

The Mill on the Floss

Book 6 and 7 :-





Book # 06

- ▶ After two years since her father's death she was a teacher and gets an invitation from her cousin, Lucy Deane . Lucy is being courted by Stephen Guest , a handsome young man and son of the senior partner of Guest and Co. – Phillip was mutual friend of Stephen and Lucy. Stephen makes mocking remarks on Tulliver's and Maggie before seeing her.
- ▶ Situation is contrary to this when Stephen sees Maggie. He was attracted towards Maggie's beauty. "*highly strung , hungry nature*" deeply affected her.



Book # 06

- ▶ Lucy is revealed by Phillip and Maggie's story. She was a simple and good natured girl. Maggie tells Lucy that Stephen is a self confident man and she would not met him again with out Tom's permission.
- ▶ Tom's practical nature and single minded devotion to his work, stand revealed. Tom is steadfastly hardworking to achieve his aim. He is courageous and practical in the face of difficulty.
- ▶ Maggie is falling under the spell of Stephen's charm . She undergoes deep conflict in her mind.

1. At one time you take pleasure in a sort of perverse self-denial, and at another you ... [cannot] resist a thing that you know to be wrong. Tom Tulliver, Book 6, Chapter 4



Book # 06

- Role of Phillip in getting back Dorlcote mill.
- Psychological insight of Phillip towards attraction of Maggie and Stephen and the same insight of Stephen and Maggie towards each other.
- ***Wakem in a new light:***
- Phillip tells his father that he loves Maggie . Initially, Wakem becomes furious and threatens to disinherit his son. But Phillip accuses to his father of “*gratifying a ridiculous rancour*” . Ultimately, Wakem agrees to Phillip for accepting Maggie as a daughter in law and also agrees to transfer Dorlcote Mill to Guest and Co.



Book # 06

- ▶ Wakem did so because he always had soft feelings for his motherless , deformed son. Moreover, this idea was given by Lucy because she wants Phillip and Maggie together.
- ▶ It is to be noted that none of the characters are intentionally doing wrong. Each one struggles against emotions which are ultimately too strong .
- ▶ Maggie was hiding Stephen's feelings because of trustful nature of Lucy and she cannot marry Phillip with out Tom's permission.

We should break all these mistaken ties that were made in blindness, and determine to marry each other. Stephen Guest, Book 6, Chapter 11



Book # 06

- There is a party at Park House , Maggie was asked to dance . Stephen in the beginning ignores her , faithful to his sense of honour for Phillip and Lucy as he cannot cheat any one of them . Ultimately , Stephen failed to resist against Maggie . He holds her arm in isolation and showers kisses .
- Maggie rush away , angry at herself “**a moment’s happiness**” which was cheating to Phillip , Lucy and “**her own better soul**” . When Stephen feels sorry to her she asks him to avoid her in future .



Book # 06

- On other hand, Maggie tells him that she would like to marry him but she did not wish to go against her brother.
- Clear cut demarcation between Stephen and Phillip's behaviour:
- Stephen attracts on a sensual and physical plain while Phillip attracts her sympathy and sensitivity.
- Maggie goes to stay with Mrs Moss for some days there she feels excited to see Stephen as a surprise visit. Both talked about their marriage which was not possible because it would be unfaithful to Phillip and Lucy.



Book # 06

- Stephen says that it would be hypocritical to love one and marry another . On which Maggie replies:
- *“ real tie lies in the feelings and expectations we have raised in other minds”*
- A party at Aunt Pullet where other relatives also gather for family party.
- Regaining of Mill and the goods from which they had beed departed by the former sale.



Book # 06

- ▶ Lucy tries to combine Tom for the marriage of Phillip and Maggie but he was determined to his decision that he will be *“bound by his father’s memory”* Thus, Tom has
“ strength of will, rectitude of purpose, narrowness of imagination and intellect, great power of self control and a disposition to exert control over others”
- ▶ Indeed , his rigidity in this matter is partly responsible for Maggie’s tragedy.



Book # 06

- ▶ Stephen and Maggie alone in a boat and carried by tides both literally and metaphorically. Her moral resistance has been overcome by her own emotions and Stephen's entreaties. She says that he had taken advantage of her and now something terrible would happen next. Stephen declares that they would go back and take all blame upon himself.

“one course seemed as difficult as another”

- ▶ There was not another option except waiting for next morning.
- ▶ Stephen is inwardly happy that now he can make Maggie marry him.



Book # 06

- Maggie falls asleep on the boat with this feeling that the next day
“must bring back the old life of struggle”
- Maggie has a terrible sleep , full of confused dreams . Next morning she tries her best to reach home early . Bob Jakin sees them together at Mudport. Maggie goes out in the street and takes the first coach she sees but unfortunately **fate** dominates. She reaches New York where she is forced to spend few days at an inn.
- She has overcome temptation but she is bound to suffer .

She had rent the ties that had given meaning to duty, and had made herself an outlawed soul, with no guide but the wayward choice of her own passion. Narrator, Book 6, Chapter 14



Book # 07

- Maggie's sufferings are started. When she returns back home after five days of departure with Stephen . She had been ill due to unending journey. Tom was standing outside house looking hard and bitter . Without knowing what is right and what is wrong Tom says Maggie not to live under the same roof anymore. Mrs. Tulliver decides to go with Maggie. Both goes to Bob Jakin's house .
- Death of Dr. Kenn's wife.



Book # 07

- Reaction of society to Maggie's return without being married. The society especially its female members "*not the world, but the world's wife*" as George Eliot sarcastically remarks consider Maggie's behaviour to be unpardonable.
- ***"It is hoped that Maggie will leave so as to purify the air of St. Ogg's"***
- Role of Dr. Kenn as sincere Christian priest trying to help Maggie.
- Criticism on double standards of society.



Book # 07

- Surprising trait of Mrs. Glegg . She firmly believes that it is the duty of human beings to stand by their kin to protect the family name. Solid ground for battle after Stephen's letter arrives.
- Phillips letter for helping her anytime.
- Midnight:
- The last conflict. Stephen's letter.
- Flood. Maggie and Tom go down together.



Book # 07

- ▶ All the characters are living at the time after five years except Tom and Maggie.

“In their deaths they were not parted”

- ▶ Two men visited the tomb now and then . Stephen came in the company of Lucy , but Phillip always alone. Phillip spends a lot of time among the trees of the Red Deeps.
- ▶ The conclusion calls George Eliot's “purifying sadness” .
- ▶ Maggie's great love and sacrifice for her brother.

I must put up wi' my children ... and if they bring me bad luck, I must be fond on it—there's nothing else to be fond on ... Mrs. Tulliver, Book 7, Chapter 3



Important aspects:

- Elements of Child psychology.
- Art of characterisation.
- Double standards of society.
- Role of fate.
- Death of two central characters at the end is justified or not.