based on correspondence with Hardy, setting up their location in Wessex and history. The book is one of Hardy's Wessex novels and is set in the fictional town of Casterbridge, largely based on the Dorchester in Dorset. [2] The author intended casterbridge to creatively present some aspects of the city, as he remembered in the dream of his childhood. [3] Although the novel's opening sentence states that the events described took place before the nineteenth century, hardy's own childhood history was later – from the mid-1840s to the late 1840s. [4] [3] After a three-year break, Hardy began working on the Mayor of Casterbridge in the spring of 1884. [2] It was completed in just over a year and first aired in weekly episodes in January 1886, followed by a full release in May 1886. [5] Smith, a reader at Elder & Co., was not impressed, and said the lack of gentry among the characters made it interesting. Only 750 copies were published with a small print. [6] Hardy himself thought that in his efforts to put an event into almost every weekly installment, he added a little too much freely to the narrative, resulting in excessive detail. [7] However, he was deeply moved by telling a friend that the novel was the only tragedy that made him cry while writing it. [8] Later, in Thomas Hardy's 2006 biography, author Claire Tomalin described the book as a deeply imagined dramatic and poetic work filled with a narrative on a large scale and extraordinary moments. [9] He praised hardy's best work, that rural land was drawn from the eyes of a naturalist, and that it was built on land where people played their lives between private and educational, work and ideas, place and experience of change. [10] Hardy's portrait of Henchard - a depressed, black-hued, self-harming and also a lovely boy - was considered one of his strongest achievements. [8] However, he agreed with Hardy, saying hardy was trying to cause too many incidents. [11] Adapts from film and TV Casterbridge Mayor. 1921 is a silent film. Mayor Nair, the 1966 Indian Malayalam film. Daag is a 1973 Bollywood romantic drama film. Vichitra Jeevitham, Daag's re-ç in 1978. The Mayor of Casterbridge is a seven-part series for BBC TV in 1978. The Claim is a 2000 film. Mayor of Casterbridge. 2003 British TV movie. Radio Casterbridge Mayor. 1994 four-part dramatization by Sally Hedges with David Calder as Michael Jason Flemyng as Donald Farfrae, Janet Dale as Susan, Andrea Wray as Elizabeth-Jane, Sandra Berkin as Lucetta, Mary Wimbush as furnity salesman and John Nettles as Newson. [12] Casterbridge Mayor is a 2008 three-part radio play by Helen Edmundson on BBC Radio 4's Classic Serial slot. [13] Opera by young English composer Peter Tranchell in 1951 with the libretto of Tranchell and Peter Bentley. He received his first performance at that year's Cambridge Festival. [14] References ^ a b c d British Library Item details. primocat.bl.uk. Access date: June 14, 2018. ^ a b Tomalin 2006, p. 205. ^ a b Bullen, JB (2013). Thomas Hardy: The World of His Novels. Frances Lincoln Limited. p. 78. ISBN 978-0-7112-3275-4. Thomas Hardy, Dale Kramer (June 10, 2004). Mayor of Casterbridge. Oxford University Press, United Kingdom. p. 13. ISBN 978-0-19-19-160634-2.CS1 maint: uses authors parameter (link) ^ Tomalin 2006, p. 210, 420. ^ Tomalin 2006, p. 210. ^ Tomalin 2006, p. 207, 420. ^ a b Tomalin 2006, p. 208. ^ Tomalin 2006, p. 147, 206. ^ Tomalin 2006, p. 147. ^ Tomalin 2006, p. 207. ^ Thomas Hardy - Mayor of Casterbridge. BBC Radio 4 Extra. Date of access: July 12, 2019. ^ Classic Series: Mayor of Casterbridge. BBC Radio 4. Date of access: November 4, 2018. ^ A, J (September 1951). Miscellaneous: 'Mayor of Casterbridge'. Musical Times. Musical Times Publications Ltd. 92 (1303): 421-424. JSTOR 934994. Bibliography Tomalin, Claire (2006). Thomas Hardy: Time-Torn Man. London: Viking (Penguin Books). 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