

APPENDIX

Synopsis

Silas Marner, a religious young man belonging to the Lantern Yard congregation, is accused by his best friend, William Dane of having stolen church money. Silas protests his innocence but cannot prove it, for when the money was actually stolen he was suffering from a cataleptic fit and was unconscious of the happenings around him. He is 'tried' by the 'drawing of lots' and is found guilty. He loses at one blow his good character, his chief friend, whom he strongly suspects of having been the real thief and the girl to whom he was engaged and who later marries this so called 'friend'.

He starts again as a weaver in Raveloe and builds up a good trade there, but is unpopular for two reasons, he is a stranger and seems alien in appearance, work and way of life to the native inhabitants of the village. He has also the reputation of being a miser.

His money then is stolen from him by Dunstan Cass, who has 'staked' his brother Godfrey's horse on an occasion when he has taken the animal out to try to sell it. Dunstan and Godfrey are



both in money difficulties. Godfrey because he is blackmailed by his brother, who, if not given sufficient money, will disclose to their father, Squire Cass, the fact that Godfrey has entered into a most imprudent marriage. Dunstan because he is particularly extravagant.

Silas Marner, in a great consternation at the loss of his gold, seek the help of the villagers. The money cannot be found and the general impression is that a passing peddler has stolen it. The loss, however, brings Silas into closer contact with his neighbors, who are distantly but genuinely sympathetic.

On New Year's Eve a large party is held at the house of Squire Cass. Godfrey is very attentive to Miss Nancy Lammeter, whom he would like to marry if he had only not made an unfortunate alliance with Molly. The snow is falling thickly and Molly herself is walking along with her child intending to appear before Godfrey and sham him. Overcome by drugs, for she has become a drug addict, she dies in the snow. The child wanders in to Silas's cottage while he is having fits. He finds her there when he recovers and at first takes her for his gold come back. The he finds her mother and goes to the Squire's house, telling those present about the woman who has died in the snow.

Godfrey recognizes Molly but says nothing about their relationship and allows the child to be adopted by Silas. She is christened Eppie and brought up by Mamer, proving a great blessing in many ways to her 'father'.

Sixteen years later the skeleton of Dunstan and Silas's money are discovered in a stone-pit. The thief is revealed. Godfrey tells his wife, Nancy, the story of his first unhappy marriage and they agree to adopt Eppie. But the Eppie refuses to leave the only father that she has ever known for a higher position in society. The story ends with her marriage and the knowledge that she, her husband and Silas are all going to live together in the cottage.