



Under the Greenwood Tree (Oxford World's Classics)

Thomas Hardy, Simon Gatrell, Phillip Mallett

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"Miss Fancy Day; as neat a little figure of fun as ever I see, and just husband-high."

One of the most popular of Hardy's novels, *Under the Greenwood Tree* is a delightful and humorous depiction of life in an early Victorian rural community. The story delicately balances the concerns of the Mellstock parish choir with a romance between the village schoolmistress and a member of the choir. Hardy thought well enough of the tale to place it among his *Novels of Character and Environment*, a group which includes his most characteristic work.

This freshly reset second edition features a new introduction by Phillip Mallett, who explores the tension in the novel between a vanishing rural idyll and the social realities making change inevitable; the novel's portrait of rural life and character; its revealing textual history and the relation of art to elegy. This edition also features new, expanded notes which provide historical background, gloss dialect and unfamiliar terms, and highlight significant revisions.

Lastly, both the introduction and the notes take into account the substantial critical discussion that has taken place in the 27 years since the edition was first published. The book also includes maps of Hardy's Wessex and the fictional setting of Mellstock, a new and up-to-date bibliography, and a thorough chronology.

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