

Summary Points

Tess's journey from Marlott to the Cricks' dairy in the Valley of the Great Dairies three years on from previous chapter.

She passes through many little towns, receives a lift from a kind stranger and sees Kingsbere from a distance. On her walk she sings to herself an almost pagan chant and soon arrives at the dairy in time for milking.

Notes on setting (Where does the action take place? What is the landscape / setting like?)

The Valley of the Great Dairies vs The Vale of Blackmoor

Much larger than Blackmoor and more impressive but very different too ('intrinsically different'). 'grew to rankness' – a land of plenty but perhaps too much. Described as the land of milk and honey but too much of a good thing is bad – foreshadows Tess's realisation about her and Alec's relationship.

Though happy the new valley is not quite the innocent idyll of Tess's childhood in Blackmoor: 'There the water flower was the lily: the crowfoot here.'

Kingsbere

Seen in the distance by Tess, a reminder of the D'Urberville name and her past. 'Dark trees' – represent the contrast between Tess's new hope and the ever-present shadow of her past. No matter how happy Tess is, there is a reminder of her misfortune: it seems to be an inevitable and unavoidable part of her now.

Chapter XVI

Links to the Pastoral. Think about: pastoral characters, landscapes and all the expectations we have of pastoral literature.

May- spring, the season of new beginnings and new life but also of hard work and hardship: Tess's newfound happiness and good fortune is accompanied by the blight of her past.

Journey- Tess travels away from home for the second time seemingly into prosperity, but leaving her arcadia tempts tragedy. Hardy describes this particular journey as a 'pilgrimage'.

Religion- Tess is still at odds with Christianity but sings a Christian chant, still searching for a retrieval of her innocence: "'but perhaps I don't quite know the Lord as yet.'"

Characterisation (make notes on how the characters are presented). Try not to comment on pastoral here.

Tess

Tess is somewhat recovered from the ordeal of losing her child: 'three years... silent reconstructive years.'

She is still beautiful-still pure perhaps-peculiarly, she is more beautiful when in a sour mood and vice versa.

She is the image of the pagan singer and of her heritage when she approximates her beliefs with the Church chant. 'women whose chief companions are the forms and forces of outdoor Nature retain in their souls far more of the Pagan fantasy of their remote forefathers than of the systematized religion taught their race at later date' She is a pagan figure again at Stonehenge.

Now in good spirits and 'full of zest for life' she begins anew.

The kind stranger

A restoration of the pastoral convention of the kind and often wise stranger after the inverted example of Alec.

The cows

The shadows of the cows here are described to resemble those of Alexander Caesar and the Pharaohs – pastoral- nature cares for Tess when corrupt people won't.