

Far from the Madding Crowd – A Study of Chapter Forty –

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Abstract

In this paper I discuss Chapter 40 titled as "On Casterbridge Way" of *Far from the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy, and attempt to answer two questions which arise in this chapter. One question is the following: Why does Hardy make Fanny Robin, a minor character, appear on the scene in Chapter 40, and then describe her so dramatically and impressively as if she were a heroine? The second question is as follows: How should we interpret the episode about Fanny and the dog that helps her arrive at Casterbridge Union-house?

As a result of a study of these questions, I came to the following conclusions. The introduction of Fanny Robin is part of a strategy to make the climax of the story more complex and effective. The episode about Fanny and the dog is meant to express mankind's deep attachment to life when confronted with imminent death.
