

A PURBECK ROMANCE

Set in Thomas Hardy's Glorious Wessex

Andrew Norman

In this touching memoir of late-flowering romance, set against the backdrop of the rolling Dorset countryside, and with the counterpoint of a Thomas Hardy love story, Andrew Norman relates a captivating and tender tale.

When he set out on his bicycle one sunny summer day in early June, from his hometown of Poole, in Dorset in southern England, for the village of Studland, on a date to meet a lady called Rachel from nearby Swanage, he could not have imagined that this event would change his life.

To his delight, he discovered that Rachel shared his love for the works of Dorset poet and writer Thomas Hardy, and when they discovered that he had written his novel *The Hand of Ethelberta* in Swanage, they decided to retrace the steps of the book's eponymous heroine to locations including Corfe Castle, Nine Barrow Down, and Encombe House. Ethelberta's dreams were realised when she married Lord Mountclere. As for himself Andrew's own dreams were realised when Rachel accepted his proposal of marriage, and their wedding day was the happiest day of his life!

A Purbeck Romance is uplifting and inspiring and is a testament to the restorative power of love amid the beautiful Dorset landscape.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

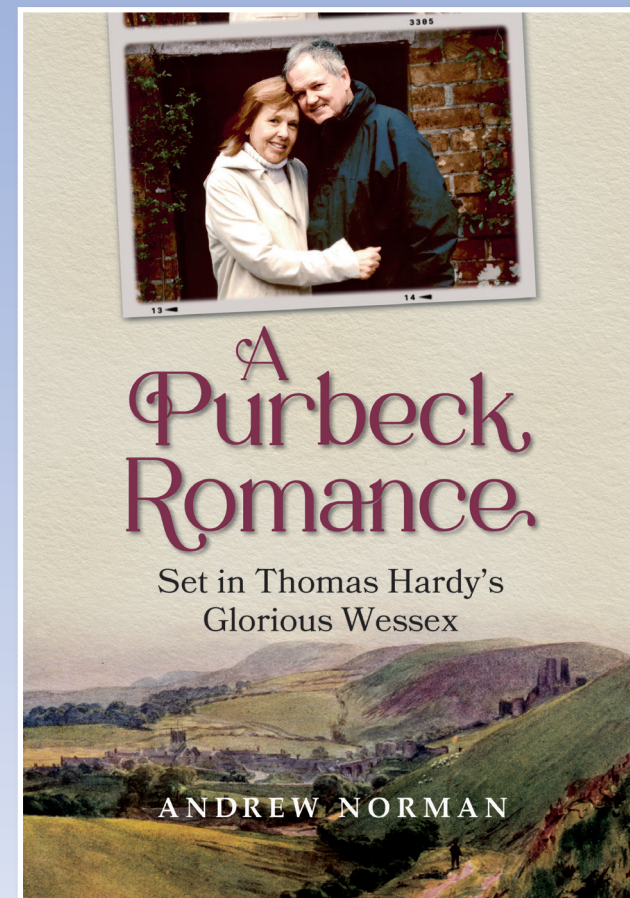
Andrew Norman was born in Newbury, Berkshire, UK in 1943. Having been educated at Thornhill High School, Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Midsomer Norton Grammar School, and St Edmund Hall, Oxford, he qualified in medicine at the Radcliffe Infirmary. He has two children Bridget and Thomas, by his first wife.

From 1972-83, Andrew worked as a general practitioner in Poole, Dorset, before a spinal injury cut short his medical career. He is now an established writer whose published works include biographies of Charles Darwin, Winston Churchill, Thomas Hardy, T. E. Lawrence, Adolf Hitler, Agatha Christie, Enid Blyton, Beatrix Potter, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Andrew married his second wife Rachel in 2005.

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