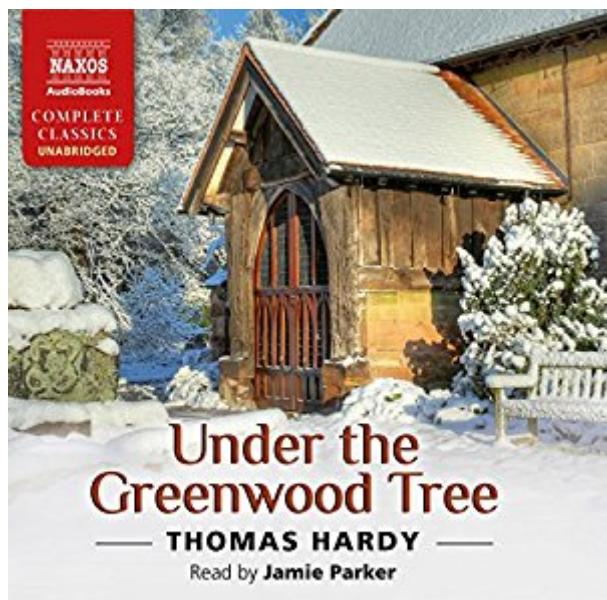


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# Under The Greenwood Tree: The Mellstock Choir - A Rural Painting Of The Dutch School



## **Synopsis**

Under the Greenwood Tree is an affectionate and youthful portrait of a world Hardy knew well - village life in 'Wessex' - in which a romantic tale is set against changing circumstances. The traditional feature of local music making performed by the village band and choir is challenged by the modern innovation of organ and organist providing music in the church. Fancy Day, the new, comely school mistress is also an accomplished organist, and these qualities create conflict in the village, especially when the unmarried young vicar and Dick Dewy, a member of the Mellstock parish choir vie for her attention. In this, only his second novel, Hardy presents one of his most gentle and charming pictures.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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## **Customer Reviews**

Under the Greenwood Tree came to my attention via Netflix. Because I watched a certain period film (can't remember which), Netflix conveniently listed some related titles, and I chose one with little conscious direction. Under the Greenwood Tree as a movie turned out to be mostly slow-paced, but cute, quaint, and romantic. Dickens, Bronte, and Eliot it is not; I'd venture to say it's even more fluffy than Austen. Still, it piqued my curiosity to discover that it was originally a classic novel by Thomas Hardy, known more for his tragedies than his pastoral romances. I borrowed the book from my local library to see how closely the film followed the original story (as I am wont to do). With regard to the church choir story arch, it holds quite close. There are a few details left out, and one or two misadventures added, which I've come to expect from adaptations, that, had they been left it, would

have turned a casual stroll of a movie into a dragging miniseries. Short version: The Millstock country choir is being replaced by a harmonium (mini organ) at the behest of the new parson, Mr. Arthur Maybold. Some of the older members seem to acquiesce to the transition, but the younger members view it as an intrusion on their personal rights. In the movie, a plot unfolds to subvert the harmonium's installation, which has unfortunate consequences, while in the book, the transition progresses without a hitch. The Richard (Dick) Dewy and Fancy Day romance story arch, however, has vast discrepancies, most notably in both character development and plot events. Dick Dewy (played by James Murray) is portrayed accurately enough, being both handsome and often silly, but Fancy in the movie (played by Keeley Hawes) is given much more credit than her novel counterpart.

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