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Women in Hardy's Novels



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Preface

Thomas Hardy is an elusive, almost protean figure, like many great novelists. The more one reflects upon his work, the more it seems to grow into multiplicity of Hardy's world. We can read him as a philosopher engrossed in spinning the fables of determination. Hardy becomes an imaginative historian of the revolutionary changes that took place in the Nineteenth Century moral consciousness. We can find Hardy a troubled modernist trying to come to terms with the dilemmas of our life. Hardy believed in destiny and role of chance and coincidences as they manifest the workings of fate and reveal the dynamics of character.

My effort is to write on Hardy comes from a persistent personal awareness of his genius. I have stressed his intuitive understanding of the complementarity of fact and fiction in human experience. Fiction for Hardy is a human necessity for making sense of the world. His perception of the inevitability of fictional modes in human being's response to his world not only gives Hardy a subtler understanding of the shapes of human history but also a new confidence in the novel. As a novelist Hardy can justly be placed among such eminent novelists as Balzac, Dickens, Flaubert, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Premchand and Sharat Chandra.

This book is an attempt to study critically Hardy's feminine realism in his novels. Hardy's way of regarding woman is peculiar and different to define, not because it is not a perfectly defensible way, but because it is a great degree new. His presentation of woman throws new height at new way. Eustacia, Tess, Sue and Elizabeth-Jane stand out like proud figure heads. Hardy dared to conceive sensual passionate women and those also of intelligent, compromising. Hardy's major novels, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, *The Return of the Native* and *Tess of the D'urbervilles* are taken up for the critical analyses in the book.

The book also discusses Hardy's temperament, his personal experiences and his knowledge of life exercise formative influences on his philosophy. Hardy's philosophy of life is certainly a gloomy one, for he regards life as suffering and human being as a puppet in the hands of Destiny. But it cannot be called pessimistic, for pessimism implies negation of life, a wish not to have been born at all. And it is not always with Hardy, so unreasonable. He attempted a justification of the outlook when he declared that 'the highest flights of the pen are mostly the excursions and revelations of souls unreconciled to life.'

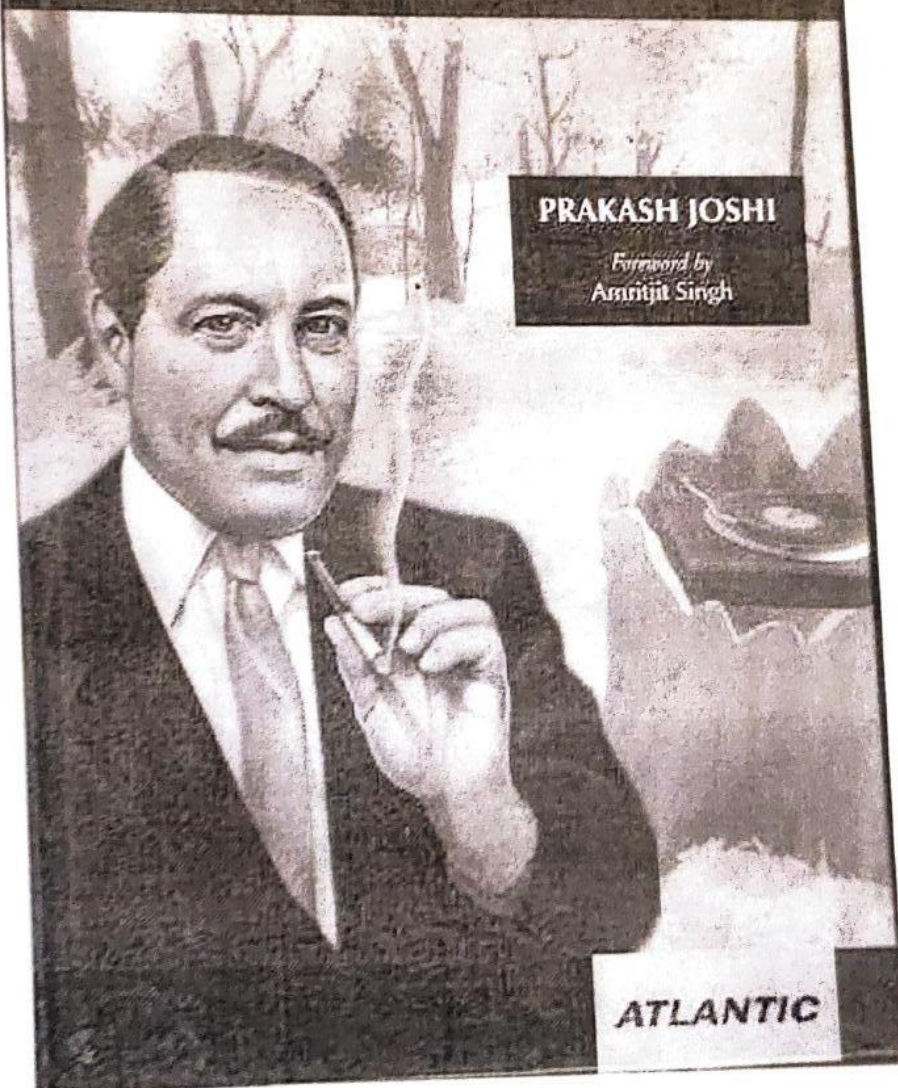
Hardy believes that the relationship between men and women would be happier if the artificial standards of civilized society did not hamper free

Tennessee Williams

Paradoxes of Nonconformism
and Genre Recreations

PRAKASH JOSHI

*Foreword by
Anant Singh*



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Tennessee Williams
Paradoxes of Nonconformism and
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Tiny Droplets

Vandana Rajoria

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Life is the greatest classroom of one's life where every day brings forth new learning, new joy and new passions. While we keep moving forward in life counting our days in numbers and wondering at the passing years; whenever we peep into the past we inevitably get opportunities to smile at it no matter how much it had tried and tested us. Tiny Droplets is a celebration of this diversity and greatness of the rich and varied experiences of life.

The Author is budding poet and critic with keen interest in Indian literary theories. She is currently working as Assistant Professor of English at the Department of English & Other European Languages, School of Languages, Dr. Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, (A Central University) Sagar (M.P.). She has two reference books, two volumes of poems, eleven Chapters in books and anthologies and twelve research papers in refereed Journals to her credit. Member of Board of Editors of Rock Pebbles: A Peer Reviewed International Literary Journal from Orissa, India and many other academic bodies; she has also presented papers at many National and International Seminars and conferences.



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Dedicated
To
Manhavi and Shivansh
I have found unknown joys of life
and existence in them