

SYNOPSIS OF THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE

The novel begins with two figures, man and woman, the latter carries a child. The man is in the search for employment but remembering there is no sign of opportunity, the two persons agree to have a rest in a fair. Being a poor family and in order to get a lot of money, the man, Michael Henchard, unconsciously sells his wife for five guineas to a sailor. In the morning, he sees his wife's marriage ring thrown to his face that the sale of a wife was not a dream. And before he comes to a town called Casterbridge, he swears an oath not to drink a strong liquor.

In the following section, we are shown by the two figures, a woman and her daughter, but it is eighteen years later. The former is she who was sold by her husband in the bygone years, Susan. Getting a sign by the firmity woman that Michael Henchard is in the town of Casterbridge, they go there.

When they reach Casterbridge, they see Michael Henchard in a great success. He is the Mayor of Casterbridge, and in the same occasion, his wheat is criticised by the people for its worst. For the sake of Elizabeth Jane, her daughter, Susan remarries Michael Henchard while Elizabeth Jane regards him as a relation by marriage. On the other hand, Michael Henchard raises Farfrae as his manager while he has engaged Jopp who then becomes the only enemy in this novel.

The chance of living together with the Mayor of Casterbridge makes Elizabeth Jane's face grow more beautiful. Farfrae is the one who gets interested with her. In a national celebration, Michael Henchard's entertainment is not welcomed by the people but Farfrae's entertainment. This makes Michael Henchard jealous towards Farfrae and dismisses him from the management.

Once, when Mrs. Henchard is very ill she writes a letter about the true story of Elizabeth Jane's paternity to Henchard, that Elizabeth Jane is not his own Elizabeth Jane, but Newson's. Knowing this, he is very sad. However, He likes Elizabeth Jane so much and on the other hand she accepts the proposal of having his name legally as offered before the death of her mother.

Being a widower, again Henchard receives a letter from Lucetta who had love affair with him in the former days in order to continue their intimacy to the marriage. On the other hand, Elizabeth Jane accepts Lucetta's offer to live together because she cannot endure of seeing Henchard's sadness. When Farfrae visits Elizabeth Jane in Lucetta's house, Lucetta becomes interested with him.

In a public house, the firmity woman opens Henchard's secret life of the sale of a wife. Hearing this, Lucetta betrays her engagement to Henchard and marries Farfrae, and from now on Farfrae is Henchard's rival both in love and in business. When they get married, Henchard will ruin their

happiness by showing Lucetta's love letter, but he cannot. Jopp who is trusted by Henchard to return the letter the letter to Mrs. Farfrae opens the secret of the letter in front of the people and plans a skimmity ride. The shock of the people about skimmity ride puts Lucetta in death. Discovering the causes of her death, Farfrae wants to marry Elizabeth Jane. It becomes Henchard's threat of love from Elizabeth Jane. On the other hand, he is as well threatened by other person for Elizabeth Jane's love, Newson. By a smooth trick, Newson, believes that Elizabeth Jane died, he then goes away.

When Newson reappears on the same intension, without consideration Henchard goes away from Casterbridge by not telling Elizabeth Jane the true story. When she knows that it is Henchard that told her own father, Newson, a lie, she hates him so much till his death comes.