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# Cranford

## 亲切的克兰福特小镇


Elizabeth Gaskell (英) 著  
王春景 注



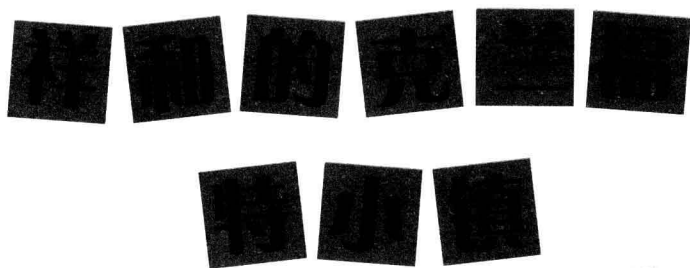
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LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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## 祥和的克兰福特小镇

Elizabeth Gaskell (英) 著

王春景 注

\* \* \*

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# 前言

亲爱的老师们，同学们，“外研社·企鹅英语分级有声读物”丛书是由外语教学与研究出版社和培生教育集团(Pearson Education)联合推出的又一力作。本丛书为广大学生提供了充分享受阅读乐趣的大平台！

我们出版此套分级读物的宗旨是为了给学习者提供大量的、不同题材的阅读材料。材料不仅要适合读者的语言能力水平，更要能够激发阅读兴趣——让读者感到自己是在读故事，听故事，而不是在学(study)英语，从而卸去教材课本中枯燥的语法知识的沉重负担，真正做到寓教于乐。更重要的一点是，读完一本小册子后你会很有成就感，觉得学习英语就是这么轻松、愉快！

本套丛书内容丰富，由易渐难，主要突出了以下特色：

**分级明确** 结合最新颁布的国家《英语课程标准》(实验稿)的精神划分适用年级，遵循语言学习的规律，充分考虑到不同年龄段学生生理和心理发展的特点和需求；

**配有音带** 有助于提高听力水平，加强学生对语言的理解力；

**插图生动** 带你进入“读图时代”，意向直观、准确；

**题材丰富** 涵盖现代流行、经典名著和精彩原创三大类别，内容还涉及名人、名著、电影、戏剧等不同的领域；

**注释简洁** 帮助减少阅读过程中可能遇到的阻力，并激发学习者的自信心；

**配有练习** 理解题目按照阅读图式认知理论精心设计，为阅读提供了方向性指导与检测手段。

如果你们喜欢这套读物，请把它推荐给朋友们。如果你们对这套读物有什么意见和建议，也请告诉我们。愿这套读物让广大的读者受益匪浅，成为大家课外的良师益友！

很多具有丰富教学经验的中小学教师为这套读物做了注释和相关练习，我们在此表示衷心的感谢！

# Introduction

*Here it is the women, not the men, who make the rules. If you want to know what to eat or what to wear or who to have at your party, you only need to ask one of the Cranford ladies.*

This story is about life in a small town in the north-west of England during the 1840s. It is about little Miss Matty and how she lost nearly all her money; about Signor<sup>\*</sup> Brunoni and how he became a conjuror<sup>\*</sup>; about why Miss Matty's younger brother Peter ran away from home; and, most of all, it is about the ladies of Cranford. There are no bad people in Miss Matty's world: there is only kindness and friendliness between neighbours.

Elizabeth Gaskell was born Elizabeth Stevenson in London in 1810. Her mother died when Elizabeth was just a year old, and one of her aunts took her to her own home in the small town of Knutsford, in Cheshire<sup>\*</sup>. Elizabeth remembered the years growing up in Knutsford and wrote about them much later in *Cranford*. She had a brother, John, who was twelve years older. When Elizabeth was eighteen, he disappeared<sup>\*</sup> at sea on a journey to India, and this brought great sadness to the family. (The return of a lost sailor<sup>\*</sup> is part of the story in many of her books, but John never returned.) When Elizabeth was visiting relatives<sup>\*</sup> in Manchester<sup>\*</sup>, she met William Gaskell, a churchman<sup>\*</sup> like her father. They married in 1832 and decided to make their home in Manchester. They had six children but two of them died very young.

Elizabeth began to write after the death of their only son, William. In 1847 she wrote three short stories. Her first book, *Mary Barton*, came out in 1848. It was about factory life in the north of England. Charles Dickens<sup>\*</sup>, the famous writer, read it and immediately invited her to write for his weekly magazine,



*Household Words*. Elizabeth wrote five other books. *Cranford* (1853), *North and South* (1855) and *Wives and Daughters* (1866), which was unfinished at her death, are the best known. Many of her books first appeared in weekly parts, as chapters in magazines like *Household Words*. But Elizabeth did not like having to write a chapter every week. Finally she ended her agreement\* with Dickens.

In 1850, she met the famous writer, Charlotte Brontë\*, and they became great friends. After Charlotte's death in 1855, her father, Patrick Brontë, asked Elizabeth to write his daughter's life story. She agreed and *The Life of Charlotte Brontë* came out in 1857. It was very popular. As well as writing, Elizabeth looked after her four daughters and, with her husband, she spent a lot of time helping the poorest people in Manchester. She decided to use some of her money from writing to buy a house in the country. She wanted this to be a surprise present for her husband – a family home for them. In 1865, while on a visit to this house in Alton, Hampshire\*, she suddenly became ill and died. She was fifty-five.

Elizabeth Gaskell's books are about a number of different subjects. *Cranford* describes the lives of middle-class women in a peaceful country town. *North and South* shows the differences between life in a big city and life in the country. Like Charles Dickens, she wrote about the problems of factory workers. This was not a popular subject in the middle of the nineteenth century. All her books have a lot to say about the position\* of women, especially poor women. For example, *Ruth* (1853) is about the difficulties of a seventeen-year-old girl who is a single mother. In *Sylvia's Lovers*, an innocent\*, good-hearted woman has to marry a man she does not love because she believes that her lover is dead. Many of Elizabeth Gaskell's subjects are still important for readers today. But *Cranford*, with its group of simple, warm-hearted ladies, is still her best-known and best-loved book.

## 内容简介

在这里由女人而不是由男人制定规则。如果你想知道吃什么，穿什么或谁来参加聚会，只要去请教克兰福特的女士们就行了。

这是一个关于19世纪40年代英格兰西北部小镇生活的故事。它讲述了矮小可爱的玛蒂小姐怎样失去了几乎所有的积蓄；布鲁诺尼先生以及他怎样变成了魔术师；玛蒂小姐的弟弟彼得为什么离家出走；但最重要的是讲述了克兰福特镇女人们的生活。在玛蒂小姐的生活圈子里没有坏人，拥有的是邻里之间的友善。

伊丽莎白·盖斯凯尔1810年出生于伦敦，父姓史蒂文森。伊丽莎白一岁时的母亲就去世了。她的一个姨妈把她带到柴郡的一个名叫纳次福特小镇的家中。伊丽莎白记得在纳次福特成长的岁月，后来在她的《祥和的克兰福特小镇》一书中描写了那段生活。她有一个比她大12岁的哥哥，名叫约翰。伊丽莎白18岁时，他在一次去印度的海上旅行时失踪了。这件事给全家带来巨大的悲痛。（失踪水手的归来成了伊丽莎白笔下众多故事中的一部分，但约翰却从此杳无音讯。）伊丽莎白在曼彻斯特拜访亲戚时遇见了威廉姆·盖斯凯尔，他与她父亲一样是个牧师。他们1832年结婚并决定在曼彻斯特安家。他们共有六个孩子，但其中两个很小就死了。

伊丽莎白是在他们仅有的儿子威廉去世之后开始写作的。1847年她写了三个短篇故事。她的第一本书《玛丽·巴登》于1848年问世。这是一本描写英格兰北部工厂生活的书。著名的作家查尔斯·狄更斯读了这本书后立即邀她为周刊《家庭之言》撰稿。伊丽莎白还写过其他五本书。《祥和的克兰福特小镇》（1853）、《北方和南方》（1855）和她临终前未完成的《妻子和女儿》（1866）三本书是最有名的。她的书多数都是以连载小说的形式首次出现于诸如《家庭之言》之类的周刊上。但是伊丽莎白不喜欢每周一个章节式的写法。最终她终止了与狄更斯的合同。

1850年伊丽莎白结识了著名的作家夏洛蒂·勃朗特并成为挚友。1855年夏洛蒂·勃朗特去世以后，她的父亲帕特里克·勃朗特邀请伊丽莎白为他的女儿

撰写传记。伊丽莎白接受了，于是《夏洛蒂·勃朗特传》于1857年问世，并大受读者欢迎。在写作的同时，伊丽莎白还要照顾四个女儿和丈夫。并用许多时间来帮助曼彻斯特最穷困的人。她决定用写作挣来的一部分钱在乡下买幢房子作为一份意想不到的礼物——他们温馨的家——送给丈夫。1865年，在去往位于汉普郡阿尔顿的那幢住房的途中，她突然病倒并永远离开了人世。那年她55岁。

伊丽莎白·盖斯凯尔的著作涉及了许多不同的题材。《祥和的克兰福特小镇》描写了一个平静的乡下小镇里中产阶级妇女的生活。《北方和南方》展现了大城市生活与乡下生活的不同。像查尔斯·狄更斯一样，她写到了工厂工人们所处的困境和问题。这在19世纪中期是一个不受欢迎的题材。她所有的书中关于妇女的地位特别是贫困妇女的地位问题都占有相当的份量。例如，《鲁丝》(1853)描写了一个17岁的单身母亲的困境。在《西尔维亚的情人们》一书中，一个淳朴善良的女人不得不嫁给一个她所不爱的人，因为她相信她的情人已经死了。伊丽莎白·盖斯凯尔的著作涉及的许多题材对今天的读者仍具有重要意义。但是，因书中的女士们的质朴和热心，《祥和的克兰福特小镇》至今仍然是伊丽莎白最著名和最受读者喜爱的著作。





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## Chapter 1 The Ladies of Cranford

My name is Mary Smith and I am twenty-eight years old. My mother is dead and I live with my father, a businessman in the big city of Drumble in the north-west of England. But this story is not about Drumble or about my family. It is about a small town where I lived when I was a child and the people who still live there. The name of this place is Cranford.

In many ways Cranford is quite an ordinary place, where few exciting things happen. But in one way it is very special. Here it is the women, not the men, who make the rules. If you want to know what to eat or what to wear or who to have at your party, you only need to ask one of the Cranford ladies. For example, the ladies of Cranford think that it is very important to visit newcomers. You must always do this on the second day after the newcomer arrives and you must visit between the hours of twelve and three. Then the newcomer has to repay<sup>\*</sup> the visit in the next three days. These visits must be short: never for more than quarter of an hour. You must not talk about anything that matters because there isn't time and, most importantly, you must not talk about money because that is a subject for business people, not for people of good family. Of course, all the Cranford ladies are of good family, or think they are, which is almost the same thing.

Another strange thing about Cranford is that there are not many men about. Of course, there is Dr Hoggins and the Rector<sup>\*</sup> of the church; and then there are shopkeepers and farmers and people like that. But these men are not part of the real life of Cranford, which belongs<sup>\*</sup> to the ladies and only to them. You see, most of the ladies do not have husbands. Either they are unmarried or their husbands are dead. In fact most of these ladies are quite old and they are not

very interested in men – or that is what they tell us. “A man in the house gives so much trouble.” That is what the Ms Jenkyns thought, or more truly, that is what they said.

I want to tell you about these two old ladies because they have been friends of my family for many years. When I visit Cranford, which is about four times a year, I nearly always stay at their house, where I can be sure of a warm welcome. Miss Deborah and Miss Matilda are the daughters of the Reverend Jenkyns. He was the last Rector of Cranford Church – I mean the Rector before the one who we have now. Mr Jenkyns has been dead for many years but both the ladies are very proud\* of their father and always speak of him lovingly and with great seriousness\*. Neither Miss Deborah nor Miss Matty (as most people call her) is married but they are important people in the little world that is Cranford. I have heard that Miss Matty did have a male\* friend when she was young but we shall return to that subject later. Miss Deborah is the one who looks after the house and the money and gives all the orders\*: she is one of those strong people who knows that she is always right. Miss Matty is quite different – loving, sweet and shy. She is often unsure\* about all sorts of things and prefers to follow her older sister’s rules. They are both good people and everyone in Cranford loves them.

About this time a new family came to live in the town. Captain\* Brown served\* as a soldier for most of his life. He was now over sixty years old and had a desk job\* with the railway that ran through the neighbourhood of Cranford on its way to Drumble and the north. His wife was dead and he had two daughters, both unmarried. The first one, Miss Mary, was about forty years old and was always in bad health, which made her look much older than she really was. Her sister Jessie was about ten years younger and twenty times prettier than her sister, with clear blue eyes and soft brown hair. She spent all her time looking after Mary, doing everything possible to make her sick sister’s life pleasanter.

Captain Brown and his daughters lived in a small house just

outside the town. They had very little money but the Captain made no secret of being poor. Of course the Cranford ladies thought that this was shocking.\* As I have explained,\* one of their rules was never to talk about money, and it was unthinkable\* to talk about not having enough. The Captain again surprised everyone when, one winter's day, he helped an old woman by carrying her Sunday lunch home for her because the streets were icy. In Cranford a gentleman\* did not do this! The ladies waited for him to explain himself but the good Captain did not seem to think that there was anything to explain. He was kind and helpful to everyone, telling Miss Betty Barker what to do when her cow got sick, showing Miss Pole how to stop her sitting-room fire from smoking; so that after some time all the Cranford ladies agreed to forgive\* his strange ways and asked him and his daughters to their card parties and musical evenings.

But then something truly terrible happened to the Brown family. One afternoon Miss Deborah, looking out of her window, saw small groups of townspeople talking together in the street, so she sent her servant\* Jenny to ask what was happening. Jenny returned in a few minutes, crying and frightened, her face white.

"Oh, Miss Deborah, Captain Brown is dead! It was one of those terrible railway trains that killed him!"

Hearing this, Miss Matty immediately ran out into the street and found the man who brought the news. Soon the railway worker was standing in the Misses Jenkyns's sitting-room.

"Did you see this terrible accident?" asked Miss Deborah.

"Yes, ma'am."

"Then please tell us what happened."

"The Captain was at the railway station reading a book and waiting for the train to arrive. Suddenly a little girl escaped\* from her mother's hand and began to walk across the railway line. Just then the Captain looked up and saw the train coming. He ran on to the line, caught up the child in his arms and threw her up to her



*One winter's day, he helped an old woman by carrying  
her Sunday lunch home for her.*



mother. But then his foot caught on something and he fell under the train and now he's dead, poor man! They've gone to tell his two daughters the sad news."

We were all deeply shocked. Miss Deborah looked ill and troubled but she went for her hat at once, saying: "Matilda, I must go to those girls. They need help."

Some hours later she came back home, sad and silent\*. Finally she told us what happened. "Miss Jessie nearly died of shock," she said. "She asked Miss Pole and me not to say anything about the accident to her sister. "Doctor Hoggins thinks that Mary doesn't have long to live," she said. "I'm afraid that this news will kill her." So we didn't tell Miss Mary what happened. She thinks that her father has taken a short journey on railway business and is away for a few days."

Miss Pole offered\* to go and stay with Miss Jessie to help her through this difficult time. The next day the full story was in the local newspaper and Miss Deborah asked me to read it to her. When I finished reading, Miss Deborah shook\* her head sadly and said, "Poor, dear man. How kind he was. How brave!"

Miss Jessie wanted to follow her father's body to its last resting place and none of the ladies could stop her. So Miss Deborah decided to walk with her to the church. She put her arm round Jessie's shoulder while she was saying her final goodbye to the father that she loved so dearly.

The next day Miss Jessie was again calm and strong. She thanked each one of us with a sad smile. By now it was clear that her sister Mary was dying. Miss Pole and Miss Deborah went to help nurse\* the sick woman. Mary's last thoughts were of her dear sister and father, and of the great love that she felt for each of them.

"Mary," her sister said softly, "our father has gone before you to the place where you and he will rest. Soon you will be together. He knows how much you loved him."

Now that both the father and sister were dead, Miss Deborah wanted Miss Jessie to come and stay at her house, knowing that



Jessie had very little money. But just then a gentleman arrived in Cranford; he was an old friend of Captain Brown and he knew Miss Jessie when she was a sweet\*young girl of eighteen. This Major\* Gordon was a fine tall man, about forty years old. He had land in Scotland and so he was quite rich. He loved Miss Jessie and some years before he asked her to marry him; but at that time, knowing how much her sick sister needed her, Miss Jessie could not agree to be his wife. Now here he was again, repeating the same question, and this time Miss Jessie felt able to say yes. In a few weeks they were married and went to live in Scotland.\*

After she left Cranford, Miss Jessie did not forget her old friends. The two Jenkyns sisters and Miss Pole all went to stay with the Gordon family at different times and came home with wonderful stories of Jessie's house, her husband, her dresses and her beautiful little girl, Flora. In later years little Flora came to stay with Miss Deborah and Miss Matty in Cranford and was almost like a daughter to them. So the sad story of the Brown family had a happy ending for one of the three.

## **Chapter 2    An Old Love Story**

The years went by and Miss Deborah Jenkyns also died, to the great sadness of her many friends. But I continued to visit Cranford, staying sometimes with Miss Pole or more often with Miss Matty. On one of these visits Miss Matty's servant Fanny decided to leave and Martha, a new young woman, came to take her place. In looking after the house, Miss Matty followed all Miss Deborah's rules; but when she had to decide anything for herself, she felt deeply worried and was frightened of making mistakes. She asked me to help her teach the new servant the ways of the house. This Martha was a girl who grew up on a farm. She was hard-working and very honest and she had a kind heart; but she was also a little





rough\* in her ways. She took a long time to learn the house rules. For example, we had to show Martha how to serve food at table.

“You must offer the potatoes and the vegetables first to the ladies and then to the gentlemen,” Miss Matty explained, when her married cousin\* from India was coming for a meal.

“I’ll do everything that you say, ma’am,” said Martha, “but I must say that I like the men best.”

It was at this time that I first learned about Miss Matty’s love story. Her friend Miss Pole had a cousin who lived four or five miles from Cranford. His name was Thomas Holbrook and strangely he did not live like a fine gentleman. He preferred the life of a farmer, wearing old clothes and speaking like the local\* people. He was a great lover of books and read from them beautifully, with great feeling. He was very much in love with Miss Matty in the old days, Miss Pole said.

“So why didn’t Miss Matty marry him?” I asked.

“The rest of her family thought Thomas’s family wasn’t good enough. You see, she was the Rector’s daughter. Thomas asked her and I think she wanted to marry him but in the end she said no.”

“Did she ever see him again?”

“No, I think not,” answered Miss Pole. “You see, Thomas’s house is halfway\* between Cranford and Misselton. After Miss Matty gave her answer, Thomas always went to Misselton to do his shopping and has only come to Cranford two or three times since then. Once I was out walking with Miss Matty, and when she saw him coming, she ran away and hid.”

“How old is he now?” I asked, hoping that this was not the end of the love story.

“Oh, he’s about seventy, I think,” said Miss Pole, breaking my beautiful dream in pieces.

Not long after this conversation\*, I was with Miss Matty when Mr Holbrook made one of his few visits to Cranford and met his old love again. We were in a shop, Miss Matty and I, looking at some