The Return of the Native

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Read by Nicholas Rowe

In the remote wildness of Egdon Heath, the crossed love affairs and marriages of a small group of people are played out against the background of nature's beauty and indifference to mankind. Through a series of vivid incidents and encounters, *The Return of the Native* moves in a relentless drive towards tragedy, as the plans and dreams of the lovers miscarry, defeated by chance, or destiny or self-deception. In their unhappy stories, Hardy gives us a powerful dramatisation of his bleak philosophy, his belief in man's helplessness before the malevolence of the universe.



Nicholas Rowe's theatre credits include *The Madness of George III, Nation, Victory, Whipping It Up* and *See How They Run.* His television work includes *Da Vinci's Demons, Loving Miss Hatto, The Borgias, Beau Brummel* and *A Harlot's Progress,* and his films include *Nicholas Nickleby, Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* and *Young Sherlock Holmes.* He has also read *Sylvester* (Heyer) for Naxos AudioBooks.

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