

Anne of Avonlea

Lucy Maud Montgomery

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The second book in the Anne of Green Gables series is again set in the fictional village of Avonlea, located on Prince Edward Island, Canada. As Anne begins teaching in the local school, she struggles with the troubles and responsibilities of being a teacher. Throughout the book she helps create a village improvement society and helps Marilla in raising young orphan twins. There is one sweet and innocent romantic subplot that involves Anne's favorite student's father, and a new unique character.

I personally loved how Anne and Marilla took care of the twins and helped raise them up in this book, since I was not expecting this to be part of the plot. Their completely different personalities were also very refreshing to read about. While Dora is sweet and well behaved, Davy is mischievous and always getting into trouble. Just like Anne and Marilla, my feelings towards the twins were the same. You would expect Dora to be liked more, but her almost perfect demeanor can be quite boring at times, and she never interested me in any way. Davy on the other hand, while he can be quite difficult to deal with, is also an extremely caring, and protective boy. His character was able to have a special effect on me that no other character in this series has done to me. One of my favorite quotes in this book was when Anne said, "we always love best the people who need us."

I think the target audience for this series is mostly girls and young women, but I would recommend this book to any girl over the age of 12. In addition, since the series was written so many years ago, there are quite a few times where the reader can feel like this is an old-fashioned story, and in certain ways it is. It sometimes makes it hard to relate to the characters, but I personally found it to be fascinating to read and learn more about this time period. This book may be more challenging for some since Montgomery's writing style can be especially poetic and descriptive, and she uses many words that are not very common nowadays. There are also many references to religion, God and Christian beliefs throughout the series. I would suggest you read the first book in this series before reading this one, otherwise you will miss very important events of Anne's life.

Recommended Titles:

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Emily of New Moon by Lucy Maud Montgomery