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I think that in the last ten years or so, our society has finally realized that it is normal to grieve over a lost child. In many hospitals, parents are encouraged to hold their stillborn infants and say good-bye. The babies are dressed in infant clothes and photographed so that the parents can have a memento of their child. Support groups exist which allow women who have miscarried or are suffering from post-abortion syndrome to hold memorial services for their lost babies.

Hardy was very successful at telling a story from a woman's point of view. He was able to capture a feminine perspective in much of his writing. However, I feel that for some reason, the emotions did not ring clearly in his writing on this topic.

Judith Boogaart 3 July 1995

That blubber-cheeked,
moon-faced, big-bellied lecher
came waddling
around my house today.
i was prepared
for a grim, gaunt,
sepulchrous wraith,
not this bloated life-gulper,
death, staring in at me.
Intending to ramrod myself
with calm dignity
against the pain of loss,
instead I scrambled awkwardly,
slamming doors, sliding windows,
locking, bolting, frantically
drawing the curtains
to keep that awful grin
from stripping me naked,
leaving a huddle of dirt
and shame and fright.
In the end,
there was a door
with no lock
and the sound of fat,
flaccid feet slap-slapping
up my back stairs.

--for my father, Albert Mannes
4-30-16 to 7-3-95