



S P O I L E R

Thomas Hardy, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*

Michael Henchard had hoped to marry Lucetta upon Susan's death. However, Lucetta falls in love with Farfrae and eventually marries him. Henchard loses his business and home to Farfrae, and works as a laborer under his former assistant. Lucetta has a dark past, though, and the townspeople give her a "skimmity-ride", parading an image of her and Henchard down the streets, which affects her so deeply that she dies. Farfrae then marries Elizabeth-Jane, leaving Henchard alone, a despised drunkard. He wanders off. Before dying alone in the countryside he writes in his will that he does not want to be buried in a churchyard, nor have any kind of monument above him, nor be mourned or remembered by anyone.

