#### Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)

# 7 The Dark-Eyed Gentleman

Ι

I pitched my day's leazings in Crimmercrock Lane, To tie up my garter and jog on again, When a dear dark-eyed gentleman passed there and said, In a way that made all o' me colour rose-red,

"What do I see—

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O pretty knee!" And he came and he tied up my garter for me.

# Π

'Twixt sunset and moonrise it was, I can mind: Ah, 'tis easy to lose what we nevermore find!— Of the dear stranger's home, of his name, I knew nought, 10 But I soon knew his nature and all that it brought.

#### Then bitterly

## Sobbed I that he

Should ever have tied up my garter for me!

## III

Yet now I've beside me a fine lissom lad, And my slip's nigh forgot, and my days are not sad; My own dearest joy is he, comrade, and friend, He it is who safe-guards me, on him I depend; No sorrow brings he,

# And thankful I be

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That his daddy once tied up my garter for me!

#### 1909

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