

'I think Elizabeth-Jane is too good to be true
and kept on wishing that she would be more
courageous.'

Ria, 13

Michael Henchard knew he deserved the pain he felt.

Henchard is a handsome farm labourer. When he gets drunk at a country fair, he sells his wife and child to a sailor. The next day, ashamed by what he has done, he lets people believe that his wife has died. Thus begins a chain of events which leads Henchard deep into dishonesty and betrayal.

Repentant and determined to change his ways, Henchard works hard to improve his fortunes. He becomes rich, and is elected mayor of Casterbridge – though his temper and his pride make him difficult to like.

When Henchard's wife and daughter come back to find him, will he accept them? And what might they want from him? Will a reunion mean a happy ending?



Age 10+



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THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE

THOMAS HARDY



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Retold by Maxine Linnell
Illustrated by Ann Kronheimer

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CONTENTS

The Characters	4
The Mayor of Casterbridge	7
Taking Things Further	55

