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Autore	Ray Martin
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Sommario/riassunto	This is the definitive textual analysis of all of Hardy's collected short stories, tracing the development of each from manuscript, through newspaper serial versions, galley proofs and revises to collected editions in volume form. It is no surprise to discover that Hardy's capacity for inveterate revision is manifested in his tales as it was in his novels. Even those stories for which he professed little regard were meticulously and continuously revised, in some cases more than thirty years after their first publication. The alterations extend to the most minute details of plot, landscape, characterisation and style, as well as the restoration of bowdlerised passages which had been demanded by serial magazines. This study will play a major role in elevating the importance of this genre in Hardy's prolific output and will illuminate his textual practices - an area of considerable and growing interest to a large number of scholars and students.