

THOMAS HARDY

Desperate Remedies

Read by **Anna Bentinck**

Thomas Hardy's first published novel, *Desperate Remedies* is a thrilling blend of Gothic mystery and love-triangle romance. After the untimely death of their parents, Cytheria and Owen Graye must go out into the world and fend for themselves. Cytheria's journey leads her to the dark and mysterious household of Miss Aldclyffe, a capricious and eccentric woman, who steers Cytheria into a love affair with her charismatic steward Aeneous Manston. All is not what it seems, and Cytheria finds herself entangled in a violent web of lust, murder, deception and blackmail. With its beautiful and evocative scenes, along with themes of fate and class, the novel contains many traces of Hardy's signature style, and is a unique take on the Victorian 'sensation' novel.



Anna Bentinck trained at Arts Educational Schools, London (ArtsEd) and has worked extensively for BBC Radio. For Naxos AudioBooks, she has read *Five Children and It*, *The Phoenix and the Carpet* and *The Story of the Amulet* by E. Nesbit, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and *A Pair of Blue Eyes* by Thomas Hardy and *Silas Marner* by George Eliot.

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