Anne of the Island

Lucy Maud Montgomery

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In the third book of the Anne of Green Gables series, Anne is 18 and leaves home to go to Redmond College in Kingsport, Canada. As she goes through her four years in college, she becomes friends with a girl unlike anyone she has ever met and is proposed to multiple times in many unexpected ways. Anne meets the guy of her dreams, she falls in love through the course of the book, and only realizes her true feelings at the very end, when it might be too late. There are other sweet romantic side plots and readers get to find out what happens to Anne's schoolgirl friends as they all grow up into adults.

Even though this book has a few sad moments, and at certain times I was frustrated with Anne's choices, there were many more sweet moments and valuable lessons in it. Readers get to see Anne truly mature and become a woman as she learns more about herself and her feelings. There were also many surprising events in this book that kept me engaged and curious as to what was going to happen in the end. It made me not want to put the book down.

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 and beliefs throughout the series. I would suggest you read all the other books before this one so that you are caught up with everything in the story.

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