



Cranford

by Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell · Best for B2–C1 (Upper intermediate–Advanced)

Read-along audiobook · B2–C1

Gaskell's affectionate portrait of a small English town dominated by genteel ladies of modest means is quietly funny and richly observed. The narrator, Mary Smith, visits from time to time and records the rituals, anxieties, and social codes of Cranford life with gentle irony. The vocabulary leans on household matters, social propriety, and the rhythms of provincial Victorian England — a world where a single candle is an act of extravagance.

What you'll practise

- Indirect speech and reported conversation across a social circle
- Victorian household and social vocabulary: propriety, economy, rank
- Gentle irony: reading tone and what is left unsaid
- Read along as each line is highlighted — helpful for following Gaskell's wry asides

How to read it — free

Listen to the full narration while you read along — every word above your level is highlighted in time with the voice and explained on tap. No signup, nothing to install.

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