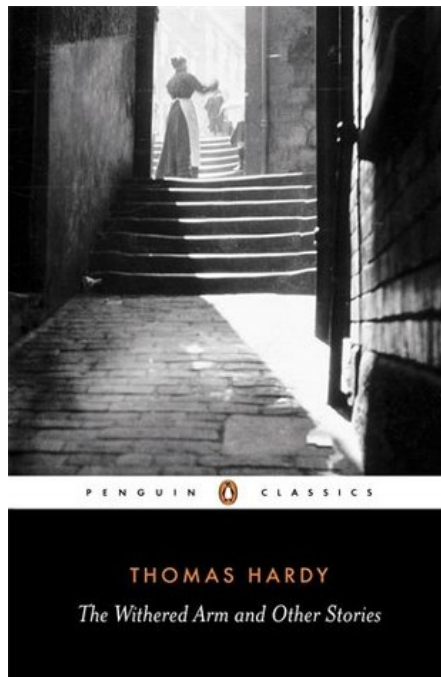




The Withered Arm and Other Stories 1874-1888

Thomas Hardy , Kristin Brady (Noted by)

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"See if she is dark or fair, and if you can, notice if her hands be white; if not, see if they look as though she had ever done housework, or are milker's hands like mine."

So Rhoda Brook, the abandoned mistress of Farmer Lodge, is jealous to discover details of his new bride in 'The Withered Arm', the title story in this selection of Hardy's finest short stories. Hardy's first story, 'Destiny and a Blue Cloak' was written fresh from the success of *Far From the Madding Crowd*. Beautiful in their own right, these stories are also testing-grounds for the novels in their controversial sexual politics, their refusal of romance structures, and their elegiac pursuit of past, lost loves.

Several of the stories in *The Withered Arm* were collected to form the famous volume, *Wessex Tales* (1888), the first time Hardy denoted 'Wessex' to describe his fictional world. *The Withered Arm* is the first of a new two-volume selection of Hardy's short stories, edited with an introduction and notes by Kristin Brady.

The Withered Arm and Other Stories 1874-1888 Details

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Xiscally says

No he acabado este libro y no me vuelven a ver con uno de Thomas Hardy. No digo que no tenga su valor literario e histórico, pero me aburre soberanamente, no soporto ese enfoque tan detallista, tan vicario de campiña inglesa, de vivir para contemplar como tu vida se cubre de musgo y resignación cristiana. Espero que haya algún Naturalista más adecuado para mí por ahí.

Helena Greenleaf says

3,5/5

Anabaraneta says

The Whithered Arm

Teresa says

Siempre es un placer leer a Thomas Hardy pero al ser relatos independientes es difícil reseñar, unos me han gustado, otros no la verdad, así que se queda en tres estrellas.

César Lasso says

Las recopilaciones de relatos breves que incluyen *El brazo marchito* de Thomas Hardy son muy diversas. Yo voy a reseñar la de Valdemar, que es la que he leído y recoge las siguientes narraciones:

- Cita en una fortaleza antigua (A Tryst at an Ancient Earthwork, 1885)
- El anfiteatro de Maumbury (Maumbury Ring, ?)
- Los Winter y los Palmley (The Winters and the Palmleys, 1891)
- El violinista de las contradanzas (The Fiddler of the Reels, 1893)
- La tumba junto al poste (The Grave by the Handpost, 1897)
- Bárbara de la casa de Grebe (Barbara of the House of Grebe, 1890)
- El brazo marchito (The Withered Arm, 1888)

Los dos primeros textos me resultaron poco interesantes. El segundo, incluso, ni siquiera es un cuento. Probablemente Hardy lo escribió como una crónica periodística de curiosidades sobre el anfiteatro de Maumbury, por encargo de algún periódico local. Esto se nota tanto más cuanto que menciona expresamente

el autor su ciudad de Dorchester, que en sus relatos de ficción se convierte en Casterbridge, tal como Clarín transformó el Oviedo en que vivió en la provinciana ciudad de Vetusta.

Sin embargo, a medida que avanzaba en la lectura, las narraciones fueron ganando interés para mí. Valdemar ha seleccionado estas siete narraciones por su carácter “tenebroso”, que encajaban en su colección El Club Diógenes. De todos modos, han elegido el adjetivo “tenebroso” porque el de “macabro” se les quedaría grande. Hardy, para mí, es un escritor de la corriente europea del Realismo, ya contemporáneo del Naturalismo de Zola, y no parece propenso a la fantasía gótica. El hilo conector de estas piezas es el elemento sombrío, que suele acabar en muerte o, en el caso de los textos iniciales, en ruinas históricas que sugieren el sufrimiento continuado de miles de seres que han poblado esos lugares.

Mis dos relatos favoritos han sido los últimos, que por cierto son los más extensos. Estos me han decidido a darle cuatro estrellas al libro. En *Bárbara de la casa de Grebe* se describe la historia de una obsesión o, más bien, de una joven obsesiva, que transfiere su fijación de un objeto a otro cuando el primero desaparece. Y en El brazo marchito sí hay un elemento sobrenatural, un hechizo, aunque seguimos viendo, como en *Bárbara de la casa de Grebe*, en *Los Winter y los Palmley* o en *El violinista de las contradanzas*, una de las preocupaciones de Hardy: los matrimonios con algún tipo de desajuste que acaba en desgracia, tal como ocurría en la anterior novela que leí de este autor: *Los habitantes del bosque (The Woodlanders)*.

Louise Colclough says

A wonderful collection of Thomas Hardy's short stories.

This was my introduction to Hardy's writing and he's a very a descriptive writer and usually that is something I don't like too much of but I enjoyed all of these stories in one way or another and now I can't wait to delve into his novels!

Shunta Kawakata says

1)Thomas Hardy,Oxford,Level 1

2)7/3=83minutes

3)1.the withered arm 2.curse 3.phantom 4.love 5.friendship 6.wise man 7.hangman

4)Do you believe in phantom?

-Yes,I believe in phantom,ghost. I have heard an uncanny noise from a vacant room. I thought that a ghost must be there!

5)Its story is strange. I was surprised at this last scene. I can't understand why Rhoda's son did such a thing. For himself or for family? I think this book stirs a person's imagination.

Rosie Cairns says

I enjoyed this more than I expected to. Hardy's style of writing takes a while to get used to but once past that I liked the detail of his writing.

Charlotte says

I found this short story quite enjoyable, however in my opinion it was quite a hard read and surprisingly slow going for a short story.

Erika RS says

I enjoy Hardy's stories, but sometimes you just want to shake the characters. Such small annoying acts of will and fate destroy lives again and again! I think Hardy is better to take in small doses, one unhappy ending at a time.

Elderberrywine says

So back when I was a teen, Hardy was totally my jam. Tragic heroines, rural English countryside, what was not to love?

And now, however, I notice that Hardy is the patron saint of Make one small miscalculation, and your life is straight down the tubes, girl. (Heads up, guys, not so much for you.)

Hmmm.

Huda Aweys says

So terror ! :) .. , and there are many points weren't clear, like the secret of the dream ... The photo in the glass .., But this unclearing is OK in a mystery and horror stories as I think anyway !

Dori Sabourin says

Utilizing human behavior and foibles, Thomas Hardy gives his readers insight into how emotions can shape the destiny of his characters. Thus, we see retaliation in "Destiny and The Blue Cloak;" and "The Withered Arm;" trickery in "The Thieves Who Couldn't Stop Sneezing;" "The Three Strangers;" and "The Romantic Adventures of a Milkmaid;" iniquity in "The Distracted Preacher;" envy in "Fellow Townsmen;" false pride in "Interlopers at the Knap;" and irony in "The Waiting Supper." I would recommend this book to students and all who are interested in literature.

Elmhogar says

This was a gag for Dave's broken wrist but turned out to my cup of tea - I love Hardy!

Sam Campbell says

I really enjoyed this set of short stories. It even contained an ever elusive happy ending with "The three strangers".
