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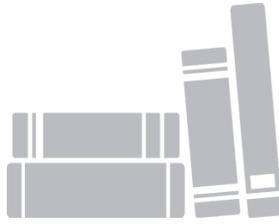
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محاضرات مادة الرواية للمرحلة الثانية - قسم الترجمة

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
www.BrightNotes.com



LECTURE 14: CHAPTER 11: THE DISHONEST OF AN HONEST WOMAN

As Diggory Venn walks despondently back to his van, he meets Mrs. Yeobright walking slowly toward the Quiet Woman Inn. He discovers that Mrs. Yeobright is going to Wildeve for the same purpose as his own in going to see Eustacia. He asks her to give up her plan and instead to consider himself as the man to marry her niece. He confesses his love and tells her of his past proposal. Mrs. Yeobright is surprised, but she still feels Thomasin should marry the man she loves. As she goes on toward the Inn “she thanked God for the weapon which the reddleman had put into her hands.” Calling upon Wildeve, she reveals to him that another man wishes to marry Thomasin - and that she would not like to encourage the other man unless Wildeve will promise not to interfere. Wildeve reflects uncomfortably upon this new turn of events, then asks for time to think

it over. Mrs. Yeobright agrees to give him a day or two, provided he will not communicate with Thomasin.

Mrs. Yeobright's visit sends Wildeve to Eustacia that very night. He presses her to marry him, then admits that Mrs. Yeobright has asked him to give up Thomasin. Now it is Eustacia's turn to play hard-to-get. Languidly, she asks for time to decide. He says, "You loved me a month ago warmly enough to go anywhere with me." She counters with "And you loved Thomasin." He replies, "Yes, perhaps that was where the reason lay. I don't hate her now." To which Eustacia responds, "Exactly. The only thing is that you no longer can get her." He pleads with her, but she still asks for time. Granting her a week to make up her mind, Wildeve leaves. As Eustacia walks back into the house, she is greeted by her grandfather with the news that young Clym Yeobright "is coming home next week to spend Christmas with his mother." Eustacia asks where he has been living. Her grandfather replies, "In that rookery of pomp and vanity, Paris."

Comment

Now we have Mrs. Yeobright joining in the conspiracy. Shrewdly, she holds Venn's proposal to Thomasin as a threat over Wildeve - and Wildeve, like Eustacia, discovers desire for the hard-to-get. He is exasperated by the aunt's demands, but now that Thomasin is wanted by another, he wants her himself. Nonetheless, he makes one more try for Eustacia. Eustacia, however, finding out that Thomasin may escape Wildeve, now loses her own ardor. "You come to get me because you cannot get her." We begin to feel that, for Eustacia, it is always to be "the road not taken." She will not go to Budmouth, because to become a companion would be beneath her. She will not go to America, because it is too far away. She loses her ardor for Wildeve when she thinks him discarded by another. She cannot make compromises.

Summary: Hardy, the architect, has a masterly way of building his characters almost stone by stone:

1. In the first chapter we meet the heath - and the heath alone.

2. In the second chapter we meet two “unknown” persons (and a concealed third). The heath is sketched again, this time through the eyes of one of the “unknowns,” the reddleman. We see the shadow of the heroine.
3. The third chapter introduces us to the common folk of the heath. We take part in their heath revels; we hear their gossip about the “gentry.” Thus indirectly we get to know about the major characters without yet encountering them as such. The reddleman appears again briefly, and we get a glimpse of Mrs. Yeobright.
4. The fourth chapter gives us Mrs. Yeobright. As she meets Diggory Venn and finds her niece, Thomasin, in his van, the plot of the story begins to unravel.
5. Chapter Five adds to our understanding of Mrs. Yeobright and Thomasin, and introduces Wildeve. Wildeve, we decide, is going to be a character ruled by emotions. In this chapter we have an accumulation of most of the heath people we have met so far - a sort of summing up.
6. Chapter Six introduces Eustacia Vye, the sultry heroine. The plot intrigue is revealed as we listen in on Eustacia’s meeting with Wildeve.
7. In Chapter Seven, Hardy builds for us a powerful word picture of Eustacia Vye.
8. Chapter Eight helps the story by getting Diggory Venn into the plot. He must save his heroine from the villain. (His heroine is Thomasin; his villain is Eustacia.)
9. Chapter Nine reveals Venn’s love for Thomasin.
10. The remaining chapters show us the strategy: Mrs. Yeobright fences with Wildeve; Diggory Venn fences with Eustacia Vye; Eustacia Vye and Damon Wildeve fence with each other. The ingenuous Thomasin stays unobtrusively in the background. Book One has developed all the characters of the heath to the point where we are ready for the grand entrance of the hero: Clym Yeobright, the Native who Returns-from Paris.