

cranford by elizabeth gaskell

Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell

Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell is a beloved classic of Victorian literature that vividly captures the charm, humor, and social intricacies of a small English town in the 19th century. This novel, originally published as a series of short stories, offers a compelling glimpse into the lives of the women and men of Cranford, a fictional town based on Gaskell's own experiences in Knutsford, Cheshire. Known for its wit, warmth, and keen social observation, Cranford remains a timeless piece that explores themes of community, gender roles, tradition, and change. In this article, we delve into the plot, characters, themes, historical context, and significance of Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell, providing a comprehensive overview for readers and scholars alike.

Overview of Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell

Background and Publication

Cranford was first published as a series of short stories between 1851 and 1853 in "Household Words," a magazine edited by Charles Dickens. The stories were later compiled into a novel form, published in 1853. Elizabeth Gaskell's depiction of Cranford offers a humorous yet affectionate portrayal of small-town life, emphasizing social customs and the resilience of its inhabitants.

Setting and Context

The fictional town of Cranford is set in the north of England during the Victorian era. The town is characterized by its genteel, if somewhat antiquated, social customs. Gaskell vividly describes the town's landscape, architecture, and societal norms, creating a rich backdrop that enhances the narrative's humor and social commentary.

Plot Summary of Cranford

Cranford follows the lives of its predominantly female residents, focusing on their daily routines, social interactions, and collective efforts to maintain their community's dignity in the face of change.

Main Plot Points

- The story begins with the residents of Cranford, a town where tradition and manners hold significant importance.
- The novel introduces several key characters, notably Miss Matty and Miss Deborah, who embody the values of Cranford's genteel society.
- The arrival of new residents and the changing times threaten the old customs, leading to humorous misunderstandings and social dilemmas.
- The narrative explores themes of friendship, loyalty, and resilience as characters navigate personal and societal challenges.
- The novel culminates with the community coming together in support during times of hardship, exemplifying the strength of social bonds.

Key Characters

- Miss Matty Jenkyns: A kind and gentle lady nearing retirement, embodying the traditional values of Cranford.
- Miss Deborah Jenkyns: Matty's sister, more pragmatic and sometimes humorous in her judgments.
- Mrs. Forrester: A widow who is active and lively, representing modernity clashing with tradition.
- Captain Brown: A charming newcomer whose presence sparks both admiration and intrigue.
- Jenkyns Family: The aristocratic and somewhat eccentric family that influences town affairs.

Themes and Motifs in Cranford

Community and Social Bonds

At its core, Cranford emphasizes the importance of community cohesion. The inhabitants rely on each other's support, demonstrating the strength found in social bonds.

Gender Roles and Women's Lives

The novel provides an insightful exploration of Victorian gender roles, showcasing women's domestic spheres, their friendships, and their limited societal options. Despite restrictions, the women of Cranford display wit, independence, and resilience.

Tradition versus Change

A recurring motif is the tension between maintaining tradition and embracing progress. Cranford's residents often grapple with modern innovations, such as new technologies or social shifts, which threaten their way of life.

Humor and Wit

Gaskell's subtle humor and satire depict the quirks and foibles of small-town life, highlighting human fallibility with affection and insight.

Resilience and Adaptability

Through characters' responses to adversity—such as financial difficulties or social upheaval—the novel underscores the importance of resilience and adaptability in community survival.

Historical and Literary Significance of Cranford

Elizabeth Gaskell's Literary Style

Gaskell's writing combines realism with romance, characterized by detailed character development and social critique. Her ability to blend humor with serious themes makes Cranford a distinctive work in Victorian literature.

Social Commentary

Cranford offers a critique of Victorian societal norms, especially those related to gender and class. It celebrates virtues like kindness, humility, and community spirit, contrasting them with superficial social pretensions.

Influence and Adaptations

The novel's popularity has led to various adaptations, including:

- The 1972 BBC television series "Cranford," which brought renewed popularity to the story.
- Radio adaptations and stage productions.
- Its influence on later literature depicting small-town life.

Major Characters in Cranford

Detailed Character Profiles

- Miss Matty Jenkyns: The gentle, kind-hearted matriarch who values tradition and community. Her personal struggles reflect the changing times.
- Miss Deborah Jenkyns: Known for her wit and straightforwardness, often serving as a voice of reason in the community.
- Mrs. Forrester: An independent widow who often challenges societal expectations.
- Captain Brown: His arrival symbolizes modernity and the potential for change within Cranford.
- Jenkyns Family: Their eccentricities and social status influence many of the town's social interactions.

Supporting Characters

- The townspeople, shopkeepers, and servants, each contributing to the rich social tapestry of Cranford.

Lessons and Takeaways from Cranford

- The importance of community and mutual support.
- Valuing tradition while remaining open to change.
- The strength and resilience of women in Victorian society.
- The humor found in everyday life and human folly.
- The enduring power of kindness and friendship.

Conclusion: Why Read Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell Today?

Cranford remains a relevant and charming read, offering insights into Victorian society while providing timeless lessons on community, resilience, and human nature. Elizabeth Gaskell's masterful storytelling, rich characterizations, and keen social observations make Cranford a must-read for fans of classic literature, social history, and stories celebrating the human spirit. Whether enjoyed as a nostalgic glimpse into the past or as a commentary on enduring social values, Cranford continues to enchant readers around the world.

SEO Keywords and Phrases for Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell

- Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell summary
- Themes in Cranford novel
- Victorian small-town life in Cranford
- Elizabeth Gaskell's Cranford characters
- Social critique in Cranford
- Adaptations of Cranford
- Victorian women in Cranford
- Small-town community stories
- Elizabeth Gaskell classic literature
- Cranford novel analysis

If you want to explore Victorian literature or understand the social fabric of 19th-century England, *Cranford* by Elizabeth Gaskell offers a delightful, insightful, and enduring narrative that captures the essence of a bygone era with humor and humanity.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Cranford' by Elizabeth Gaskell?

The main themes of 'Cranford' include community, social change, gender roles, and the gentle humor found in everyday life, highlighting the small-town Victorian society.

How does Elizabeth Gaskell portray women in 'Cranford'?

Gaskell portrays women as resilient, resourceful, and central to the social fabric of Cranford, often challenging traditional gender expectations of the Victorian era.

Is 'Cranford' based on Elizabeth Gaskell's own experiences?

Yes, 'Cranford' is partly inspired by Gaskell's own childhood in the town of Knutsford, which provided her with insights into small-town life and social dynamics.

What narrative style is used in 'Cranford'?

The novel uses a humorous, anecdotal, and often nostalgic narrative style, presented through a series of vignettes and character sketches.

How does 'Cranford' address social change during the Victorian era?

The novel depicts the gradual social and technological changes impacting Cranford, illustrating how traditional values adapt to modernization while maintaining community bonds.

Has 'Cranford' been adapted into other media?

Yes, 'Cranford' has been adapted into several television series, including a popular BBC adaptation in 2007, as well as stage productions and radio dramas.

What is the significance of the humorous tone in 'Cranford'?

The humorous tone helps to highlight the quirks and warmth of small-town life, making social commentary more engaging and approachable.

Why is 'Cranford' considered a classic of Victorian literature?

Because of its keen social insights, charming depiction of community life, and Elizabeth Gaskell's skillful storytelling, 'Cranford' remains a beloved example of Victorian literature.

Additional Resources

Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell: A Charming Tapestry of Victorian Life

Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell stands as a quintessential novel capturing the quaint charm and social intricacies of a small English town during the early 19th century. Published initially as a series of short stories between 1851 and 1853, the work was later compiled into a cohesive novel that continues to enchant readers with its vivid characterizations, subtle humor, and keen observations of Victorian society. Gaskell's masterful storytelling transports us into a world where manners, community bonds, and the quiet struggles of everyday life intertwine, providing both a nostalgic glimpse into the past and a timeless reflection on human nature.

The Origins and Literary Context of Cranford

Historical and Literary Backdrop

To fully appreciate Cranford, it is essential to situate it within its Victorian context. Elizabeth Gaskell (1810–1865) was a prolific novelist and short story writer, renowned for her ability to depict social realities with compassion and realism. During her lifetime, Britain was experiencing rapid industrialization, urban expansion, and shifting social structures. Gaskell, however, chose to focus on the smaller, often overlooked communities—like Cranford—to explore themes of tradition, social cohesion, and change.

Cranford emerged from a series of sketches that Gaskell originally published in *Household Words*, a periodical edited by Charles Dickens. These sketches were based on her own experiences and observations of a small town in Cheshire, where she frequently visited her friend, the writer Elizabeth Leigh. The stories highlight the genteel, yet somewhat insular, lifestyle of Cranford's inhabitants—predominantly middle-class women whose lives revolve around social rituals, domestic routines, and community gossip.

The Literary Style

Gaskell's style in Cranford combines humor, gentle satire, and warm empathy. The narrative is characterized by a third-person omniscient voice that offers insights into multiple characters' thoughts and motivations. The language is accessible yet refined, capturing the nuances of Victorian manners and speech. The novel's structure—comprising interconnected stories and vignettes—mirrors the mosaic of community life, where each character and event contributes to the larger portrait.

Setting and Atmosphere: The Portrait of Cranford

A Small, Insular Community

Cranford, the fictional town, epitomizes the quintessential English village during the 19th century. It is depicted as a place where tradition reigns supreme, and change is often met with resistance. The town's charm lies in its preservation of old customs, its picturesque streets, and its close-knit society.

Notable Characteristics of Cranford

- **The Social Hierarchy:** The community is predominantly composed of middle-class women, many of whom are widows or unmarried. Their social interactions are governed by strict etiquette and a shared sense of propriety.
- **Domestic Life:** The lives of Cranford's residents revolve around domestic routines—tea, needlework, charity events, and gossip.
- **Tradition vs. Change:** While the town values its traditions, external influences—like the advent of the railway—begin to introduce changes that

challenge the status quo.

Atmospheric Elements

Gaskell's vivid descriptions evoke a nostalgic atmosphere, emphasizing the serenity and stability of village life. Yet, beneath this tranquility lie subtle tensions—fear of change, pride, and the resilience of community bonds.

Main Characters and Characterization

A Focus on Women and Their Roles

Cranford is renowned for its cast of memorable characters, primarily women whose personalities and relationships drive the narrative.

Key Characters

- Miss Matty Jenkyns: The gentle, kind-hearted widow who embodies the traditional Cranford woman—dignified, modest, and somewhat nostalgic for the past.
- Miss Deborah Jenkyns: Miss Matty's more pragmatic and spirited sister, representing a slightly more modern outlook.
- Mrs. Forrester: An elegant, slightly vain lady who maintains high social standards.
- Lady Glenmire: An aristocratic visitor who exemplifies the upper-class attitude and provides a contrast to the local townsfolk.
- Mr. Holbrook: A kind-hearted clergyman, symbolizing moral guidance and community cohesion.

Character Traits and Development

Gaskell's characters are richly drawn, often embodying broader social themes. For example:

- Resilience and Adaptability: Many characters, like Miss Matty, display quiet resilience in the face of societal change.
- Humor and Wit: The characters' humorous dialogues and anecdotes add levity and relatability.
- Social Commentary: Their interactions subtly critique Victorian norms, especially regarding gender roles and social stratification.

Themes and Symbolism in Cranford

Themes Explored

- Tradition versus Progress: The tension between preserving old customs and embracing new innovations is central. The arrival of the railway, for

instance, symbolizes progress disrupting traditional life.

- Community and Solidarity: The strength of Cranford's residents, especially women, lies in their mutual support and shared values.
- Gender Roles and Expectations: The novel offers insights into the limited but increasingly evolving roles of women in Victorian society.
- Memory and Nostalgia: A recurring motif, reflecting longing for a simpler, bygone era.

Symbolic Elements

- The Railway: Represents change, progress, and the inevitable march of time.
- Tea and Social Gatherings: Symbolize community bonds, social hierarchy, and civility.
- The Portraits and Antiques: Reflect a reverence for history and tradition.

The Narrative Style and Literary Devices

Narrative Technique

Gaskell employs a subtle, humorous narrative voice that invites readers into the intimate world of Cranford's residents. The stories are often told through anecdotes, letter excerpts, and dialogues, creating a lively, multi-voiced tapestry.

Literary Devices

- Irony and Satire: Gaskell gently pokes fun at societal pretensions and the absurdities of strict etiquette.
- Character Foils: Characters like Miss Matty and Miss Deborah serve as foils, highlighting different responses to societal change.
- Symbolism: As previously mentioned, objects and settings carry symbolic weight, reinforcing themes.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The 1970s Television Series

One of the most notable adaptations of Cranford was the BBC television series in 1972 and later in 2007, which brought renewed attention to Gaskell's work. The series highlighted the novel's humor, warmth, and social commentary, making it accessible to a broader audience.

Influence on Literature and Popular Culture

Cranford has inspired countless writers and remains a staple in Victorian studies. Its portrayal of strong, independent women and the importance of community resonates with modern audiences. The novel's nostalgic tone and

detailed characterizations have influenced subsequent works depicting small-town life.

Critical Reception and Literary Significance

Initial Reception

Upon publication, *Cranford* was praised for its humor, charm, and social insight. Critics appreciated Gaskell's ability to blend light satire with heartfelt emotion.

Modern Perspectives

Today, *Cranford* is regarded as a pioneering work in the depiction of domestic life and women's roles. Its nuanced portrayal of societal change and resilience has cemented its place as a classic of Victorian literature.

Educational and Academic Relevance

The novel is frequently studied in literature courses focusing on Victorian society, gender studies, and narrative techniques. It exemplifies the use of humor and local color to explore universal themes.

Conclusion: A Timeless Reflection on Society and Humanity

Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell offers more than just a charming portrait of a bygone era; it serves as a profound commentary on the enduring qualities of community, tradition, and human resilience. Through its richly drawn characters, evocative setting, and subtle humor, the novel invites readers to reflect on the delicate balance between change and continuity. Its relevance persists, reminding us that even in the smallest communities, the complexities of human nature and societal bonds remain eternally compelling. Whether viewed as a nostalgic masterpiece or a sharp social critique, *Cranford* continues to enchant and inspire generations, securing its rightful place in the canon of English literature.

[Cranford By Elizabeth Gaskell](#)

cranford by elizabeth gaskell: *Cranford* Elizabeth Gaskell, 2017-01-14 *Cranford* Elizabeth Gaskell *Cranford* is one of the better-known novels of the 19th-century English writer Elizabeth Gaskell. It was first published, irregularly, in eight instalments, between December 1851 and May 1853, in the magazine *Household Words*, which was edited by Charles Dickens. It was then published, with minor revision, in book form in 1853. In the years following Elizabeth Gaskell's death the novel became immensely popular. The first instalment (in *Household Words*), which became the

novel's first two chapters, was originally published as a self-contained sketch, and the irregular way the further seven instalments were published suggests that it took Mrs Gaskell time to think of making this into a book. She was during this period busy writing the three volume novel *Ruth*, which was published January 1853. *Cranford* has been described as practically structureless, and given the irregular nature of how it was first published, it is not surprising that it lacks unity. A. W. Ward describes the novel, as a brief series of sketches, strung together with easy grace.

cranford by elizabeth gaskell: Cranford Elizabeth Gaskell, 2010-10-29 *Cranford* is the best known novel of 19th century English writer Elizabeth Gaskell. The book was first published in a series of episodes in a magazine that was edited by Charles Dickens entitled *Household Words*. The fictional town of *Cranford* is closely modeled after Knutsford in Cheshire, which Mrs. Gaskell knew well. The book focuses around the lives of Mary Smith and her friends Miss Matty and Miss Deborah who are spinster sisters. We come to know many of the people of *Cranford* such as Miss Pole, who is supposed to be the most reasonable and enlightened of all the *Cranford* ladies. We learn of a former milliner named Batty Barker, who owns a cow that she loves like a daughter. We see Peter Jenkyns, the long lost brother of the spinster sisters, return from India. The novel was adapted for television by the BBC three times.

cranford by elizabeth gaskell: Cranford Elizabeth Gaskell, 1998-04-02 This is a new edition of Elizabeth Gaskell's witty and poignant comedy of early-Victorian life in a country town. A lively and up-to-date introduction by Charlotte Mitchell discusses the originality and subtlety of the book's treatment of women's experience. - ;`Cranford is in possession of the Amazons; all the holders of houses, above a certain rent, are women.' In this witty and poignant comedy of early-Victorian life in a country town, Elizabeth Gaskell describes the uneventful lives of the lady-like inhabitants so as to offer an ironic commentary on the diverse experiences of men and women. She explores the unlikely juxtapositions of old and new brought about by the pace of change: the effects of Victorian commerce and imperial expansion co-exist with the survival of customs and habits of thought from much earlier times. This edition has detailed notes and a new introduction which discusses the originality and subtlety of the book's angle on women's experience. -

cranford by elizabeth gaskell: Cranford By Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell (Annotated) Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, 2020-03-19 *Cranford* is one of the better-known novels of the 19th-century English writer Elizabeth Gaskell. It was first published, irregularly, in eight instalments, between December 1851 and May 1853, in the magazine *Household Words*, which was edited by Charles Dickens. It was then published, with minor revision, in book form in 1853. In the years following Elizabeth Gaskell's death the novel became immensely popular.

cranford by elizabeth gaskell: Cranford Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, 2022-06-02 In '*Cranford*,' Elizabeth Gaskell artfully intertwines a rich tapestry of character sketches and satirical vignettes to form a vivid portrayal of mid-19th century small-town life in England. With its keen observance of the subtleties of social interaction and the shifting sands of progress, Gaskell's work stands as both a charming and poignant record of a world in transition. A novel told through a series of linked stories, it captures the essence of *Cranford*, a fictional town modeled after Gaskell's own childhood memories of Knutsford, Cheshire. Gaskell's literary style, marked by a gentle irony and sharp wit, allows her to explore the theme of change without losing the novel's essential warmth and endearment. Its place in the literary context goes beyond nostalgia; it critically examines the dynamics of a society grappling with the balance between tradition and modernity. Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell was a notable figure of Victorian literature, having carved a niche for herself with detailed, progressive, and empathetic depictions of varied social strata. Her narrative in '*Cranford*' likely stems from her own experiences and observations, blending the personal with the universal. As a writer who had lived through the times she describes, Gaskell infuses authenticity and nuanced understanding into the discourse of societal evolution, highlighting the impact of industrialization and urbanization on rural communities. The personal connection to her childhood experiences in Knutsford provides a depth of affection and insight into her portrayal of *Cranford*'s inhabitants and their quaint ways. '*Cranford*' is recommended for those who delight in Victorian literature or are

intrigued by the delicate balance of humor and social critique. Gaskell's beautiful prose and multi-layered characters offer a window into the complexities and charm of a bygone era. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the exploration of community, the inevitability of change, and the endurance of human connections. This novel's gentle satire and compassionate rendering of its characters make it a resonant and enduring classic of English literature.

cranford by elizabeth gaskell: Cranford, by Elizabeth Gaskell Novel (Oxford World's Classics) Elizabeth Gaskell, 2016-05-16 Cranford is one of the better-known novels of the 19th-century English writer Elizabeth Gaskell. It was first published, irregularly, in eight instalments, between December 1851 and May 1853, in the magazine *Household Words*, which was edited by Charles Dickens. It was then published, with minor revision, in book form in 1853. In the years following Elizabeth Gaskell's death the novel became immensely popular. The book is narrated by Mary Smith, a young woman who frequently visits the town and, when away, remains abreast of events through correspondence with the other characters. The first chapter introduces the leading women of Cranford, idiosyncratic yet endearing characters who hope to preserve their lifestyles (and all-important social customs) from change. Rowena Fowler, possessor of a red silk umbrella, conservatively considers an heir while her infirm body has outlived her kin. Miss Betty Barker is also determined to preserve the past, but in the form of her cow, which she sews pyjamas for, as it lost all of its hair after falling into a lime-pit. As for Miss Deborah Jenkyns, she establishes the norms and customs by which the town must abide. However, when Captain Brown moves to town, he challenges the women's rules of politeness. First, he openly admits his own poverty. This is particularly awful to Miss Deborah Jenkyns, whom Brown also offends by finding Charles Dickens a better writer than Jenkyns' preferred Dr. Johnson (Samuel Johnson). Nevertheless, Brown's warm manner subdues his detractors' contention of his supposed social awkwardness; therefore, they allow him to bypass custom and visit before noon. Brown also has two daughters: Miss Brown, an ill-tempered woman with hardened features, and Miss Jessie, who has an innocent face and, like her father, is naive to Cranford's rules. For instance, Miss Jessie boasts that her uncle can provide her with large amounts of Shetland wool. When aristocratic Miss Jamieson overhears, she takes exception to Miss Jessie putting on airs.

cranford by elizabeth gaskell: Cranford Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, 2018-05 Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell. Cranford is one of the better-known novels of the 19th-century English writer Elizabeth Gaskell. It was first published, irregularly, in eight instalments, between December 1851 and May 1853, in the magazine *Household Words*, which was edited by Charles Dickens. It was then published, with minor revision, in book form in 1853. In the years following Elizabeth Gaskell's death the novel became immensely popular. There is no real plot, but rather a collection of satirical sketches, which sympathetically portray changing small town customs and values in mid Victorian England. Harkening back to memories of her childhood in the small Cheshire town of Knutsford, Cranford is Elizabeth Gaskell's affectionate portrait of people and customs that were already becoming anachronisms.

cranford by elizabeth gaskell: Cranford. by Elizabeth Gaskell, 2017-01-26 Cranford (1851), the best-known of Elizabeth Gaskell's novels, first appeared as a serial in the magazine *Household Words*, edited by Charles Dickens. The story revolves around the town of Cranford, home to Mary Smith and her friends, the sisters Miss Matty and Miss Deborah. Life changes when their long-lost brother Peter returns after a long absence.

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cranford by elizabeth gaskell: Cranford Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, 2015-05-02 In the first place, Cranford is in possession of the Amazons; all the holders of houses above a certain rent are women. If a married couple come to settle in the town, somehow the gentleman disappears; he is either fairly frightened to death by being the only man in the Cranford evening parties, or he is accounted for by being with his regiment, his ship, or closely engaged in business all the week in the great neighbouring commercial town of Drumble, distant only twenty miles on a railroad. In short, whatever does become of the gentlemen, they are not at Cranford. What could they do if they were there? The surgeon has his round of thirty miles, and sleeps at Cranford; but every man cannot be a surgeon. For keeping the trim gardens full of choice flowers without a weed to speck them; for frightening away little boys who look wistfully at the said flowers through the railings; for rushing out at the geese that occasionally venture in to the gardens if the gates are left open; for deciding all questions of literature and politics without troubling themselves with unnecessary reasons or arguments; for obtaining clear and correct knowledge of everybody's affairs in the parish; for keeping their neat maid-servants in admirable order; for kindness (somewhat dictatorial) to the poor, and real tender good offices to each other whenever they are in distress, the ladies of Cranford are quite sufficient. A man, as one of them observed to me once, is so in the way in the house! Although the ladies of Cranford know all each other's proceedings, they are exceedingly indifferent to each other's opinions. Indeed, as each has her own individuality, not to say eccentricity, pretty strongly developed, nothing is so easy as verbal retaliation; but, somehow, good-will reigns among them to a considerable degree.

cranford by elizabeth gaskell: THE CRANFORD BY ELIZABETH CLEGHORN GASKELL Annotated Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, 2021-04-24 Cranford is a witty portrait of small town life in early-Victorian England. The story unfolds through the eyes of Mary Smith, a young woman who observes the comedic struggles of two middle aged sisters in their efforts to maintain a level of refined dignity amid poverty. Cranford is one of the better-known novels of the 19th-century English writer Elizabeth Gaskell. It was first published, irregularly, in eight instalments, between December 1851 and May 1853, in the magazine Household Words, which was edited by Charles Dickens. It was then published, with minor revision, in book form in 1853. In the years following Elizabeth Gaskell's death the novel became immensely popular.

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cranford by elizabeth gaskell: Cranford Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, 2016-12-09 Why buy our paperbacks? Standard Font size of 10 for all books High Quality Paper Fulfilled by Amazon Expedited shipping 30 Days Money Back Guarantee BEWARE of Low-quality sellers Don't buy cheap paperbacks just to save a few dollars. Most of them use low-quality papers & binding. Their pages fall off easily. Some of them even use very small font size of 6 or less to increase their profit margin. It makes their books completely unreadable. How is this book unique? Unabridged (100% Original content) Font adjustments & biography included Illustrated About Cranford: By Elizabeth Gaskell Cranford is one of the better-known novels of the 19th-century English writer Elizabeth Gaskell. It was first published in 1851 as a serial in the magazine Household Words, which was edited by Charles Dickens. A collection of comic sketches serialized in Charles Dickens's journal Household Words, these stories look to sympathetically portray changing small-town customs and values. Harkening back to memories of her childhood in the small Cheshire town of Knutsford, Cranford is an attempt to portray an affectionate picture of a class and customs already becoming

anachronisms.

cranford by elizabeth gaskell: *Cranford (Illustrated)* Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, 2016-12-16 Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, (29 September 1810 - 12 November 1865), often referred to as Mrs Gaskell, was an English novelist and short story writer during the Victorian era. Her novels offer a detailed portrait of the lives of many strata of society, including the very poor, and are of interest to social historians as well as lovers of literature. Her first novel, *Mary Barton*, was published in 1848. Gaskell's *The Life of Charlotte Brontë*, published in 1857, was the first biography about Brontë. Some of Gaskell's best known novels are *Cranford* (1851-53), *North and South* (1854-55), and *Wives and Daughters* (1865). *Cranford* is one of the better-known novels of the 19th-century English writer Elizabeth Gaskell. It was first published, irregularly, in eight instalments, between December 1851 and May 1853, in the magazine *Household Words*, which was edited by Charles Dickens. It was then published, with minor revision, in book form in 1853. In the years following Elizabeth Gaskell's death the novel became immensely popular.

cranford by elizabeth gaskell: *Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell(illustrated Edition)* Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, 2022-02-26 The most well-known and well-liked of Gaskell's works, this softly humorous picture of an English country village was first serialized in a magazine edited by Charles Dickens in 1851. Based on the village of Gaskell's childhood, *Cranford* is narrated by a young woman visiting the town who describes the genteel poverty of two middle-aged spinster sisters, Miss Matty and Miss Deborah. Gaskell tells of their little adventures in a confidential and almost chatty tone, perfectly conveying their habits and standards of propriety, decency, and kindness in reduced circumstances. The colorful characters and subtle class distinctions of the village of *Cranford* are captured in this compassionate and hopeful portrayal of small-town English life.

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