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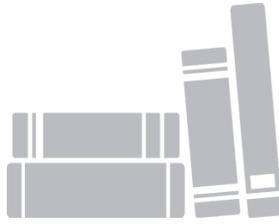
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محاضرات مادة الرواية للمرحلة الثانية - قسم الترجمة

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 13: CHAPTER 10: A DESPERATE ATTEMPT AT PERSUASION

Early the next morning Diggory Venn emerges from his van and sets out for Mistover Knap. He is determined to have an interview with Miss Vye. As he enters the garden, he encounters Captain Vye gazing through his telescope at the English Channel. They greet each other, and Venn explains that his business is with Miss Vye, but the captain rebukes him for calling so early on a lady. The reddleman says he will wait around, hoping that she will see him. After a long time, Eustacia comes out and walks leisurely toward him. She allows him to walk beside her and explain his mission.

Venn brings all his strategy into play. First, he tells her his fear that, because of another woman, Wildeve may not marry Thomasin. He appeals to her power over men to persuade Wildeve to give up the other woman and marry Thomasin. When Eustacia denies her influence and claims disinterest in the marriage, he appeals to her vanity. He insists that her comeliness must enable her to twist Wildeve to her will, but Eustacia says: “Surely what she cannot do who has been so much with him I cannot do living up here away from him.” Diggory’s next move is to confront her with the truth: “The woman that stands between Wildeve and Thomasin is yourself.” He urges her to give up Wildeve as beneath her. She replies impetuously, “I will not be beaten down-by an inferior woman...he was mine before he was hers. He came back-because-because he liked me best!”

Diggory Venn now tries a new tack. He appeals to her hatred of the heath. “Now Budmouth is a wonderful place-out of every ten folks you meet nine of ‘em in love.

Now I could get you there.” He explains that he knows of a rich widow-lady who wants a companion, but Eustacia refuses to consider working. She says, “O if I could live in a gay town as a lady should and go my own way and do my own things, I’d give the wrinkled half of my life.” Diggory begs her to help him “get Thomasin happy and the chance shall be yours.” She scorns the thought and dismisses him. Then she wanders alone to the bank and, gazing down over the vale in the direction of Wildeve’s inn, speaks passionately: “I will never give him up-never!”

Comment

Here we enjoy the fencing between the imperious Eustacia and the now purposeful Diggory Venn. Eustacia again shows her weakness to be indecision. She can escape the heath by going to the popular seaside resort she remembers so ecstatically, but only if she will go as a companion. Surely this will fire her imagination and ensure her escape. But no. Her pride will not let her lower herself to work. She is too proud to compromise. She is also caught in a web of her own weaving. “The man (Wildeve) who had begun by being merely her amusement, and would never have been more than her hobby but for his skill in deserting her at the right moments, was now again her desire.” Eustacia and Wildeve are playing cat and mouse.