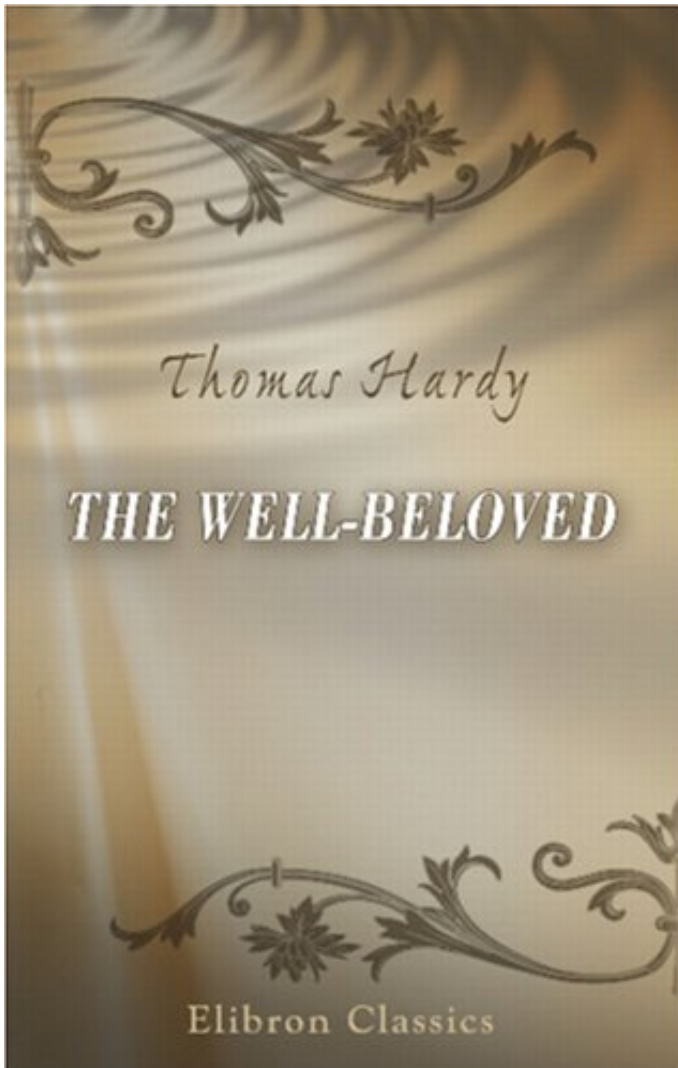


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**Thomas Hardy**

**The Well-Beloved**



Title: The Well-Beloved

Author: Thomas Hardy

Format: Paperback

Language:

Pages: 196

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 054390332X

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 7.4 MB

Download: allowed

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## Description

Set on the Isle of Slingers, this novel follows the exploits of Jocelyn Pierston, a sculptor who falls in love successively with three generations of island women, seeking female perfection, just as he strives to realise the ideal woman in stone.

## Insightful reviews

Keith: We read Thomas Hardy today because he's still relevant, but perhaps the issues that made him relevant in his time, due to the changing nature of the world, are different than the things that make him relevant in our time. The relevancy of *The Well-Beloved*, dealing with the superficial nature of romantic love, makes it feel like a novel written for modern times. In my mind, this is the primary strength of the book.

As is so often seen in men of our times, Jocelyn Pierston favors young women. In his youth, he has a failed romance with Avice. Twenty years later, he meets her daughter, also named Avice, and tries but fails to romance her. Twenty years older, now a man of sixty, he meets a third Avice, granddaughter to the first, and he also romances her. This pursuit of the younger women is inspired by a fancy of his, which he calls "the well-beloved." There is *one woman* he loves but she moves from woman to woman, from body to body, never staying in the same woman long. When he sees her, he courts her, until she vanishes, or, just as likely, appears in the next woman.

This is a lesser novel by an accomplished novelist; it is not his best work. In fact, of the novels by Hardy I have read, I would call this his weakest novel. It reads more like a first draft than a refined story. Too much of the story is told in exposition. There is drama on the page, but the scenes felt truncated. Conflict was never allowed to fully develop. That is a weakness of the story, but a strength of it was that I felt the conflict, boiling in the subtext, as I felt characters thinking and feeling things that they never said.

Unless you have a strong interest in Thomas Hardy or in English literature, I would not recommend you read this novel. He wrote better novels, namely *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* or *Jude the Obscure*. If you are interested in reading him, I would recommend either of those novels. Despite this weak opinion of *The Well-Beloved*, I'm glad I read this book, because it gave me a broader understanding of one of my favorite English writers.

Clara : This was an interesting work of Hardy's. There were times the theme of the work reminded me quite a bit of Henry James' writings. Once again I love the way Hardy is able to set a unique scene and make it imaginable to one whom has never stepped foot in that area. The idea of the peninsular island with its' own people and customs was very interesting. I loved the descriptions of the only wooded area on the island, the lightship blinking and the rugged stone nature of the whole island, the cottages made almost entirely of stone.

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The strange obsession of Jocelyn's is so ironic and sad. It was an interesting scenario to read about. I don't think I would read this one again though. The timing drags a bit and then the ending paragraph seemed too abrupt of an ending. But, I am glad I read it.

Michael Huang: As you grow older, you start to appreciate things that are bitter, you know, tea, leafy vegies (kale, anyone?), and dark chocolate. So it's probably not a surprise I like Hardy's work a lot. This might be my favorite Hardy so far, perhaps because it's the least dark. I guess it's not even a tragedy.

Sash Chiesa : it is the exceptional Hardy. The Well-beloved explores the depths of love, lust, appeal and human(in this example particularly male) psychology in a very good and distinctive way. your entire prior perceptions of affection and lust come tumbling down, dissolve and turn out to be whatever new. within the portraiture of Jocelyn, his mind, his world, Hardy effectively depicts how diverse an artist's view of something may be and to what degrees can his abstraction and mind's eye take him. simply because the sculptor Jocelyn sculpts the assumption of "The Well-beloved" within the such a lot fascinating ways, Hardy sculpts this novel within the so much unbelievable ways. it is a never-thought-of story. i admire it and someone may whose international of summary is profound.

Crystal: This novel takes a glance the temperament of a guy looking for his ideal woman. instead of being approximately that excellent lady it truly is extra concerning the guy who seeks her and his fickle heart. i've got an inclination to think that this novel used to be a bit of autobiographical of Thomas Hardy from what little i've got examine his life.

Rima: Well-written (of course) and riveting, but disturbing. simply as i did not like Angel Clare's pairing with Tess' sister i do not like Jocelyn pining over Avicé the Youngest. The finishing was once rather abrupt as well. that every one being said, I appear to love all issues Hardy. he's this kind of superbly compelling writer.

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