

Tess of the d'Urbervilles Characters

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Characters

Main Characters

- **Tess Durbeyfield** – The protagonist and tragic heroine. A poor country girl. Innocent and hardworking. Life treats her cruelly, though she does no real wrong. She is a pure woman.
- **Angel Clare** – Son of a clergyman. Honest but proud. Wants to be a farmer, not a priest. He loves Tess but fails to support her when she needs him most.
- **Alec d'Urberville** – A rich and selfish young man. Arrogant, cunning, and shameless. He ruins Tess's life by using his wealth and power.

Durbeyfield Family

- **John Durbeyfield** – Tess's father. Lazy and often drunk. Becomes proud when he learns about his "noble" family name.
- **Joan Durbeyfield** – Tess's mother. Simple, careless, and often selfish. Hopes Tess will marry Alec for the family's good.
- **Liza-Lu Durbeyfield** – Tess's younger sister. Good and kind-hearted. Tess wishes Angel to marry her after Tess's death.
- **Abraham Durbeyfield** – Tess's younger brother.
- **Other Children** – **Hope** and **Modesty** are Tess's younger sisters.
- **Sorrow** – Tess's baby boy, who dies soon after birth.

Clare Family

- **Mr. Clare** – Angel's father. A strict clergyman with strong religious views.
- **Mrs. Clare** – Angel's mother. Proud and class-conscious, but kind in nature.
- **Cuthbert Clare** – Angel's scholarly brother. A clergyman who later marries Mercy Chant.
- **Felix Clare** – Angel's other brother. A curate (assistant priest).

- **Mercy Chant** – A religious young woman expected to marry Angel, but later marries Cuthbert.

Friends & Others

- **Dairyman Crick** – Tess's kind employer at Talbothays Dairy.
- **Mrs. Crick** – His wife. Friendly, helpful, and respectable.
- **Izz Huett, Marian, and Retty Priddle** – Milkmaids who work with Tess. All love Angel. Izz and Marian later pity Tess. Retty tries to harm herself after Angel marries Tess.
- **Farmer Groby** – Tess's harsh employer at Flintcomb-Ash.
- **Mrs. Brooks** – Landlady at The Herons in Sandbourne, where Tess stays with Alec.
- **Parson Tringham** – The clergyman who tells John Durbeyfield about his noble family.
- **Vicar of Marlott** – Refuses to give Sorrow a Christian burial at first.
- **Mrs. Rolliver** – Owner of the ale-house where the Durbeyfields often drink.
- **Mrs. d'Urberville** – Alec's blind, old mother. She loves her birds more than people. Tess once worked for her.