

**SYMBOL OF NATURE IN GERARD BRACH MOVIE SCRIPT  
*TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES***

**A THESIS**

**BY**

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## APPENDIXES

### Biography of Gerard Brach

Gerard Brach (July 23, 1927 – September 9, 2006) was a renowned French screenwriter and occasional film director, best known for his long-standing collaboration with celebrated filmmaker Roman Polanski. Born in Montrouge, a suburb of Paris, Brach originally trained in fine arts and literature before turning to screenwriting in the 1960s, quickly establishing himself as one of the most original voices in European cinema.

Brach's screenwriting career was distinguished by his poetic and psychological depth, often weaving dark, surreal, or tragic elements into his scripts. His work contributed significantly to the French New Wave and European art cinema, though he maintained a unique identity distinct from the major movements of his time.

Brach's collaboration with Roman Polanski was pivotal in his career. Their partnership began with *Repulsion* (1965), a psychological horror film that gained critical acclaim. This was followed by a string of highly influential films, including:

- *Repulsion* (1965)
- *Cul-de-sac* (1966)
- *The Fearless Vampire Killers* (1967)
- *The Tenant* (1976)
- *Tess* (1979)

*Tess* (1979), based on Thomas Hardy's novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, was one of Brach's most lauded screenplays. Co-written with Roman Polanski and John

Brownjohn, the film was praised for its lyrical adaptation of the novel's themes and was nominated for several Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Beyond his work with Polanski, Brach also collaborated with other notable directors such as:

- Jean-Jacques Annaud – *Quest for Fire* (1981), a prehistoric adventure story that won several awards.
- Claude Berri – *Lucie Aubrac* (1997)
- Enki Bilal – *Bunker Palace Hôtel* (1989) and *Tykho Moon* (1996)

In addition to screenwriting, Brach directed two films:

- *La Maison* (1970) – a surrealistic and obscure psychological drama.
- *The Boat on the Grass* (*Le bateau sur l'herbe*) (1971) – a film that explored the boundary between youth and adulthood, infused with metaphor and visual poetry.

### **Literary Works**

Though Brach was primarily known for his screenplays, he also engaged in literary writing. His screenplays often read like literary texts, filled with symbolism, psychological insight, and philosophical undertones. Some of his screenplays, including *Tess*, are studied for their literary merit in academic settings. However, he did not publish novels or other literary works independent of his cinematic career.

### **Legacy**

Gerard Brach remains a significant figure in 20th-century European cinema for his contribution to psychological and literary screenwriting. His ability to blend

narrative complexity with emotional depth made his works resonate across generations. He passed away in Paris in 2006 at the age of 79.

### **Characters List**

1. **Tess Durbeyfield:** a beautiful, innocent, young girl from a poor family. Represents the innocence and victimization of the patriarchal society and social class of the time. Experiencing much suffering due to fate and the actions of those around her. Her character is very complex: tough, loyal, yet vulnerable.
2. **Alec D'Urberville:** a wealthy man claiming to be royalty from the d'Urberville family. Tricked and raped Tess, becoming the main trigger of tragedy in Tess's life. He is portrayed as a manipulative and predatory character, but at the end of the story shows a religious side (although his sincerity is questionable).
3. **Angel Clare:** the son of a parson and aspiring who later became a farmer. An idealistic and intelligent man, he fell in love with Tess and married her. Leaving Tess after learning of her past, showing moral hypocrisy despite claiming to be liberal. His character illustrates the conflict between idealized values and reality.
4. **John Durbeyfield:** Tess's father, a lazy man and a drinker. Very proud to know that his family is descended from nobility (d'Urberville), even though there is no real benefit to that information. Often makes bad decisions that make things worse for the family.

5. **Joan Durbeyfield:** Tess's mother, more realistic and ambitious than her husband. Encourages Tess to go to the d'Urberville family for profit, though later regrets the consequences.
6. **Eliza-Louise (Liza Lu):** Tess's younger sister. Described as gentle and pious. At the end of the story, Angel Clare shows interest in her after Tess' death, as a form of atonement.
7. **Abraham, Hope, and Modesty Durbeyfield:** the other Durbeyfield children, Tess's younger siblings.
8. **Sorrow Durbeyfield/D'Urberville:** Tess's child with Alec d'Urberville, who dies in infancy.
9. **Parson and Mrs. Clare:** Angel's parents.
10. **Cuthbert and Felix Clare:** Angel's brothers.
11. **Parson Tringham:** the minister who tells John Durbeyfield of his lineage.
12. **Mrs. D'Urberville:** Alec's mother.
13. **Mr. Richard Crick:** dairy farmer who owns Talbothays Dairy. He is kind to Alec and Tess.
15. **Izz Huett, Marian, and Retty Priddle:** Tess's friends at Talbothays and Flintcomb-Ash. All are also in love with Angel.
16. **Farmer Groby:** farmer in charge of Flintcomb-ash, the second farm where Tess works. He is very hard and demanding.

## **Summary Tess of The D'Urbervilles**

Tess of the d'Urbervilles is a novel that was later adapted into a movie script, depicting the life of a young woman named Tess Durbeyfield, who comes from a poor family in the English village of Marlott. When her father learns that they are descended from the noble d'Urberville family, new hope arises to improve their lot. However, Tess' journey to a better life is disastrous when she meets Alec d'Urberville, who rapes her and changes her life forever.

After the tragic incident, Tess returned home and tried to live her life despite facing the stigma of society. She gave birth to a child by Alec, who she named Sorrow, but the baby did not survive long. The shame and rejection from her community left Tess feeling alienated and forced to look for work elsewhere.

At Talbothays Dairy, Tess meets Angel Clare, an idealistic young man who falls in love with her. Although Tess feels unworthy of Angel because of her past, they eventually become engaged. However, during the wedding night, Tess reveals the truth about her previous relationship with Alec, which disappoints Angel and leaves him to search for himself in Brazil.

In a state of despair, Tess is forced to return to Alec who is now trying to lure her back. She feels trapped in a situation she doesn't want to be in, but the need to survive makes her accept Alec's offer. When Angel returns and finds Tess in a predicament, he attempts to repair their relationship, but things get complicated.

Tess faces a dilemma between love and honor, and in a moment of emotional peak, she kills Alec after being caught up in anger and despair. After the deed, Tess runs away and hides, but is eventually arrested by the authorities.

The legal proceedings she faces reflect the social injustices experienced by women of the time. Tess was tried and sentenced to death, symbolizing her struggle and suffering.

Tess's story ends in tragedy, illustrating how the harsh and unfair norms of society can destroy the life of a woman who really just wants to find happiness and love. The novel, which has been adapted into a movie script, is a sharp critique of the social and moral conditions in 19th century England, and highlights the powerlessness of the individual in the face of an oppressive system.