AT CASTERBRIDGE FAIR

THE BALLAD-SINGER

SING, Ballad-singer, raise a hearty tune;Make me forget that there was ever a oneI walked with in the meek light of the moonWhen the day's work was done.

Rhyme, Ballad-rhymer, start a country song; Make me forget that she whom I loved well Swore she would love me dearly, love me long, Then – what I cannot tell!

Sing, Ballad-singer, from your little book; Make me forget those heart-breaks, achings, fears; Make me forget her name, her sweet sweet look – Make me forget her tears.



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G. Grigson, A Choice of Thomas Hardy's Poems © Macmillan Publishers Limited 1969