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Thomas Hardy

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Thomas Hardy : Jude the Obscure (Signet classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jude the Obscure (Signet classics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Teach me to live, that I may dread, The grave as little as my bed"By Don KidwellPerplexing book that ran the gamut from the uplifting with passages such as "It was better to love a woman than to be a graduate, or a parson; ay, or a pope!" to the downright depressing such as "But nobody did come, because nobody does; and under the crushing recognition of his gigantic error Jude continued to wish himself out of the world." Complete with an image gallery at the close including a dozen shots of photos/portraits of the author, locations in Wessex and a couple of those of his wife and birthplace I thought this a fine book and tough to beat fro the price. Very good book!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. SadBy WoodseverWhat a depressing story about two young lovers in the 19th century. It is quite long and hard to understand at times but the gist of it surrounds intellectuals modern thinking and it's theological bearing.It is a historical romance by genre....dark and gloomy and obscure. The female half is constantly changing her mind. I didn't care for her character at all. Recommend to readers of theology as well as philosophical interested persons.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Rewarding for the Contemporary Reader if...By Jerry G. Persall"Jude the Obscure" rewards the contemporary reader who is able to step out of their own lifespan and view the novel from the historical perspective of its own time, place, perspective and value systems. This comes from someone who loves Hardy as much as Dickens. It is top notch English literature and ranks just under my two favorite Hardy novels: "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" and "The Return of the Native". It is the definition of pathos and unrequited love.

Webster's paperbacks take advantage of the fact that classics are frequently assigned readings in English courses. By using a running English-to-Croatian thesaurus at the bottom of each page, this edition of *Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy was edited for three audiences. The first includes Croatian-speaking students enrolled in an English Language Program (ELP), an English as a Foreign Language (EFL) program, an English as a Second Language Program (ESL), or in a TOEFL or TOEIC preparation program. The second audience includes English-speaking students enrolled in bilingual education programs or Croatian speakers enrolled in English-speaking schools. The third audience consists of students who are actively building their vocabularies in Croatian in order to take foreign service, translation certification, Advanced Placement (AP) or similar examinations. By using the Webster's Croatian Thesaurus Edition when assigned for an English course, the reader can enrich their vocabulary in anticipation of an examination in Croatian or English. TOEFL, TOEIC, AP and Advanced Placement are trademarks of the Educational Testing Service which has neither reviewed nor endorsed this book. All rights reserved.

From Publishers Weekly The controversial tale of Jude Fawley and his unconventional relationship with his cousin, Sue Bridehead, is as fascinating today as it was when Hardy published the novel in 1895. Beautifully narrated by the gifted Neville Jason, this story of repression, judgment, and true love will appeal to listeners who love the classics. Jason's proper tone and slow pacing is a perfect fit for Hardy's prose. As Jude, Jason shifts his voice to become, by turns, optimistic and lovelorn, while the supporting characters are equally well crafted. The result is a truly memorable literary experience that demands repeated listens. (May) From Library Journal *Jude the Obscure* created storms of scandal and protest for the author upon its publication. Hardy, disgusted and disappointed, devoted the remainder of his life to poetry and never wrote another novel. Today, the material is far less shocking. Jude Fawley, a poor stone carver with aspirations toward an academic career, is thwarted at every turn and is finally forced to give up his dreams of a university education. He is tricked into an unwise marriage, and when his wife deserts him, he begins a relationship with a free-spirited cousin. With this begins the descent into bleak tragedy as the couple alternately defy and succumb to the pressures of a deeply disapproving society. Hardy's characters have a fascinating ambiguity: they are victimized by a stern moral code, but they are also selfish and weak-willed creatures who bring on much of their own difficulties through their own vacillations and submissions to impulse. The abridgment speeds Jude's fall to considerable dramatic effect, but it also deletes the author's agonizing logic. Instead of the meticulous weaving of Jude's destiny, we get a somewhat incoherent summary that preserves the major plot points but fails to draw us into the tragedy. Michael Pennington reads resonantly and skillfully, his voice perfectly matching the grim music of Hardy's prose, but this recording can only be recommended for larger public libraries. -John Owen, *Advanced Micro Devices*, Sunnyvale, CA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. "His style touches sublimity." T.S. Eliot