

" The Manchester Marriage". Novel written by the British novelist Elizabeth Gaskell who lived during Victorian times(1810- 1865.

Alice was an orphan who lived with her uncle Captain Wilson and his second wife in Liverpool. Her life was rather boring and obscure. She considered herself to be stupid and awkward with a low self-esteem. Being frequently scolded by the Wilsons, she felt miserable. One day , her cousin Frank ,came to the house after being away at sea for a long time. He immediately falls in love with Alice, treating her with kindness and affection.

One morning, off she went and married Frank in a simple ceremony. Her only bridesmaid was Norah, Mrs Wilson`s housemaid. Frank and Alice went into lodgings and took Norah with them. Very soon Alice became pregnant. At the same time, Frank sailed on the " Betsy Jane" for the East Indies and China. Alice expected a letter from her husband announcing his arrival in China. Week after week she kept on waiting but there was no news of the ship. The fears of both Alice and Norah grew every day. Finally the day arrived when the Shipping Office told them that the owners had given up hope of ever hearing from the " Betsy Jane" again and were claiming the insurance money from the underwriters. Little by little, Alice started to come to terms with the fact that she was now a widow with a young child.. A source of events happens afterwards. Alice`s circumstances change completely as another man turns up in her life. Apparently she could not get free from trouble but there is an unexpected twist in her destiny that would change the course of her life for ever.