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**محاضرات مادة الرواية للمرحلة الثانية - قسم الترجمة**

**STUDY GUIDE**  
**TO**  
**THOMAS HARDY'S *THE RETURN OF***  
***THE NATIVE***

**BY**  
**DHEYAA W. GHAFEEER**

This work is totally based on:  
BRIGHT NOTES: The Return of the Native  
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## **LECTURE 7: CHAPTER 4: THE HALT ON THE TURNPIKE ROAD**

As the two women descend Rainbarrow, Olly chats in her simple manner with Mrs. Yeobright. She speaks of the marriage and of Mrs. Yeobright's opposition to it, saying, "I felt myself that he was hardly solid-going enough to mate with your family," though "he've several acres of heath ground broke up here, besides the public house, and the heth-croppers, and his manners be quite like a gentleman's." Mrs. Yeobright agrees with Olly that "what's done cannot be undone." They reach the wagon track. Olly turns toward her own home, calling out to her companion to remind Wildeve of the bottle of

wine he has promised her sick husband on the occasion of his marriage. Mrs. Yeobright follows the track to the highway. As she approaches the Inn, she notices a horse-drawn wagon coming along the highway, a man walking beside it, lantern in hand. She waits to speak: "I think you have been inquiring for me? **I am Mrs. Yeobright of Blooms-End.**" The redlemen motions for silence. He draws her aside and is recognized by her as "young Venn - your father was a dairyman somewhere here?" He tells how her niece caught up with him and asked to ride home in his van. He then assists Mrs. Yeobright into the wagon where, under the lantern's rays, she sees her niece sleeping, carefully protected from the redde by drapery. Thomasin awakens; the reddeleman tactfully moves outside to the front of the wagon, so that aunt and niece may talk. Upon finding out where she is, Thomasin desires to walk on home from there. Thanking Diggory Venn for his kindness, Mrs. Yeobright asks, "What made you change from the nice business your father left you?" He looks briefly at Thomasin, who blushes a little, and replies merely, "Well, I did." He starts his horses onward and the two women are left alone. "Now, Thomasin," says Mrs. Yeobright sternly, "what's the meaning of this disgraceful performance?"

## **Comment**

Hardy here displays two women for contrast. Olly Dowden, the humble broom maker, is used to highlight Mrs. Yeobright's gentility and strength of spirit. The certain imperiousness in Mrs. Yeobright's manner to Olly makes us feel she is a woman to be reckoned with. Diggory Venn is further shown to be a kindly, considerate person through his tactful manner with Thomasin and her aunt.