

A Study on the Causes of Bathsheba's Fate in *Far from the Madding Crowd*

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Abstract: *Far from the Madding Crowd* is a novel by the English novelist Thomas Hardy in the early period. In this novel, Hardy used unique perspective and avant-garde ideas to create the female character Bathsheba in a new era, endowing her with dramatic fate. Most of the previous studies focused on the fate of Bathsheba, yet relatively few put eyes on what contributed to her fate. However, the causes of Bathsheba's fate had some profound meanings implied by the author. By means of analyzing Bathsheba's fate, this essay aims to find out the causes that contribute to the heroine's fate from three aspects, i.e. social background, the heroine's characters and the contradictions between objective and subjective factors. The result of this study shows that the factors in the above three aspects lead to the inevitability of Bathsheba's contradictory life together. It will be not only helpful for fully understanding *Far from the Madding Crowd* and women's fate in Hardy's works, but also practical for thinking over the living situation and fate of women in contemporary age.

Keywords: Fate; Bathsheba; Causes

1. Introduction

Thomas Hardy is a writer spanning two centuries, whose early and middle works are mainly novels, inheriting and developing the literary tradition of the Victorian era. In his later years, he developed English literature in the 20th century with his poetry. Hardy's works reflected the capitalism's invasion of rural towns in England, as well as the tragic fate of people (especially women), revealing the hypocrisy of bourgeois morality, law and religion. "Yet when treating 'woman interest', he shows surprising signs of unconventionality". (Ingham 129)^[1] His works not only inherited the fine tradition of British critical realism, but also opened up the way for English literature in the 20th century.

In General Preface to *The Wessex Edition* of 1912, Hardy saw his "Wessex Novel" as three categories: "Novels of Character and Environment", "Novels of Ingenuity" and "Romances and Fantasies". *Far from the Madding Crowd* is one of Novels of "Character and Environment", which indicates that the fates of the protagonists in *Far from the Madding Crowd* have much to do with the environment and their own characters. Bathsheba is a typical case in this novel. In the Victorian Era, Bathsheba, a beautiful girl, came to a remote village to inherit her uncle's inheritance. She fought against the patriarchy with her independent and strong personality. Her strong independence and confident temperament made three men for her dumping. They were handsome and thick shepherd Gabriel Oak, mature noble Boldwood and wild and reckless officer Troy. Bathsheba chose the most casual and elegant Troy out of her vanity, but to lose both wealth and love. Finally, she had to rely on someone and married the well-behaved Gabriel Oak as a common woman of her age.

In this thesis, part two mainly analyzes the contradictory fate of Bathsheba from the perspectives of her love and career. Part three is concerned with the causes that contribute to Bathsheba's contradictory fate, namely, social background, character and the conflicts between her dream and the reality. What follows is the conclusion of the findings of this study.

2. Bathsheba's Contradictory Fate

2.1 Conflicts in Bathsheba's love

As a distinctive and charming woman, Bathsheba attracted three different men to come around her. The relationships between her and these three men reflected her contradictory love respectively.

First, Bathsheba's relationship and marriage with Oak reflected the contradictions in her love. Bathsheba's wish of a romantic love made her reject Oak's Proposal. Like his name, Oak was as strong as an oak. He was a faithful and traditional shepherd, what he wanted was a farm of his own and a wife who lived a peaceful life with him in the country yard. Bathsheba was proposed by such a man, who was dependable in the public's minds. However, Bathsheba rejected the proposal without any hesitation. She was used to be alone, the ideal love in her mind was romantic and kind of exciting. The marriage with Oak was too far away from her view of love. She wouldn't choose a life that was so usual and kind of boring. That's why she chose to turn down the proposal of Oak. She would not be an understanding mother and loving mother, what she was yearning for was a romantic Don Juan Love. Yet, Bathsheba's rationality let her marry Oak of her own accord. Although Bathsheba always claimed she would not accept a traditional marriage, she still returned back to a plain and common marriage life. After suffering a great deal of pain of love, Bathsheba's young girl's dream of romantic love was disillusioned. She came to understand the reality that the conventional rules were too powerful to challenge, the fate of women in Victorian period depended on men and the whole society. Thus she married Oak regardless of her ideal love, this might be a good home for her, but it was also a yield to tradition.

Second, attracting Boldwood was contradictory to Bathsheba's love pursuits. In Bathsheba's view of love, her dignity as an independent woman should be respected totally. That's why she didn't care how men thought about her. She disdained the act of pleasing a man by most women. But she didn't always behave as her claim. Things changed when Boldwood, a rich and gentle farm owner, came to her life. Boldwood was a gentleman, who was admired by many women in Wessex, but he showed no interest in any woman, including Bathsheba at first. To attract Boldwood's attention, Bathsheba wrote a Valentine Card to him. This card made Boldwood love her deeply, but she didn't accept him at all. Bathsheba was self-contradictory in her relationship with Boldwood.

Third, Bathsheba's failed marriage with Troy also showed the conflicts in her love. Bathsheba insisted she would not be the accessory of any man for if a woman was married with a man in Victorian Age, her possession would belong to her husband. She was always proud when she saw any man. On the other hand, Bathsheba became the victim of the marriage with Troy. The young playboy made her indulge in his sweet talking and behavior. She married this dissolute soldier compulsively. She lost her wealth and her dignity in this marriage. Her husband betrayed and abandoned her. All her demands and standards of ideal love disappeared in her marriage with Troy.

The actual love and marriage between Bathsheba and such three men were contradictory with the ideal love and marriage she yearned for all the time.

2.2 Conflicts in Bathsheba's career

Throughout Bathsheba's life experience, her career formed a part of her contradictory fate. She wanted to do the job as successfully as a man on her own, in fact, there were still many things she couldn't do, so she sometimes had no choice but to rely on others. Inevitably, there were conflicts in her career.

Unlike most women of patriarchal society, Bathsheba has an avant-garde view of career. She relies on herself and strove for her own dignity. Bathsheba made money on her own, because she knew that financial independence supported the spiritual independence. So when Bathsheba took over her uncle's farm, she vowed to make it a real success. She dismissed the previous steward and managed the farm on her own. Bathsheba, by her cleverness and ability, got up early while everyone else was asleep under the covers, ate breakfast quickly before everyone else did, and then searched every corner of the farm. She had once caught a thief single-handedly. During the shearing season, Bathsheba was careful to keep an eye on the men who helped to shear the sheep, so as not to damage them by their carelessness.

Despite of her hardness, she still couldn't deal with any issues in her farm. To some extent, her success in managing the farm owed to Oak's skill and favor. Her career partially relied on Oak. Take the disease of the sheep for example, she knew nothing but to cry "What can I do, what can I do?". (Hardy 21)^[2] She was so helpless when Oak is not by her side, leaving her with flock of dying sheep. She has no choice but to send for Oak. She has to put her pride and arrogant aside and ask Oak for help. "Don't desert me!" (Hardy 22) ^[2] showed Bathsheba might not have such a successful career without the help and support from Oak.

Bathsheba desired to run the farm as a hands-on mistress but couldn't get rid of depending on

others, which led to the conflicts in her career.

3. The Causes of Bathsheba's Fate

3.1 Social background

Like the typical cases in Hardy's *Character and Environment* Novel, the social background of this novel is the crucial core of understanding the life and the fate of the main characters. The story took place in an English countryside in the nineteenth century (the Victorian Age), which was a time of great social changes in England. Under the influence of the industrialization, the peaceful pastoral life become more and more impetuous, especially in economy and ideology. The sharp changes in the society promoted the progress of the story and implied the fate of Bathsheba. The following two aspects of social changes play an important part in Bathsheba's contradictory destiny.

3.1.1 Development of capitalism

The nineteenth century witnessed a rapid development of capitalism and political, economic and social civilization in British history. The whole country experienced the transformation from traditional agricultural society to modern urban society. The industrial revolution not only promoted the development of productivity and economy, but also brought about the changes of social structure, relationships between people, as well as the moral decline of the public. Compared with the increasing development of London, the changing process of Wessex was relatively small, but it still influenced people's life and values slowly. The clamor of the outside world has come to the village with the rumbling machines of the industrial revolution. With the encroachment of industrial civilization, no one can truly stay far away from the madding crowd. Bathsheba was involved in this huge wave of changes, her values began to change, which slowly changed her life and her destiny.

Firstly, her attitude toward love altered through the capitalism development, along with which was moral decay in some way. As the process of industrialization, some people like her no longer have the same unwavering attitude towards love as before, and love does not seem as sacred as that in the bible. Bathsheba began to show her contempt for love and became kind of flirtatious and impulsive. She sent Boldwood a Valentine Card to catch the attention of Boldwood, a man she was not interested in at all. The reason for this casual behavior was only to show her charm as a beautiful lady and to prove that no man will ignore her. However, faced with the affection of Boldwood, she had no clear statement of it, neither refused nor accepted. This led to the miserable life of Boldwood and her own contradictory love with Boldwood. Another example was Bathsheba's relationship with Troy. Since she scarcely took love as a serious thing, she tended to be impulsive in her love and marriage with Troy. Attracted by the romantic and sweet talking of Troy, Bathsheba agreed to marry him without deep consideration. She was too impulsive to marry Troy, which contributed to her tragic and failed marriage.

Secondly, influenced by the social circumstance, Bathsheba went after fame and wealth as most people do at that time. Industrial civilization has drawn away the distance between people and the nature, people were gradually away from nature, running after fame and fortune, which made people lose their original innocence and kindness. Due to the impact of modern civilization, she had to accept the industrialization values. As she inherited her uncle's farm, she was ambitious to create more fame and wealth for herself. She was no longer a simple farmer, she began to learn the methods of traders in the market. She looked forward to win the respect and admire brought by wealth and status. She seemed to forget herself as a farmer, a woman farmer. She wants to be equal to men in her business. She was devoted to her farm and gained a lot of fortune and respect as a successful mistress of a big farm. The more and more fast-paced and impetuous society offered her a chance to keep up with the time, and the resulting material desire came out, she lost the peace and contentment that were deep inside the hearts of simple country people. This competitiveness had also brought her mixed reviews and contradictory life.

3.1.2 Women's status

Hardy is very interested in women's lives and is very sympathetic to women in the hard time, so many of his works concentrate on the living situation and fate of women in the patriarchal society, Bathsheba is one of them. She lived in the Victorian Era when women's social status was experiencing a very slow transformation, thus what role women played in the society was full of controversies.

Female consciousness was still in its fancy in the early Victorian Period.

The emergence of the industrial revolution pushed the development of productivity, and the middle class rose rapidly in this stage. Their ideas and customs increasingly influenced the mainstream values of the society, and the improvement of the social status of women played a key role in the promotion of feminism. Women began to realize and reassess their identity and destiny in the man-controlled society. They also attempted to have a higher position, a better career and education. With the development of the industrial revolution, the education, cognition and economic status of the middle-class women were improved, and they entered the formerly male-dominated professional field for the first time. Bathsheba was a member of them, she ran her own farm and turned over in various commercial financing. There was no doubt that she was a forerunner of the feminist movement.

Meanwhile, though the awakening of women right started to appear, traditional values and criteria were still in the dominant position. It took time for people to accept a new thing, especially those were contrary to their previous deep-rooted point of view. In the early days of Victoria, the status of women was "imprisoned" in the family, as the word "housewife" showed, a good woman equals to the combination of "house" and "wife". "Family angel" was the highest social recognition for middle-class women. The duty of women was to take care of children, please their husband and clean the house. "Purity, piety, submission, and domesticity" are the virtues of every woman. There were plenty of restraints and bounds of women in both home and outside world. Viewed as the dependents of their husbands or fathers, women, for the most part, could not vote, could not serve on juries, and could not hold elective office. All of these were the deep tradition in every people minds. Few could get rid of this ideological bondage, including Bathsheba. Even if Bathsheba behaved differently from many contemporary images of women who were married and raised children, the end of her fate was still returned to the usual and common marriage.

The embarrassing situation of women resulted in Bathsheba's elusive and conflicting life. Judging from her performance and experience, we can find that there are indeed the characteristics of modern women in Bathsheba, but there also exists the epitome of conservative traditional women in her sub consciousness.

Living in such a social background, Bathsheba met the conflicts between progress and conservatism. For one thing, she caught up with the social changes, hoping to possess wealth and respected status as a woman. For the other, she still could not escape the bound and discrimination of women totally, her personality and actions would be judged and commented by a set of conventional criteria. So after a long time struggle, she came back to the marriage that was approved by the world. Consequently, the social background was an integral reasons of Bathsheba's contradictory fate.

3.2 Bathsheba's dual character

Apart from the external factors, the internal factors were also crucial to Bathsheba's contradictory fate. Character is the other important component of Hardy's "Novels of Character and Environment", like any other excellent novels, the characters of the protagonists in Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd* are very vivid and distinctive. "Hardy's heroines are often in stark contrast to their surroundings, Bathsheba is a young lady of the inconsequential, willful, mettlesome type..." (Cox 30-31)^[3] Through the life of Bathsheba, her character always took a decisive place. In the whole novel, the two side of Bathsheba's character can be seen everywhere. Hardy seems to endow Bathsheba with the complicated character on purpose, so analyzing the two side in Bathsheba's character will be extremely helpful for us to understand the reasons of Bathsheba's contradictory fate.

3.2.1 Independent and dependent

As a village girl, Bathsheba desired independence in her life. She loved freedom, relied on herself, strove for her own dignity, and wished to be independent. At the beginning of the novel, Hardy described the woman in a delicate cart, "Gabriel could see a yellow cart, loaded with furniture and plants, coming up the road. Right on top of the pile sat a handsome young woman" (Hardy 12)^[2]. It was a cart that was well-designed and the cart showed its master's difference from the ordinary ones. The cart was what Virginia Woolf called "A room of one's own" . In this cart, Bathsheba could do anything she wanted to do freely. It was a symbol of her independence. Her independence made her think and behave differently from many contemporary images of women.

Bathsheba was independent in her view of love and career. First, because of the independence in

her character, Bathsheba had been satisfied with her single life, having no idea about marriage. She thought that to be the bride is a good thing, but, along with marriage came the attachment to her husband, which made her unhappy. Bathsheba firmly believed women didn't need to rely on a husband, nor to be a person's subsidiary. She didn't need a relationship; she needed a special love to get rid of the ills of attaching to men. She didn't want to be "a canary in the golden house", she looked down upon the marriage with ease and wealth, so she refused the love of Boldwood, who was a rich gentleman, even though it might be the best and the most suitable for a woman in others' eye; she didn't want to be an obedient wife or a tender mother, nor did she want to lose herself in a traditional marriage, so she turned down the proposal of Oak, who was a man of strong principle. She chose Troy because he didn't have too many constraints of the tradition, which made her feel free and independent in this love. What's more, Bathsheba made money on her own, because she knew that financial independence supported spiritual independence. She ran her own farm and had her own possession. This independent will was the advancement in Bathsheba's character, we can notice she already has the consciousness of feminism.

But we have to say that there are still the limitations in Bathsheba's character, she was dependent in many ways. She was not a superwoman; she couldn't do everything perfectly all by herself. Anyway, she was a woman of Victorian Age, so she had something the same as the contemporary women at the deep side in her character. She didn't know how to do when the flock of sheep got a troublesome disease, she had no choice but chase back Oak, even though she asked him to leave and claimed she could deal with the farm all by her own; As Charles Dickens once wrote in his *The Pickwick Papers*: "Love-the most interesting and pardonable of human weakness". (Dickens 61)^[4] Bathsheba was the same as other women in love. She depended on her marriage, she tried to retain her husband when she found her marriage was in danger, even though it was not her fault. She pitifully clung to her miserable marriage to ensure her loneliness had a company. She also longed for a sweet family to release her tiredness and fear. She relied on this sense of belonging that was brought by her marriage, so after she lost both her husband and her wealth, she became helpless and haggard. The weakness in one's personality will be revealed when he suffers great pain, she showed her dependence on others at the moment she accepted the money and help from her rich pursuer Boldwood. Thus, Bathsheba was dependent from the above viewpoints.

From what had been discussed, we came to the conclusion that the independence and dependence in her character were well correspondent with the conflicts in her love and career.

3.2.2 *Brave and fragile*

Bathsheba was brave enough to challenge and break the moral and behavioral constraints of women, boldly deviated from Victorian standards of womanhood. The scene of acrobatics lying on horseback through the undergrowth was a proof of this.

"Riding under the low branches of a tree, she dropped backwards flat on the horse's back, with her feet on its shoulders. Then, first looking round to make sure no one was watching, she sat up straight again and pulled her dress to her knees, with her legs on either side of the horse. This was obviously easier for riding, but not very ladylike." (Hardy 14)

What an unrestrained action! Besides, on the first day she had taken over her uncle's farm, she bravely announced it to the male hired hands that she was their mistress not a male host, and berated the abuse of women. She was full of courage when she met a group of unconvinced men who had more or less prejudice against women. At that age, men were thought to be strong, the master of women's fate, and women could only be weak and dependent on men. It was fairly courageous for Bathsheba to define her own status. She managed the farm under questioning and discussion as the hostess, taking risks and pressure. She ventured into the circle of men and did farm work with them together. All of the above proved that Bathsheba was a brave woman to rebel against unfair treatment.

No matter how strong she was, Bathsheba had her own vulnerability. For instance, she was very vulnerable in her marriage with Troy. She was showing signs of her soft spot in her characteristics of personality when she knew Fanny was pregnant with Troy's child. She suffered a strong shock, then the brave and strong heroine disappeared from readers' sight. What remained was the sorrow and regret woman, the hurt was consuming her energy and power. As a result, she had no intention of managing the farm. At the same time, Boldwood began to press her harder and became crazier, which shot her in a frenzy of desperation. After witnessing Boldwood shot Troy, Bathsheba could not bear any blow, she gave in to the reality and eventually married Oak. By analyzing all of these facts, we can easily find a fragile heroine emerging from the pages.

On the one hand, Bathsheba was dared and fearless to rebel the conventional constraints to women. On the other hand, she was a common woman under the domain of men, she lacked power to clear up all obstacles in her life. The two sides of her character was the reason why Bathsheba rebelled bitterly at the beginning but submitted at the end. They led to her contradictory life step by step.

3.2.3 Uninhibited and sensible

Under Hardy's pen, Bathsheba was uninhibited in many ways. She did as her own routine, and hardly ever care about what others commented upon her. At the beginning of the novel, Bathsheba appeared as a girl looking in the mirror. In the Victorian era, women looking in the mirror outdoors and in public were seen as restless and vain women. Yet, Bathsheba didn't care. Hardy took this action as the way the heroine appeared, aiming to show that she was different from the traditional girl. She didn't mind that her life experience had become the talk of the village. She did whatever she wanted as usual. The uninhibited character urged Bathsheba to marry Troy without hearing Oak's or other people's words. It also led to a marriage that was contradictory to her marriage view indirectly.

However, there was also sensitivity to the position of women in Bathsheba's character. It was exactly this sensitivity that gave rise to the tortuous love and marriage in her destiny. As a woman in Victorian period, she was keenly aware of the differences of men and women. In her mind, language was created for men to express their will freely, but it was too hard for a woman to talk about her own ideas. She wasn't completely indifferent to men's opinions on her, though she looked indifferent to them on the surface. It was not the case that she didn't want to please men at all, though she herself looked down upon the act of pleasing her husband. Bathsheba indeed cared about her image in the three men's minds. For example, she got angry when Oak said her behavior was not dutiful and asked Oak to leave; Boldwood's disregard for her presence irritated her, so she sent a card to him, which resulted in Boldwood's crazy love; she was addicted to Troy's compliment of her beauty, and became the accessory of Troy. Bathsheba was sensitive to her status as a woman and took notice of men's opinion on her, so she somewhat betrayed her original intention to be alone smartly. Thus, her sensitivity also had its effect on her tortuous and contradictory love.

The internal causes for Bathsheba's destiny are the flaws in her own character, or the self-contradictions in her character. Her dual character, the co-existence of contrary personality, led to the conflicts in her fate.

3.3 Conflicts between Bathsheba's dream and reality

Analyzing from the whole contradictory life of Bathsheba, the root cause of her fate is the intense conflicts between her dream and reality. In the old patriarchal society, a woman with rebellious and advanced dream must be limited by the cruel and backward reality. Bathsheba fought for her dream bitterly under the pressure and prejudice from the conservative mass, but her couldn't make her dream come true, and ended with a conventional marriage with a sincere and inflexible man. The backward reality could not allow a woman beyond her time to do what she wanted to do smoothly, there was still little room for an innovative woman's dream.

3.3.1 Forwardness of Bathsheba's dream

Influenced by Darwin's theory of evolution, Hardy made Bathsheba different from the women, even most men of her time, giving her avant-garde dream out of the limitation of outdated concepts.

For one thing, Bathsheba's dream was rebellious. She dreamed of having a love and marriage conforming her own will, so she rejected the conservative Oak and the rich Boldwood; she longed for independent and free personality, so she rode the horse and watched the mirror in public without taking others' comments into consideration. The two aspects in Bathsheba's dream were all against the traditional ideas of a good woman. But as the human history moved on, we could easily figure out that many rebellious ideas of one certain era were proved to be right and significant in the development of human society. Bathsheba's rebellious dream was exactly concerned with the gender equality, which is still a hot issue of modern society. Bathsheba's dream of the dignity and autonomy as a woman was full of modern consciousness though it was rebellious and untamed in Victorian Era.

For the other, Bathsheba's dream was innovative. In opposition to the general conservation,

Bathsheba was creative and bold in many ways. She expected to work outside of home and support herself decently, so she took over her uncle's farm and swore to make a difference; she dreamed for a totally different management system in her farm, so she discarded the old model and dismissed the old steward; she yearned for keeping up with the trend, so she wore fashionable clothes and learned popular manners. Bathsheba's dream showed that she was willing to accept new things and willing to change herself with the process of the society, which was a valuable quality compared with the relatively conservative mass in Victorian Period.

There was no doubt that Bathsheba's dream had come to approach the thoughts and insight of women of the modern age, her dream was much newer and more forward than that of the people in the old patriarchal society.

3.3.2 *Backwardness of the reality*

Bathsheba lived in an English countryside in the nineteenth century, where and when was relatively backward in both ideology and material life. Consequently, the backwardness of the reality fettered the achievement of Bathsheba's dream in the following ways.

First of all, since the lagging reality, any different and new behavior would be seen as betrayal. The mass and the reality would try to block the way the rebels achieve their will. Bathsheba's dream was of this kind in the public's eyes. The reality told her that a woman must depend on a good husband by the failing of her first marriage, which was on her own will. The reality hinder her dream for a unfettered love. This is a good proof of the backwardness of the reality. Most people didn't have the courage to fight against the unfair and wrong rules, they even didn't have the consciousness to rebel, and they took the obedience for granted. The reality lagged so behind that couldn't catch up the advancement of Bathsheba's dream, and thus got in the way of the achievement of her dream inescapably.

Besides, the reality was behindhand because of the widespread conservatism. People tended to like the old tradition inherited from their ancestors and was inclined to repel the new things, especially in the countryside. Along with the industrialization, there came the trendy clothes and casual manners, all of which Bathsheba was interesting in. She wanted to wear the fashionable clothes and behave differently from the conservative rules. But her dream of following the trend was looked down upon by the village, even Oak thought she was kind of flirtatious when she wrote a Valentin Card to Boldwood. This behavior of Bathsheba might be inappropriate in most people's minds, but if we think about it from another perspective, how a woman bounded by the traditional taboo can do such a crazy thing to prove herself? This is exactly Bathsheba's will of defining herself, this is her dream.

Although Bathsheba awakened with advanced dream and pursuits, the society she lived in was relatively lag behind in the acknowledgement of women's right and innovation. Therefore, the unbalanced development between Bathsheba and the surroundings gave rise to the intense conflicts between her dream and the reality. From this perspective, we can infer that though Thomas Hardy was a writer who spoke up for women to improve the status of women in the society, he still couldn't transcend the tradition of male writing, giving Bathsheba the will of a new woman but the ending of a common woman, which led to Bathsheba's contradictory fate inevitably.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, Bathsheba, as a woman described by Thomas Hardy, was a mix of conventional bound and modern awareness. Her strong sense of revolting, her passionate pursuit of independence and her yearning for freedom inspired her to challenge the unreasonable institutions in Victorian Era boldly. This proved that she was an awakened woman ahead of the time. However, as a woman in the patriarchal society, the ideas of patriarchal had already been in Bathsheba's sub consciousness. Such circumstance generated the conflicts and flaws in Bathsheba's character. In other words, Bathsheba was an incomplete rebel and a semi-progressive woman due to the limitation in her own character. These internal contradictory factors, coupled with the prejudice and discrimination upon women in old Victorian age gave rise to Bathsheba's contradictory fate. The backward system and frustrating reality destroyed the advanced dream of Bathsheba. We should realize the fact that Bathsheba began with high awareness of women but ended up with a bow to tradition, which was not only a contradictory fate of a woman, but also a tragedy of culture and civilization. At the same time, this devoid of nature not only exposed the limitations of the author, but also revealed the limitations of culture and humanity. Bathsheba became "an awakened bird kept in a cage"^[5].

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