

The Return of the Native: A Journey into the Heart of Wessex

The Return of the Native is a novel by Thomas Hardy, first published in 1878. The novel is set in the fictional county of Wessex, and tells the story of Clym Yeobright, a young man who returns to his home village after spending several years in Paris. Clym is a passionate and idealistic man, but he is also naive and impulsive. His return to Wessex sets off a chain of events that will ultimately lead to tragedy.

The novel is set against the backdrop of the changing social and economic landscape of Wessex in the mid-19th century. The county is in a state of transition, as the old ways of life are giving way to the new. Clym Yeobright is a product of this changing world. He is a young man who is torn between the old and the new. He is drawn to the traditional values of his home village, but he is also attracted to the modern ideas that he encountered in Paris. This conflict between the old and the new is at the heart of the novel.



The Return of the Native by Martha M.C.

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 5517 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 356 pages

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Clym Yeobright is a complex and contradictory character. He is a man of great passion and idealism, but he is also capable of great selfishness and cruelty. His return to Wessex sets off a chain of events that will ultimately lead to tragedy. But even in his darkest moments, Clym Yeobright remains a sympathetic and compelling character. He is a man who is struggling to find his place in a changing world, and his story is one that will resonate with readers today.

The Characters

The Return of the Native is a novel with a large cast of characters. Each character is drawn with great care and attention, and they all play an important role in the story. The main characters in the novel are:

- **Clym Yeobright:** A young man who returns to his home village after spending several years in Paris. Clym is a passionate and idealistic man, but he is also naive and impulsive.
- **Eustacia Vye:** A beautiful and mysterious young woman who is Clym Yeobright's cousin. Eustacia is a passionate and ambitious woman, but she is also proud and independent.
- **Thomasin Yeobright:** Clym Yeobright's cousin and the love of his life. Thomasin is a kind and gentle woman, but she is also strong and independent.
- **Damon Wildeve:** A handsome and charming young man who is Eustacia Vye's former lover. Damon is a passionate and impulsive man, but he is also selfish and irresponsible.

The Setting

The Return of the Native is set in the fictional county of Wessex, which is based on the real county of Dorset in southwestern England. Wessex is a beautiful and rugged land, and it is home to a rich and diverse cast of characters. The novel is set against the backdrop of the changing social and economic landscape of Wessex in the mid-19th century. The county is in a state of transition, as the old ways of life are giving way to the new. This conflict between the old and the new is at the heart of the novel.

The Themes

The Return of the Native is a novel that explores a wide range of themes, including:

- **The conflict between the old and the new:** The novel is set against the backdrop of the changing social and economic landscape of Wessex in the mid-19th century. The county is in a state of transition, as the old ways of life are giving way to the new. This conflict between the old and the new is at the heart of the novel.
- **The power of passion:** The novel explores the power of passion, both for good and for evil. Clym Yeobright is a man who is driven by his passions, and his story is a cautionary tale about the dangers of letting one's passions get out of control.
- **The importance of forgiveness:** The novel also explores the importance of forgiveness. Clym Yeobright is a man who is haunted by his past mistakes. He is unable to forgive himself for his sins, and this ultimately leads to his downfall.

The

The Return of the Native is a powerful and moving novel that explores the human condition. The novel is a tragedy, but it is also a story of hope. Clym Yeobright is a man who is flawed and imperfect, but he is also a man who is capable of great love and compassion. His story is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is always hope for redemption.



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