

far from the madding

Far from the madding is a phrase that resonates deeply within literary and cultural contexts, capturing the essence of seeking solace away from chaos and societal tumult. This expression, originating from Thomas Gray's poem "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard," has since permeated various facets of literature, philosophy, and popular culture. In this article, we explore the origins, meaning, and significance of "far from the madding," delving into its literary roots, interpretations, and relevance today.

Origins of the Phrase "Far from the Madding"

Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"

The phrase "far from the madding crowd" first appears in Thomas Gray's 1751 poem, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard." Gray's work reflects on mortality, rural life, and the humble virtues of common folk. The specific line, "Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife," suggests a peaceful retreat away from the chaos, noise, and superficial pursuits of urban life.

The Literary Context and Meaning

Gray's poem mourns the loss of simplicity and tranquility in modern society, emphasizing the serenity found in rural solitude. The phrase encapsulates a longing for peace, away from the "madding"—a term denoting frenzy, agitation, or tumult—found in bustling towns and cities.

Interpretations and Cultural Significance

Literal Meaning and Literary Usage

At its core, "far from the madding" signifies a desire to escape the frantic pace of modern life and find refuge in quiet, contemplative environments. The phrase often connotes a peaceful retreat, emphasizing the virtues of rural life, introspection, and simplicity.

Symbolism and Philosophical Implications

Beyond its literal meaning, the phrase has come to symbolize a philosophical stance valuing serenity over chaos. It suggests that true happiness and

clarity can often be found away from societal pressures and superficial pursuits. This has inspired writers, poets, and thinkers to reflect on the importance of solitude, nature, and inner peace.

Notable Uses and Adaptations

William Wordsworth and Romanticism

The Romantic poets, including William Wordsworth, celebrated nature and rural life, echoing themes similar to Gray's phrase. Wordsworth's poetry often explores the restorative power of nature and solitude, aligning with the idea of being "far from the madding crowd."

John Keats and the Romantic Ideal

Similarly, Keats emphasized the importance of retreating into the contemplative mind and appreciating beauty away from societal distractions, further embedding the phrase's themes into Romantic literature.

Modern References and Popular Culture

The phrase has permeated modern culture through various adaptations:

- **Thomas Hardy's "Far from the Madding Crowd"**: A novel published in 1874, this work uses the phrase as a title, symbolizing rural life and pastoral romance.
- **Music and Film**: Several songs and movies reference the idea of escaping chaos, aligning with the phrase's themes.
- **Everyday Usage**: People use "far from the madding" to describe retreats into nature, spirituality, or personal reflection.

"Far from the Madding Crowd": The Novel by Thomas Hardy

Overview of the Novel

Thomas Hardy's "Far from the Madding Crowd" (1874) is a quintessential work of Victorian literature, set in the rural landscape of Dorset, England. The novel explores themes of love, fate, and societal constraints against the

backdrop of pastoral life.

Themes and Significance

Hardy's novel epitomizes the idea of escaping urban chaos, emphasizing the beauty and complexity of rural existence. The title itself suggests a world removed from the hustle and bustle of city life, emphasizing the tranquility and authenticity of country living.

Impact and Legacy

The novel's enduring popularity has cemented the phrase's association with rural serenity and the virtues of a simple life. It also highlights the contrast between rural idylls and the complexities of modern society.

Broader Cultural and Literary Themes

Nature and Solitude in Literature

Many literary works explore the theme of retreat into nature as a means of self-discovery and peace:

- **Henry David Thoreau's "Walden":** An ode to simple living and harmony with nature.
- **Emily Dickinson's Poetry:** Reflects introspection and the contemplative power of solitude.
- **Ralph Waldo Emerson's Essays:** Advocate for individualism and connection with the natural world.

The Romantic Ideal of Retreat

The Romantic movement emphasized the importance of escaping societal constraints through communion with nature, aligning with the idea of being "far from the madding." It champions the notion that true inspiration and inner peace are often found away from modern life's chaos.

Modern Relevance and Practical Applications

Escaping the Modern Hustle

In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, the desire to "escape the madding crowd" has gained renewed relevance:

- Retreats to rural areas or nature reserves for mental health and wellness.
- Minimalist lifestyles focusing on simplicity and mindfulness.
- Traveling to quiet destinations to disconnect from digital distractions.

Urban Retreats and Mindfulness

Even within cities, many seek "far from the madding" experiences through:

- Urban parks and green spaces for respite.
- Yoga and meditation centers promoting inner peace.
- Quiet cafes or reading nooks away from busy streets.

Conclusion: The Enduring Appeal of "Far from the Madding"

The phrase "far from the madding" encapsulates a universal longing for tranquility amidst chaos. Rooted in 18th-century poetry, it has evolved into a cultural symbol representing the pursuit of peace, simplicity, and reflection. Whether through literature, philosophy, or personal lifestyle choices, the allure of retreating into calm and natural surroundings continues to inspire countless individuals worldwide. In an era characterized by constant connectivity and rapid change, the timeless appeal of being "far from the madding" remains as relevant as ever, reminding us of the profound benefits of seeking serenity in a tumultuous world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of Thomas Hardy's novel 'Far from the Madding Crowd'?

The novel explores themes of love, rural life, societal expectations, and the complexities of human relationships set against the backdrop of the English

countryside.

Who are the primary characters in 'Far from the Madding Crowd'?

The main characters include Bathsheba Everdene, Gabriel Oak, William Boldwood, and Sergeant Troy, each representing different aspects of love and morality.

How does 'Far from the Madding Crowd' reflect Victorian society?

The novel portrays Victorian rural life, emphasizing social class, gender roles, and the moral values prevalent during the period.

Has 'Far from the Madding Crowd' been adapted into other media?

Yes, the novel has been adapted into multiple film, television, and stage productions, most notably the 2015 film directed by Thomas Vinterberg starring Carey Mulligan.

What is the significance of the title 'Far from the Madding Crowd'?

The title suggests a peaceful, rural setting distant from the chaos and noise of urban life, highlighting the novel's focus on rural tranquility and individual pursuits.

How does Hardy depict rural life in 'Far from the Madding Crowd'?

Hardy depicts rural life with realism, illustrating both its idyllic beauty and its hardships, emphasizing the connection between characters and their environment.

What role does fate play in the story of 'Far from the Madding Crowd'?

Fate significantly influences the characters' lives, often determining the outcomes of their romantic and personal decisions, reflecting Hardy's view of life's unpredictability.

Why is 'Far from the Madding Crowd' considered a

classic of English literature?

It is celebrated for its rich character development, vivid portrayal of rural life, and its exploration of universal themes like love and societal constraints, making it a timeless literary work.

In what ways does 'Far from the Madding Crowd' challenge or reinforce Victorian ideals?

The novel both reinforces Victorian ideals through its moral values and social order, and challenges them by depicting complex characters who defy conventional expectations, especially in matters of love and independence.

Additional Resources

Far from the Madding Crowd: An In-Depth Literary Exploration of Thomas Hardy's Masterpiece

Introduction: A Classic Revisited

In the vast landscape of English literature, few novels have left such a lasting imprint as *Far from the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy. First published in 1874, this novel is often heralded as a quintessential example of Hardy's tragic realism and his profound understanding of rural life. As a literary work, it balances intricate character development with richly textured descriptions of the English countryside, all woven into a narrative that explores themes of love, fate, social change, and human resilience.

This article aims to dissect the novel's core elements, examining its themes, characters, narrative style, and historical context, in order to provide a comprehensive understanding for both new readers and seasoned Hardy enthusiasts.

Historical and Cultural Context

Victorian England and Rural Life

Far from the Madding Crowd was penned during the Victorian era, a period marked by rapid industrialization, social upheaval, and a clinging to traditional rural values. Hardy's novel is set in the fictional county of Wessex, a landscape based on Hardy's native Dorset, which serves as a microcosm of rural England in the late 19th century.

The Victorian society was characterized by strict moral codes, class distinctions, and a burgeoning sense of progress. Hardy's portrayal of rural

life is both romantic and critical, capturing the idyllic beauty of the countryside while exposing its hardships and social stratifications.

Understanding this context is crucial because it influences Hardy's depiction of characters' struggles, their social mobility, and their relationship to the land. The tension between tradition and change permeates the novel, making it not just a love story but also a commentary on societal evolution.

Literary Significance and Genre

Hardy's Realism and Romanticism

Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd* straddles the line between realism and romanticism. Its detailed descriptions and psychological depth exemplify Victorian realism, aiming for an authentic portrayal of rural life and human nature. At the same time, Hardy infuses the narrative with romantic elements—passionate love triangles, idealized notions of rural innocence, and tragic destiny.

The novel is often classified as a pastoral romance, but it also contains elements of tragedy and social critique. Hardy's blending of these genres creates a layered reading experience, allowing readers to appreciate the complexity of his characters and the societal forces at play.

Major Themes Explored

1. Love and Its Complexities

At its core, the novel examines different facets of love—romantic, unrequited, passionate, and pragmatic. Hardy explores how love influences human behavior and decision-making, often with tragic consequences.

- Bathsheba Everdene: A fiercely independent woman whose love life is marked by impulsiveness and vulnerability.
- Gabriel Oak: The steadfast and unassuming farmer, embodying fidelity and moral integrity.
- William Boldwood: A wealthy, obsessive suitor whose love turns destructive.
- Sergeant Troy: A charming but morally ambiguous soldier whose passions lead to chaos.

The interplay between these characters' affections underscores the unpredictability of love, emphasizing its capacity to elevate or ruin lives.

2. Fate and Destiny

Hardy is renowned for his exploration of determinism—the idea that human lives are shaped by forces beyond their control. In the novel, characters

often seem powerless against their circumstances, with tragic outcomes stemming from their attempts to resist or succumb to fate.

For example, Sergeant Troy's reckless pursuit of pleasure, and Bathsheba's impulsive choices, demonstrate how personal agency is limited by external factors and inherent human flaws.

3. Social Class and Rural Society

Class distinctions are vividly portrayed, influencing characters' prospects and interactions. Hardy critiques the rigidity of Victorian social hierarchy, illustrating how ambition and love are constrained by societal expectations.

Bathsheba's rise from humble origins to landowner status reflects social mobility, yet her independence is challenged by traditional gender roles. Similarly, Gabriel Oak's steadfastness contrasts with the volatility of other characters, emphasizing virtues valued in rural communities.

4. Nature and the Environment

The natural landscape functions almost as a character itself, shaping the narrative and reflecting emotional states. Hardy's detailed descriptions of the Wessex countryside evoke a sense of permanence and change, highlighting the tension between human endeavors and natural forces.

Character Analysis

Bathsheba Everdene

Bathsheba is arguably the most complex character, embodying independence, vulnerability, and resilience. Her evolution from a spirited girl to a woman hardened by love's hardships illustrates Hardy's nuanced character development.

- Strengths: Courageous, intelligent, and resourceful.
- Weaknesses: Impulsiveness and naivety.
- Development: Her journey involves learning humility and understanding the true nature of love and sacrifice.

Gabriel Oak

Gabriel epitomizes virtue and constancy. His unwavering loyalty to Bathsheba and moral integrity make him a moral anchor in the story.

- Traits: Steadfastness, patience, humility.
- Role: Serves as the moral compass and the emotional center of the novel.

William Boldwood

Boldwood is a wealthy farmer whose obsessive love for Bathsheba leads to tragic consequences.

- Traits: Amiability, obsession, tragedy.
- Arc: His inability to let go of hope results in social downfall and personal tragedy.

Sergeant Troy

Troy is a charming but unscrupulous soldier, whose pursuit of pleasure disrupts the lives of others.

- Traits: Charismatic, irresponsible, manipulative.
- Impact: His actions catalyze much of the novel's tragic momentum.

Narrative Style and Literary Devices

Point of View and Structure

Hardy employs a third-person omniscient narrator, allowing insight into multiple characters' thoughts and motivations. The narrative structure is episodic, with shifting focus among characters, which creates a mosaic of perspectives.

Descriptive Language and Symbolism

Hardy's prose is lush with detailed descriptions, especially of the landscape, animals, and rural settings. This imagery fosters an immersive experience and underscores themes of nature's dominance over human life.

Symbolism is woven throughout the novel:

- The Weather: Often mirrors emotional states and foreshadows events.
- The Land: Represents stability, opportunity, and societal change.
- The Madding Crowd: The title itself alludes to societal chaos versus rural tranquility.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Far from the Madding Crowd initially received mixed reviews but gradually gained recognition as a literary classic. Hardy's depiction of rural life was both celebrated for its authenticity and critiqued for its sometimes bleak outlook.

The novel's enduring legacy lies in its universal themes—love's unpredictability, human resilience, and the influence of environment and society on individual destiny. It has inspired numerous adaptations,

including films, stage productions, and operas, cementing its place in popular culture.

Final Thoughts: Why Read *Far from the Madding Crowd* Today?

In an era where societal norms and individual pursuits continue to evolve, Hardy's novel remains remarkably relevant. Its exploration of human passions, societal constraints, and the natural environment offers profound insights into the human condition.

For readers seeking a richly textured narrative with compelling characters, philosophical depth, and poetic descriptions, *Far from the Madding Crowd* is a timeless masterpiece. Hardy's nuanced portrayal of love, fate, and society continues to resonate, challenging us to reflect on our own lives and the forces that shape them.

Closing Remarks

Thomas Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd* is more than a rural romance; it is a meditation on the enduring struggles of human existence. Its blend of realism, poetic language, and psychological depth ensures its status as a literary work that rewards repeated reading and thoughtful reflection. Whether approached as a historical novel or as a universal exploration of love and fate, it remains a vital part of the literary canon, offering insights that are as pertinent today as they were in Hardy's time.

[Far From The Madding](#)

far from the madding: *Far from the Madding Crowd* Thomas Hardy, 2008
.0000000000Gabriel Oak is only one of three suitors for the hand of the beautiful and spirited Bathsheba Everdene. He must compete with the dashing young soldier Sergeant Troy and respectable, middle-aged Farmer Boldwood. And while their fates depend upon the choice Bathsheba makes, she discovers the terrible consequences of an inconstant heart. *Far from the Madding Crowd* was the first of Hardy's novels to give the name of Wessex to the landscape of south-west England, and is set against the backdrop of the unchanging natural cycle of the year, the story both upholds and questions rural values with a startlingly modern sensibility. Illustrated by Helen Allingham, with an Afterword by David Stuart Davies.

far from the madding: *Far from the Madding Crowd* Thomas Hardy, 2000-10-31 Set in his fictional Wessex countryside in southwest England, *Far from the Madding Crowd* was Thomas Hardy's breakthrough work. Though it was first published anonymously in 1874, the quick and tremendous success of *Far from the Madding Crowd* persuaded Hardy to give up his first profession, architecture, to concentrate on writing fiction. The story of the ill-fated passions of the beautiful Bathsheba Everdene and her three suitors offers a spectacle of country life brimming with an energy and charm not customarily associated with Hardy. ('When Farmer Oak smiled,' the novel begins, 'the

corners of his mouth spread till they were within an unimportant distance of his ears. . . .') The text is based on the authoritative Wessex Edition of 1912, revised and corrected by Hardy himself. This edition is the companion volume to the Mobil Masterpiece Theatre WGBH television presentation broadcast on PBS. It stars Paloma Baeza as Bathsheba Everdene, Nathaniel Parker as Gabriel Oak, Nigel Terry as Mr. Boldwood, and Jonathan Firth as Frank Troy. Adapted by Philomena McDonagh, *Far from the Madding Crowd* is directed by Nick Renton.

far from the madding: Lejos De La Multitud Loca / Far From The Madding Crowd Thomas Hardy, 2015-06-09 *Far from the Madding Crowd* (Spanish edition)

far from the madding: *Far from the Madding Crowd* Thomas Hardy, 2017-11-01 *Far from the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy Called One of the Greatest Love Stories of All Time by The Guardian in 2007, *Far From the Madding Crowd* is a pastoral romance set in the rural southwest region of England. When Gabriel Oak, a shepherd, faces a disastrous loss of his chance at building a farm of his own, he seeks work in a nearby town with no luck. As he travels to another hiring fair, he helps save a mysterious farmer's estate from a dangerous fire. After asking for work as a shepherd, he discovers that he knows and once loved the owner, the strong and beautiful Bathsheba Everdeen, who has inherited her uncle's estate and is now wealthy. Gabriel goes to work for Bathsheba and quietly and patiently serves her as both shepherd and advisor. His love grows, but will she acknowledge him? *Far from the Madding Crowd* is a beautiful story of love and friendship.

far from the madding: ***Far from the Madding Crowd*** Thomas Hardy, 2015-07 Thomas Hardy's fourth novel, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, is a classic portrayal of 19th-century rural English life. It is the story of Gabriel Oak, a would-be shepherd, who falls for Bathsheba Everdene, a vain young woman, who comes to live with her aunt and uncle in the country. A set of unfortunate circumstances brings Gabriel into the employment of Bathsheba, an awkward situation given that she has already refused his offer of marriage. Bathsheba has no shortage of suitors. Amongst them include William Boldwood, a wealthy middle-aged farmer, whose affection she toys with, and Sergeant Francis Troy, a dashing young soldier whom she eventually marries. She soon learns that Francis is a thoughtless gambler with little interest in farming and likely does not really love her. The struggles of the heart are brilliantly depicted in this masterpiece of romantic literature as Bathsheba wrestles with the quest for true love versus the choice of a compatible match. A tragic tale of love, *Far from the Madding Crowd* is one the greatest romantic novels ever written, rich with the emotion and pathos that is characteristic of Thomas Hardy's work. This edition is printed on premium acid-free paper and includes an introduction by William T. Brewster.

far from the madding: ***Far from the Madding Crowd*** Thomas Hardy, 2015-05-07 This Thomas Hardy novel was his first major literary success, even though he never saw it published. It is set in the semi-fictional region of Wessex and is enriched with his pleasant descriptions of rural life and landscapes. In it Bathsheba Everdene, our independent and spirited heroine, moves into her position as a farmer on a large estate in Weatherbury. During the novel, she attracts three very different men: the gentleman-farmer Boldwood, the soldier Sergeant Troy, and the shepherd Gabriel Oak. Each relationship complicates her life and tragedy threatens. Thomas Hardy makes man an insignificant part of the world, struggling against powers greater than himself,--sometimes against systems which he cannot reach or influence, sometimes against a kind of grim world-spirit who delights in making human affairs go wrong. He is not a realist, but rather a man conflicted by pessimism; and his novels, are powerful and often fascinating. From the reader's view point some of his earlier works, like the idyllic love story *Under the Greenwood Tree* (1872) and *A Pair of Blue Eyes* (1873), are the most interesting. *Far From the Madding Crowd* Thomas Hardy novels Victorian Romance Large Print Similar novels: *Paper Towns*, *Child 44*, *Serena*, *Still Alice*

far from the madding: *Far from the Madding Crowd* Thomas Hardy, 1916

far from the madding: *Far From The Madding Crowd* Thomas Hardy, 2020-09-05 This is a synopsis of the novel *Far From the Madding Crowd*, by Thomas Hardy. At the beginning of the novel, Bathsheba Everdene is a beautiful young woman without a fortune. She meets Gabriel Oak, a young farmer, and saves his life one evening. He asks her to marry him, but she refuses because she does

not love him.

far from the madding: *Far from the Madding Crowd* Thomas Hardy, 1991-10-15 *Far From the Madding Crowd*, published in 1874, is the book that made Hardy famous. Bathsheba Everdene is a prosperous farmer in Hardy's fictional Wessex county whose strong-minded independence and vanity lead to disastrous consequences for her and the three very different men who pursue her: the obsessed farmer William Boldwood, dashing and seductive Sergeant Frank Troy, and the devoted shepherd Gabriel Oak. Despite the violent ends of several of its major characters, *Far from the Madding Crowd* is the sunniest and least brooding of Hardy's great novels, as Bathsheba and her suitors move through a beautifully realized late-nineteenth-century agrarian landscape that is still almost untouched by the industrial revolution and the encroachment of modern life. With an introduction by Michael Slater

far from the madding: *Far from the Madding Crowd "Annotated" By Thomas Hardy* Thomas Hardy, 2020-04-13 Classic edition of Thomas Hardy's impassioned novel of courtship in rural life. In Thomas Hardy's first major literary success, independent and spirited Bathsheba Everdene has come to Weatherbury to take up her position as a farmer on the largest estate in the area. Her bold presence draws three very different suitors: the gentleman-farmer Boldwood, the soldier-seducer Sergeant Troy, and the devoted shepherd Gabriel Oak. Each, in contrasting ways, unsettles her decisions and complicates her life, and tragedy ensues, threatening the stability of the whole community. One of his first works set in the semi-fictional region of Wessex, Hardy's novel of swift passion and slow courtship is imbued with his evocative descriptions of rural life and landscapes, and with unflinching honesty about sexual relationships. This edition, based on Hardy's original 1874 manuscript, is the complete novel he never saw published, and restores its full candor and innovation. Rosemarie Morgan's introduction discusses the history of its publication, as well as the biblical and classical allusions that permeate the novel. *Far from the Madding Crowd*, were listed in the top 50 on the BBC's survey *The Big Read*.

far from the madding: *Far from the Madding Crowd* Thomas Hardy, 2018-04-27 *Far from the Madding Crowd* is a novel by 19th century English novelist Thomas Hardy, published in 1874. The title is apt, as the life of the book's heroine, Bathsheba Everdene, living in the quiet rural village of Weatherbury is indeed disrupted by the madding crowd. After shunning the first man to love her, the shepherd Gabriel Oak, she is courted by two others: the lonely and repressed farmer Boldwood, and the charming but faithless Sergeant Troy. The role of fate is clearly established, with each twist and turn in the book being more luck than the choice of one of the characters. The book is widely seen as Hardy's first masterpiece

far from the madding: *Far from the Madding Crowd: Large Print* Thomas Hardy, 2015-04-14 This book is also available as *Far From the Madding Crowd: Extra Large Print* available in two volumes and written in bold font size 24. Now a major motion picture starring Carey Mulligan and Michael Sheen. When Bathsheba Everdene inherits a large farm, her life soon becomes entwined with three very different suitors: Gabriel Oak, the humble and honest shepherd; Boldwood, the reserved gentleman-farmer; and Sergeant Troy, the vain, irresponsible but dashing soldier. The result of this complex relationship is a tangle of love, jealousy and tragedy. Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), was born in Higher Brockhampton, near Dorchester, and *Far From the Madding Crowd* was his first major success, enabling him to leave his architectural post and pursue a literary career. *Far From the Madding Crowd* has since been adapted for stage, screen and television, and continues to be as popular today as it was when first published over a hundred years ago. For more on our growing collection of large print and extra large print books, why not visit our website, or visit Amazon and search for: www.firestonebooks.com

far from the madding: *Far from the Madding Crowd "Annotated Version" By Thomas Hardy* Thomas Hardy, 2020-04-13 Classic edition of Thomas Hardy's impassioned novel of courtship in rural life. In Thomas Hardy's first major literary success, independent and spirited Bathsheba Everdene has come to Weatherbury to take up her position as a farmer on the largest estate in the area. Her bold presence draws three very different suitors: the gentleman-farmer Boldwood, the

soldier-seducer Sergeant Troy, and the devoted shepherd Gabriel Oak. Each, in contrasting ways, unsettles her decisions and complicates her life, and tragedy ensues, threatening the stability of the whole community. One of his first works set in the semi-fictional region of Wessex, Hardy's novel of swift passion and slow courtship is imbued with his evocative descriptions of rural life and landscapes, and with unflinching honesty about sexual relationships. This edition, based on Hardy's original 1874 manuscript, is the complete novel he never saw published, and restores its full candor and innovation. Rosemarie Morgan's introduction discusses the history of its publication, as well as the biblical and classical allusions that permeate the novel. *Far from the Madding Crowd*, were listed in the top 50 on the BBC's survey *The Big Read*.

far from the madding: *Far from the Madding Crowd* Thomas Hardy, 2017-02-14 *Far from the Madding Crowd* (1874) is Thomas Hardy's fourth novel and his first major literary success. It originally appeared anonymously as a monthly serial in *Cornhill Magazine*, where it gained a wide readership. The novel is the first to be set in Hardy's fictional county of Wessex in rural south west England. It deals in themes of love, honour and betrayal, against a backdrop of the seemingly idyllic, but often harsh, realities of a farming community in Victorian England. It describes the farmer Bathsheba Everdene, her life and relationships - especially with her lonely neighbour William Boldwood, the faithful shepherd Gabriel Oak, and the thriftless soldier Sergeant Troy. On publication, critical notices were plentiful and mostly positive. Hardy revised the text extensively for the 1895 edition and made further changes for the 1901 edition. Plot: Gabriel Oak is a young shepherd. With the savings of a frugal life, and a loan, he has leased and stocked a sheep farm. He falls in love with a newcomer six years his junior, Bathsheba Everdene, a proud beauty who arrives to live with her aunt, Mrs. Hurst. Over time, Bathsheba and Gabriel grow to like each other well enough, and Bathsheba even saves his life once. However, when he makes her an unadorned offer of marriage, she refuses; she values her independence too much, and him too little. Feeling betrayed and embarrassed, Gabriel offers blunt protestations that only foster her haughtiness. After a few days, she moves to Weatherbury, a village some miles off. When next they meet, their circumstances have changed drastically. An inexperienced new sheepdog drives Gabriel's flock over a cliff, ruining him. After selling off everything of value, he manages to settle all his debts but emerges penniless. He seeks employment at a hiring fair in the town of Casterbridge. When he finds none, he heads to another such fair in Shottsford, a town about ten miles from Weatherbury. On the way, he happens upon a dangerous fire on a farm and leads the bystanders in putting it out. When the veiled owner comes to thank him, he asks if she needs a shepherd. She uncovers her face and reveals herself to be none other than Bathsheba. She has recently inherited her uncle's estate and is now wealthy. Though somewhat uncomfortable, she employs him.... Thomas Hardy, OM (2 June 1840 - 11 January 1928) was an English novelist and poet. A Victorian realist in the tradition of George Eliot, he was influenced both in his novels and in his poetry by Romanticism, especially William Wordsworth. He was highly critical of much in Victorian society, though Hardy focused more on a declining rural society. While Hardy wrote poetry throughout his life and regarded himself primarily as a poet, his first collection was not published until 1898. Initially, therefore, he gained fame as the author of such novels as *Far from the Madding Crowd* (1874), *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886), *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (1891), and *Jude the Obscure* (1895). During his lifetime, Hardy's poetry was acclaimed by younger poets (particularly the Georgians) who viewed him as a mentor. After his death his poems were lauded by Ezra Pound, W. H. Auden and Philip Larkin. Many of his novels concern tragic characters struggling against their passions and social circumstances, and they are often set in the semi-fictional region of Wessex; initially based on the medieval Anglo-Saxon kingdom, Hardy's Wessex eventually came to include the counties of Dorset, Wiltshire, Somerset, Devon, Hampshire and much of Berkshire, in southwest and south central England. Two of his novels, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and *Far from the Madding Crowd*, were listed in the top 50 on the BBC's survey *The Big Read*.

far from the madding: *Far from the Madding Crowd* By Thomas Hardy *The New Updated Annotated Edition* Thomas Hardy, 2020-07-02 Classic edition of Thomas Hardy's impassioned novel

of courtship in rural life. In Thomas Hardy's first major literary success, independent and spirited Bathsheba Everdene has come to Weatherbury to take up her position as a farmer on the largest estate in the area. Her bold presence draws three very different suitors: the gentleman-farmer Boldwood, the soldier-seducer Sergeant Troy, and the devoted shepherd Gabriel Oak. Each, in contrasting ways, unsettles her decisions and complicates her life, and tragedy ensues, threatening the stability of the whole community. One of his first works set in the semi-fictional region of Wessex, Hardy's novel of swift passion and slow courtship is imbued with his evocative descriptions of rural life and landscapes, and with unflinching honesty about sexual relationships. This edition, based on Hardy's original 1874 manuscript, is the complete novel he never saw published, and restores its full candor and innovation. Rosemarie Morgan's introduction discusses the history of its publication, as well as the biblical and classical allusions that permeate the novel. Far from the Madding Crowd, were listed in the top 50 on the BBC's survey The Big Read.

far from the madding: *Far from the madding crowd* Thomas Hardy, 1882 Far From the Madding Crowd (1874) is Thomas Hardy's fourth novel and his first major literary success. It originally appeared anonymously as a monthly serial in Cornhill Magazine, where it gained a wide readership. In Thomas Hardy's first major literary success, independent and spirited Bathsheba Everdene has come to Weatherbury to take up her position as a farmer on the largest estate in the area. Her bold presence draws three very different suitors: the gentleman-farmer Boldwood, the soldier-seducer Sergeant Troy, and the devoted shepherd Gabriel Oak. Each, in contrasting ways, unsettles her decisions and complicates her life, and tragedy ensues, threatening the stability of the whole community. One of his first works set in the semi-fictional region of Wessex, Hardy's novel of swift passion and slow courtship is imbued with his evocative descriptions of rural life and landscapes, and with unflinching honesty about sexual relationships. The novel was listed at number 48 on the BBC's survey The Big Read in 2003. The book finished 10th on The Guardian's list of greatest love stories of all time in 2007. The novel has been dramatised several times, notably in the Oscar-nominated 1967 film directed by John Schlesinger.

far from the madding: *Far from the Madding Crowd: (illustrated)* Thomas Hardy, 2018-08-27 Far From The Madding Crowd, Thomas HARDY (1840 - 1928) Far From The Madding Crowd is Hardy's fourth novel. It centres on the lives of five characters: Gabriel Oak, Bathsheba Everdene, Mr Boldwood, Sgt. Troy and Fanny Robin. The plot involves love, loyalty, death and betrayal and all this is delivered to us in Hardy's most eloquent prose. The images of character and nature are painted for our mind's eye with sublime style. Finally, but not least, Hardy's use of the Greek chorus is unsurpassed in injecting comedy and nudging the story along. (Summary by Tadhg Hynes) Proof-Listeners: Joy Easton & Betty M. Genre(s): General Fiction Language: English

far from the madding: Far from the Madding Crowd (1874) Novel by Thomas Hardy, 2017-01-25 Far from the Madding Crowd is a novel by 19th century English novelist Thomas Hardy, published in 1874. The title is apt, as the life of the book's heroine, Bathsheba Everdene, living in the quiet rural village of Weatherbury is indeed disrupted by the madding crowd. After shunning the first man to love her, the shepherd Gabriel Oak, she is courted by two others: the lonely and repressed farmer Boldwood, and the charming but faithless Sergeant Troy. The role of fate is clearly established, with each twist and turn in the book being more luck than the choice of one of the characters. The book is widely seen as Hardy's first masterpiece

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