
Elizabeth Gaskell

Cranford



PENGUIN CLASSICS

ELIZABETH GASKELL

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Author: Elizabeth Gaskell

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Description

'It is very pleasant dining with a bachelor...I only hope it is not improper; so many pleasant things are!'

A portrait of the residents of an English country town in the mid nineteenth century, *Cranford* relates the adventures of Miss Matty and Miss Deborah, two middle-aged spinster sisters striving to live with dignity in reduced circumstances. Through a series of vignettes, Elizabeth Gaskell portrays a community governed by old-fashioned habits and dominated by friendships between women. Her wry account of rural life is undercut, however, by tragedy in its depiction of such troubling events as Matty's bankruptcy, the violent death of Captain Brown or the unwitting cruelty of Peter Jenkyns. Written with acute observation, *Cranford* is by turns affectionate, moving and darkly satirical.

In her introduction, Patricia Ingham discusses *Cranford* in relation to Gaskell's own past and as a work of irony in the manner of Jane Austen. She also considers the implications of the novel in terms of class and empire. This edition also includes further reading, notes, and an appendix on the significance of 'Fashion at Cranford'.

Insightful reviews

Whitney : *Cranford* by Elizabeth Gaskell is a collection of short stories surrounding the small town of Cranford and the eccentric women who live there.

As I said, *Cranford* is a small town which is high in the population of female. In the first section of the book, every male who enters the town drops like flies making it feel jinxed or like an old fashioned sorority.

Elizabeth Gaskell's novel is a sequence of short stories that all intertwine. I'm typically not a short story reader so it took me a while to get into it and go with the flow. Although, once there *Cranford* is enchanting! All the characters are so lively that one can not help but fall in love, which is odd because most of the females are against that.

You cannot write a review without speaking of Miss Matty. She is a kind old soul who while should seem a woman with much wisdom, she is in fact a niece child-like girl who everyone coddles and adores because of her sweet nature. I won't say much in fear that I could give too much away, but an example of this is when Matty's companion is engaged to be married but worries about mentioning it in case it were to upset her and devises a plan so everything benefits the surrounding persons.

My favorite and what I felt to be the most entertaining stories is of Lady Glenmire's appearance. Believed to be the highest of society with the residence in town all in a tizzy over the preparations only to find that she is no different from themselves.

The running around reminded me of a *Faulty Towers* episode particularly the one where "The

Germans" visit the hotel. Really, when I think about it the majority of these stories could have been a highly sophisticated Faulty Towers.

Susanna - Censored by GoodReads: Charming start. I went to bed the first night envisioning livestock in grey flannel petticoats.

Mr. Dickens v. Dr. Johnson? Count me in with ol' Chuck any day!

Agnieszka: Wonderfully old-fashioned, warm. Reading, all the time I felt a smile on my face. This world is gone, these old ladies and widows who are not bitter, these teas, conventions that are used here not exclude anyone from the community.

Mary Ronan Drew: Mrs Gaskell is creating a comeback. and never simply with my on-line Trollope group, which has been analyzing Cranford lately and evaluating – or rather, contrasting – it with Trollope's novels. Libraries are buying her novels, many are at the cabinets of bookstores, and all are simply to be had via amazon.com. The BBC has produced excellent, and intensely popular, made-for-TV sequence of Cranford, North and South, and other halves and Daughters. My signals with Google and the new york occasions pop up with Gaskell as frequently as with Trollope. 200 years after her delivery she is extra well known than she has ever been. She made her identify with Cranford, released in Dickens' family phrases from 1851 to 1853 and the booklet continues to be her so much beloved. in keeping with town of Knutsford the place Gaskell lived with an aunt while she used to be a child, Cranford is close to an immense city, Drumble, a stand-in for Manchester, the place Gaskell lived for many of her grownup lifestyles together with her husband, a Unitarian minister. The most up-to-date BBC sequence – there are literally sequence – are a mixture of Cranford, My girl Ludlow, and Mr Harrison's Confessions. the television model of the tale very various from that during the book, that is a comfortable episodic selection of tales with a skinny plot and masses humor. For enthusiasts of Victorian fiction Elizabeth Gaskell is a must-read author. And should you fall for her as i've got done, Jenny Uglow has written an outstanding biography. The condo within which she lived together with her husband nonetheless stands. <http://www.elizabethgaskellhouse.org/> Unfortunately, after years of fund-raising and recovery thieves lately stole the roof for the lead and prices for a brand new roof and service of water harm are significant. 2011 No 86

Laurel: To top myself for go back to Cranford, the recent Masterpiece vintage sequel to final year's award-winning mini-series Cranford on PBS, i wished to learn Mrs. Gaskell's unique novel that it was once tailored from. considering the fact that i'm constantly in need of interpreting time, I selected as a substitute to hear an audio recording, my favourite hobby in the course of my travel to work. After a bit learn on Cranford audio e-book recordings, I settled at the Naxos edition. From my adventure with their recording of Jane Austen's novels I knew the standard will be superior. i used to be no longer disappointed. A witty and poignant portrait of small city lifestyles in an early Victorian-era English village, Cranford used to be first released in 1851 as a serial within the journal family phrases edited via Charles Dickens. encouraged via writer Elizabeth Gaskell's (1810-1865) formative years in Knutsford in Cheshire the place she used to be raised by means of an aunt after her mother's dying and father's next re-marriage, the radical revolves round the narrator leave out Mary Smith and the Amazons of the community: the authoritative pass over Deborah Jenkyns and her kindhearted yet timid more

youthful sister Matty, the regularly good educated omit leave out Pole and the self-important aristocratic Mrs. Jamieson. This light satire of village existence doesn't provide a lot of a plot – yet amazingly it doesn't matter. Gaskell has the terrific expertise of creating daily occurrences and existence occasions absolutely engrossing. omit Matty's conservative friends, the middle-aged spinsters and widows of Cranford, do not need their old fashioned existence and traditions altered one bit. they prefer Cranford simply because it has continuously been, for this reason whilst the commercial revolution that swept via England within the 1840's encroaches upon their Shangri-La, they lament and bustle approximately trying to do every little thing in there energy to forestall the evil railroad's arrival. Gaskell is a deft tactician at dry humor, now not in contrast to her predecessor Jane Austen, and the comedy in Cranford balanced with a little bit tragedy is its most lovable quality. This unabridged audio publication recording is aptly learn through Claire Willie whose delicate and lyrical interpretation of Gaskell's narrative superior my delight in the tale through fold. Her rendering of different characters with switch of timbre and intonation used to be charmingly effective. My favourite personality was once in fact the kindhearted leave out Matty. although she is of a definite age she has a child-like naïveté refreshingly seeing her buddies and her global in basic terms. against our state-of-the-art lives of cell-phones, blackberries and data overload, a visit to Cranford used to be a welcome respite. i like to recommend it highly. 2010 marks the two hundredth anniversary of writer Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell nee Stevenson's beginning on 29 September 1810 in Chelsea, which was once then at the outskirts of London. In occasion of her bi-centenary, Naxos AudioBooks should be liberating 3 extra recordings of her novels: North and South in February back learn via Claire Willis, better halves and Daughters in March learn through endurance Tomlinson and Cousin Phillis in may perhaps learn through Joe Marsh. Happily, i'll be having fun with many hours of significant Gaskell listening this year. Laurel Ann, Austenprose

Pink: I beloved this, it was once candy and funny and quickly to hear to. Although, i cannot keep in mind a lot that happened. there has been the scene with the cat, a few stuff approximately hats and fashions, a few downfalls and a few reunions. A photo of small city existence in nineteenth century England, no longer much has replaced really.

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