

Silas Marner

George Eliot

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SILAS MARNER

Chapter 1

Goodbye to Hometown

Raveloe was a small village. Not many people lived there and most of the people knew each other. Silas Marner lived there, too. He came to Raveloe fifteen years ago. He was a lonely man with an ordinary life but people found him strange because they knew nothing about him. He did not talk much. He did not have any friends. He worked at his cottage. He was a weaver. He used a loom to make cloth quickly. It was a new thing for village people. They did not see it before, so they could not understand the mechanism. Especially the young boys were interested in the loom's strange noise. They came to Silas's house to watch the loom.

Before this small village, Silas had a different life. He lived in a big town called Lantern Yard. He had the same job there but nobody thought he was strange. He had a lot of friends. He was the member of the church and went there every Sunday with the other weavers of the town. He loved God and believed that God loved him too.



The squire was not stupid. "Tell me, Godfrey, why did you give him the money?" he shouted. "I know the answer; you made a mistake and wanted to keep Dunstan quiet."

"No Sir! It was only a business between me and him. It is not important." said Godfrey.

"You are not a strong man in character, Godfrey! You are not like me. You need a strong wife. You told me that you would like to marry Nancy Lammeter. I agree with that. You must marry her. Did you ask her?" asked the Squire.

Godfrey said "No" sadly. "She will not say yes."

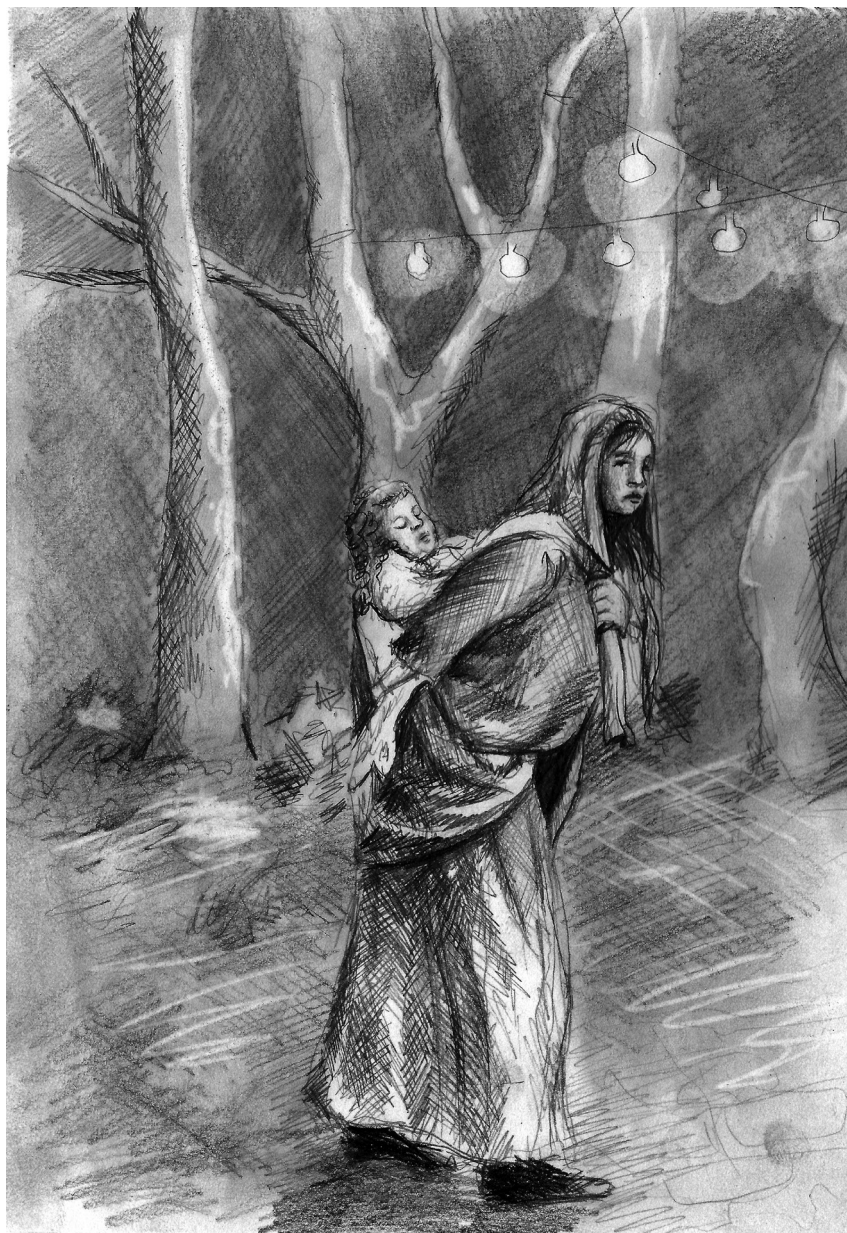
"Are you joking? You are my son, the strongest man of the village. All the girls here would love to marry you. Do you still want Nancy?"

"Yes Sir, very much." answered Godfrey. "I only want to marry her."

"All right, son. Then I will see her father and talk about this. I think she is a nice girl and can make you happy."

Godfrey got panicked. "Please father, do not do that. I want to talk to Nancy myself." The squire accepted.

At the end of this conversation, Godfrey was happy because his father did not find out his secret about Molly. But he was a little afraid that his father would do something about Nancy.



Chapter 10

A Happy Ending

They did not talk on the way home. What could they say? Nancy felt sorry for her husband. She gave him a kiss.

“That is the end of the story. I will never have Eppie.” said Godfrey.

“We heard her. She does not want to live with us. I am not sure if we can change her mind.” said Nancy.

“That is impossible. I left her when he was a little baby. Now she is angry with me and she is right. I left my own daughter and stayed away from her for sixteen years. A stranger kept her. He loved and protected her.” cried Godfrey. “I made big mistakes in my life and now I deserve all these.”

“Will you tell others about Eppie?” asked Nancy.

“It is not necessary. She has her own life. I can only help and support her secretly. She told us about a boy. She wants to marry him. We must find out his name. We can help her get married.” said Godfrey.

“I think she wants to marry Aaron Winthrop. He is a

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Activities

Chapters 1 - 2

Read chapter 1 and chapter 2. Circle the correct answer for each question.

- 1. Before Raveloe, Silas lived in Lantern Yard and ----.**
 - a) he had a happy life
 - b) he was a lonely man

- 2. What was the difference between Silas and his best friend William?**
 - a) William was handsome but Silas was not.
 - b) Silas could see his mistakes but William did not.

- 3. When people blamed Silas for the money, William ----.**
 - a) did not believe them and helped Silas
 - b) blamed Silas too

- 4. Why was Silas' knife in the church?**
 - a) William put it there.
 - b) Silas stole the money and left it there.

Characters

1. Match the characters with the correct information.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Sarah | a. lost his wife years ago. |
| 2. William | b. wanted to live with Silas forever. |
| 3. The Squire Cass | c. did not steal Silas's money. |
| 4. Nancy | d. was worried about Godfrey's lifestyle. |
| 5. Godfrey | e. wanted to marry Eppie. |
| 6. Jem Rodney | f. was proud of his son. |
| 7. Aaron | g. was glad that Silas left the town. |
| 8. Mrs Dolly | h. married a woman from the town and then regretted. |
| 9. Eppie | i. married William. |

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. ____ | 6. ____ |
| 2. ____ | 7. ____ |
| 3. ____ | 8. ____ |
| 4. ____ | 9. ____ |
| 5. ____ | |

Glossary

adopt	to take someone else's child into your family and become the parent of that child * My sister and her husband <i>adopted</i> a child last year.
apologise	to tell someone that you are sorry for a mistake * Jerry <i>apologized</i> to me for his rudeness.
body	a dead person; corpse * The police found a <i>body</i> in the river.
brave	not afraid * The people were very <i>brave</i> . They saved a kitten from the fire.
breathe	to take air into your lungs * <i>Breathe</i> deeply and try to clear your mind.
cheer up	try to make someone happy * My mother tried to <i>cheer</i> me <i>up</i> with some jokes.

thief	someone who steals things * The police finally caught the <i>thief</i> yesterday.
tinderbox	a small box for the lighter or matches * My father lost his <i>tinderbox</i> , but I found it in the garden.
trust	to believe that a person is good and honest * He never <i>trusts</i> people easily.
weaver	a person who makes cloth * My grandfather was the only <i>weaver</i> in the village.