**Tess of the D’Urbervilles: some key quotations re TRAGEDY**

1. “You are the lineal representative of the ancient and **knightly family of the d’Urbervilles**, who derive their descent from Sir Pagan d’Urberville, that renowned knight who came from Normandy with William the Conqueror, as appears by Battle Abbey Roll?”  
      
   P. 5  
   Parson Twingham plants the idea in John Durbeyfield’s mind that he and his family are better than their neighbors and thus begins Tess’s path toward destruction.
2. “Tess Durbeyfield at this time of her life was a mere vessel of emotion untinctured by experience.”  
      
   P.13  
   At the beginning of the novel, Tess is angry when the villagers attempt to make fun of her prideful father riding home in a hired cart he can’t afford. In a state of heightened emotion, she tells her friends that she will no longer talk to them if they laugh at Durbeyfield. From the beginning, Tess demonstrates great love for her family. She will defend them to the death.
3. “I don’t know; but I think so. They sometimes seem to be like the apples on our stubbard-tree, most of them splendid and sound—a few blighted.”  
      
   P.31  
   As the youngsters ride along at night to market, Tess pessimistically explains to her younger brother Abraham that stars are indeed worlds and that they have the misfortune to live on **a blighted star** and that this explains all their family’s misfortunes
4. “By this time every couple had been suitable matched…an inner cloud of dust rose around the prostate figures.”  
      
   P. 68  
   Unlike Car Darch and the other crude working women, Tess keeps herself pure and apart from drinking and sexual activity. However, as Hardy would have it, despite her efforts, Tess’s fate insures that she will fail to preserve her chastity after she rides off with Alec d’Urberville into the woods.
5. “I wish I had never been born--there or anywhere else. “  
      
   P. 87  
   Tess says this to Alec d’Urberville after he has seduced her and she feels forced to return home to Marlott in disgrace. She will make this wish over and over throughout the novel until she finally gets her wish.
6. “Perhaps, of all things, a lie on this thing would do the most good to me now; **but I have honour enough left, little as ‘tis, not to tell that lie**.”  
      
   P. 89  
   After a month with Alec d’Urberville, Tess realizes she must leave him. Although it would serve her well financially to tell d’Urberville she is in love with him, Tess maintains her honour by leaving him and not becoming his paid mistress.
7. “`Dead! dead! dead!’” he murmured. After fixedly regarding her for some moments with the same gaze of unmeasurable woe he bent lower, enclosed her in his arms, and rolled her in the sheet as in a shroud. Then lifting her from the bed with as much respect as one would show to a dead body, he carried her across the room, murmuring, ‘My poor, poor Tess, my dearest darling Tess! So sweet, so good, so true!’”  
      
   P. 279  
   After telling him of her secret past, Tess finds Angel sleepwalking and looming over her in the dark. **Pride keeps Angel from accepting and loving Tess, yet unconsciously he remains deeply in love with her and understands her reasoning for not telling him the truth**. This scene foreshadows Tess’s early death.
8. “Under the trees several pheasants lay about, their rich plumage dabbled with blood; some were dead, some feebly twitching a wing…Tess’s first thought was to put the still living birds out of their torture, and to this end with her own hands she broke the necks of as many as she could find… ‘Poor darlings—to suppose myself the most miserable being on earth in the sight o’ such misery as yours!’ she exclaimed, her tears running down as she killed the birds tenderly.”  
      
   P. 312  
   After changing her mind about asking Angel’s parents for help, Tess despairs after spending the night outdoors. In the morning she spies the dead and dying pheasants and experiences an affinity for the tortured birds. Then, despite **her tortured life at Flintcomb-Ash,** she optimistically rallies and realizes that compared with the birds, her life is not bad. Despite her attempts to remain optimistic, however, Hardy’s pessimistic views insure that Tess is doomed and that the birds’ wrung necks foreshadow her own death by hanging.
9. “His father too was shocked to see him. So reduced was that figure from its former contours by worry…you could see the skeleton behind the man and almost the ghost behind the skeleton.”
10. P. 416  
    Like his forlorn wife Tess, Angel Clare also undergoes great mental and physical hardship when he is separated from her in Brazil. The price of forgoing his immature judgmental ways comes at great personal cost.
11. “Justice was done, and the President of the Immortals, in Aeschylean phrase, had ended his sport with Tess.”  
       
    P. 447  
    The Greek dramatist Aeschylus wrote tragedies. **Like Aeschylus’s characters, Tess ultimately had no control over her life**. Her actions were fate-driven, predestined, determined solely by the whim, or the sport, of the gods.
12. A strong woman who recklessly throws away her strength, she is worse than a weak woman who has never had any strength to throw away.”
13. “Beauty lay not in the thing, but in what the thing symbolized.”
14. “Did it never strike your mind that what every woman says, some women may feel?”
15. “Why didn’t you tell me there was danger? Why didn’t you warn me? **Ladies know what to guard against, because they read novels that tell them of these tricks**; but I never had the chance of discovering in that way; and you did not help me!”
16. “If an offense come out of the truth, better is it that the offense come than that the truth be concealed.”
17. “The beauty or ugliness of a character lay not only in its achievements, but in its aims and impulses; its true history lay, not among things done, but among things willed.”
18. “...our impulses are too strong for our judgement sometimes”
19. “This hobble of being alive is rather serious, don’t you think so?”
20. “So each had a private little sun for her soul to bask in; some dream, some affection, some hobby, or at least some remote and distant hope....”
21. “My eyes were dazed by you for a little, and that was all.”
22. “**I agree to the conditions, Angel; because you know best what my punishment ought to be**; only - only - don't make it more than I can bear!”
23. “Don't think of what's past!" said she. "I am not going to think outside of now. Why should we! Who knows what tomorrow has in store? ”
24. “Sometimes I feel I don't want to know anything more about [history] than I know already. [...] Because what's the use of learning that I am one of a long row only--finding out that there is set down in some old book somebody just like me, and to know that I shall only act her part; making me sad, that's all. The best is not to remember that your nature and you past doings have been kist like thousands' and thousands', and that your coming life and doings'll be like thousands' and thousands'. [...] I shouldn't mind learning why--why the sun do shine on the just and the unjust alike, [...] but that's what books will not tell me.”
25. “**Her affection for him was now the breath and life of Tess's being**; it enveloped her as a photosphere, irradiated her into forgetfulness of her past sorrows, keeping back the gloomy spectres that would persist in their attempts to touch her—doubt, fear, moodiness, care, shame. She knew that they were waiting like wolves just outside the circumscribing light, but she had long spells of power to keep them in hungry subjection there.”
26. “How very lovable her face was to him. Yet there was nothing ethereal about it; all was real vitality, real warmth, real incarnation. And it was in her mouth that this culminated. Eyes almost as deep and speaking he had seen before, and cheeks perhaps as fair; brows as arched, a chin and throat almost as shapely; her mouth he had seen nothing to equal on the face of the earth. To a young man with the least fire in him that little upward lift in the middle of her red top lip was distracting, infatuating, maddening. He had never before seen a woman’s lips and teeth which forced upon his mind with such persistent iteration the old Elizabethan simile of roses filled with snow.
27. Perfect, he, as a lover, might have called them off-hand. But no — they were not perfect. And it was the touch of the imperfect upon the would-be perfect that gave the sweetness, because it was that which gave the humanity.”
28. **“You, and those like you, take your fill of pleasure on earth by making the life of such as me bitter and black with sorrow;** and then it is a fine thing, when you have had enough of that, to think of securing your pleasure in heaven by becoming converted!”
29. “Do you know that I have undergone three quarters of this labour entirely for the sake of the fourth quarter?”
30. “In the ill-judged execution of the well-judged plan of things the call seldom produces the comer, the man to love rarely coincides with the hour for loving. Nature does not often say "See!" to her poor creature at a time when seeing can lead to happy doing; or reply "Here!" to a body's cry of "Where?" till the hide-and-seek has become an irksome, outworn game. We may wonder whether at the acme and summit of the human progress these anachronisms will be corrected by a finer intuition, a close interaction of the social machinery than that which now jolts us round and along; but such completeness is not to be prophesied, or even conceived as possible. Enough that in the present case, as in millions, it was not the two halves of a perfect whole that confronted each other at the perfect moment; a missing counterpart wandered independently about the earth waiting in crass obtuseness till the late time came. Out of which maladroit delay sprang anxieties, disappointments, shocks, catastrophes, and passing-strange destinies.”
31. “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
32. “Let truth be told - women do as a rule live through such humiliations, and regain their spirits, and again look about them with an interested eye. While there's life there's hope is a connviction not so entirely unknown to the "betrayed" as some amiable theorists would have us believe.”
33. “Never in her life – she could swear it from the bottom of her soul – had she ever intended to do wrong; yet these hard judgments had come. Whatever her sins, they were not sins of intention, but of inadvertence, and why should she have been punished so persistently?”
34. “She was not an existence, an experience, a passion, a structure of sensations, to anybody but herself. To all humankind besides Tess was only a passing thought. Even to friends she was no more than a frequently passing thought.”
35. “...she moved about in a mental cloud of many-coloured idealities, which eclipsed all sinister contingencies by its brightness.”
36. “That it would always be summer and autumn, and you always courting me, and always thinking as much of me as you have done through the past summertime!”
37. “Meanwhile, the trees were just as green as before; the birds sang and the sun shone as clearly now as ever. The familiar surroundings had not darkened because of her grief, nor sickened because of her pain.  
      
    She might have seen that what had bowed her head so profoundly -the thought of the world's concern at her situation- was found on an illusion. She was not an existence, an experience, a passion, a structure of sensations, to anybody but herself.”
38. “Why it was that upon this beautiful feminine tissue, sensitive as gossamer, and practically blank as snow as yet, there should have been traced such a coarse pattern as it was doomed to receive; why so often the coarse appropriates the finer thus, the wrong man the woman, the wrong women the man, many years of analytical philosophy have failed to explain to our sense of order”
39. “What is it, Angel?" she said, starting up. "Have they come for me?"  
      
    "Yes, dearest," he said. "They have come."  
      
    "It is as it should be," she murmured. "**Angel, I am almost glad—yes, glad! This happiness could not have lasted. It was too much. I have had enough; and now I shall not live for you to despise me!"**  
    She stood up, shook herself, and went forward, neither of the men having moved.  
      
    **"I am ready," she said quietly.”**