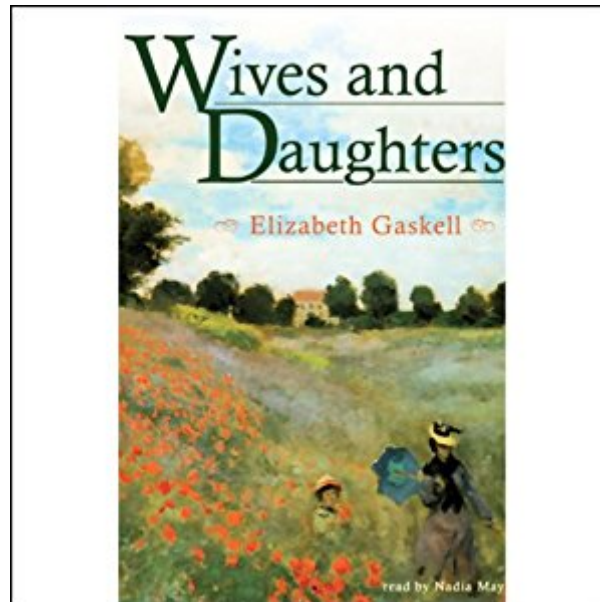




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# Wives And Daughters



## Synopsis

Set in a provincial town in the early-19th-century, this is a subtle representation of historical change explored in human terms. The heroine passes from childhood to maturity in a process that, though often painful for her, is sharply and humorously observed. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 25 hours 39 minutes

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Version: Unabridged

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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Criticism #60 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural >

European > British & Irish #262 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Criticism & Theory

## Customer Reviews

I don't know why everyone keeps comparing Elizabeth Gaskell with Jane Austen. It's not like they are not two different people that write completely different. Both having unique talents that were worthy of being published. At that time, it wasn't easy. They didn't publish what they thought was garbage, like they do today. I ran across the mini-series, on Prime and loved it. It prompted me to download all of her books. The characters are all special in their own right. There are no characters that don't belong in this story. Even though it was unfinished, at the time of Ms. Gaskell's death, it did seem to take a long time to get to the end, but that was probably my impatience, because the entire story is enjoyable and it is easy to get sucked into it for hours and not realize it. Even characters that were not carrying the story were mentioned enough to understand why they were included. Definitely worth the time

This is a fabulous book! I am particularly talking about the Oxford World's Classic paperback edition

that contains an introduction and notes by Angus Easson. The notes are absolutely fabulous! So well done and add so much to the story. Definitely the version to get, if you are considering which to buy. It is only in trade size paperback, which is a downfall, however, it is decent binding and the paper is white and heavy. We definitely would recommend this version to any fan of this novel or of the author!

Sometimes you come across a novelist that you have never heard of and find the writing to be extraordinary. To me, this novel was easier to read than Bronte or Austin and more realistic even though it did dwell on, as was the fashion of writers of the time. A simple story was written yet with unexpected turns from time to time and unfortunately the author died before it was finished, however, leaving to our imagination enough to prefer our own ending. For those that enjoy this historical time period, I highly recommend reading this book for its variety of characters, development of plot, and writing style.

Having seen this story dramatized in a TV movie, I wanted to read the "real thing" and I enjoyed it. Elizabeth Gaskell brought Molly, Cynthia, Clare and her secondary characters to life in their infinite variety. Squire Hamley, and Lady Harriet I especially enjoyed. As a writer of historical English fiction I found the description of village and home life, housekeeping, traditions, social courtesies etc. Illuminating. However, I was shocked at the abrupt ending. Ms G left a lot hanging. I am glad I saw the tv version as I am a romantic at heart. Still, It is a very interesting story.

This book was very good. Excellent character development. Very good depiction of life during that era and area from what I know. The story is interesting if not a bit predictable except with a surprise ending (at least I was surprised). The only reason that I did not give 5 stars is that I thought it was somewhat longer than it needed to be, some parts dragged on longer than was necessary which made me want to skip ahead. Still the writing was very good.

Even though this book was written in the nineteenth century, it has a modern day feel due to its in-depth character development and insights into the relationships within a "blended family". The author's humorous take on country vs aristocratic society was a delight and kept my interest to the very last of its 800 pages.

This book is fantastic but you have to be patient. Its a long ass book and if it weren't for the writing

being so darn fantastic, I would have quit on it half way through. If you get a chance, check out the mini TV series of Wives and Daughters.

This book was originally recommended to me by a salesperson with Barnes & Noble as I was seeking a fictional Victorian-era book. At times, the author tends to get a bit too detailed when introducing a character, which probably accounts for the thickness of the book. However, I finally finished reading the book which leaves the reader wondering what happens to the main characters. As the prologue indicates, the author died before she could finish the book. All in all, I would recommend this book to a fan of Victorian-era fiction.

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