



Thomas Hardy and Desire: Conceptions of the Self

By Jane Thomas

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Drawing on a broad concept of desire, informed by poststructuralist theorists this book examines the range of Hardy's work. It demonstrates the sustained nature of his thinking about desire, its relationship to the social and symbolic network in which human subjectivity is constituted and art's potential to offer fulfilment to the desiring subject.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Jane Thomas has provided us with the most thoroughgoing study of Hardy and desire since J. Hillis Miller's four decades ago, and offers a wonderfully panoramic approach to the subject. Thomas uses Lacan, Butler and other thinkers, always in an approachable manner, to meditate on the fleeting, obscure and unstable nature of desire in Hardy's texts, extracting a surprising range of reference - from the impossibility of nostalgia to the sharpness of desire across class divisions; from the pleasures of cross-dressing to Sapphic desire seen as a kind of utopian space. The study ranges with assurance across Hardy's corpus, and is illuminating on both the major and minor novels and the poetry." Professor Tim Armstrong, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK

"Thomas's finely articulated chapters serves to take the argument forward, with exemplary attention to textual evidence and an impressive grasp of ideas . . . this is a book which makes a notable contribution to Hardy studies and one whose argument will doubtless generate further fruitful debate." Hardy Journal

"In offering a persuasive analysis of Hardy's art as an exercise and expression of (often frustrated or foiled) desire, Jane Thomas has made an outstanding contribution to Hardy studies." J. B. Bullen, Victorian Studies

About the Author

JANE THOMAS is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Hull, UK, and has published widely on Thomas Hardy, Victorian Literature, art and sculpture and contemporary women writers. Her publications include *Thomas Hardy, Femininity and Dissent: Reassessing the 'Minor' Novels* and editions of *The Well-Beloved* and Hardy's shorter fiction.

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