



Thomas Hardy	<p>Far from the Madding Crowd By Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)</p> <p><i>Far from the Madding Crowd</i> (1874) is Thomas Hardy's fourth novel and offers in ample measure the details of English rural life that Hardy so relished. Hardy's growing taste for tragedy is also evident in the novel. It first appeared, anonymously, as a monthly magazine serial, where it gained a wide readership and critical acclaim. According to Virginia Woolf, "The subject was right; the method was right; the poet and the countryman, the sensual man, the sombre reflective man, the man of learning, all enlisted to produce a book which . . . must hold its place among the great English novels." The book is often regarded as an early piece of feminist literature, since it features an independent woman with the courage to defy convention by running a farm herself. Although Bathsheba's passionate nature leads her into serious errors of judgment, Hardy endows her with sufficient resilience, intelligence, and good luck to overcome her youthful folly. (summary abstracted from Wikipedia)</p> <p>Read by Lee Ann Howlett, Simon Evers, Patti Brugman, Lucy Burgoyne, E. Plein, hefyd, Tracey Norman, J. M. Smallheer, Sarah Jennings, John Lieder, & George Deprez, PhD. Total Running Time: 14:40:15.</p> <p>This recording is in the public domain and may be reproduced, distributed, or modified without permission. For more information or to volunteer, visit librivox.org.</p> <p>Cover picture by <i>William Turner (d. 1851)</i>. Copyright expired in US, Canada, EU, and all countries with author's life +70 yrs laws. Cover design by Janette Brown. This design is in the public domain.</p>	Far from the Madding Crowd
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