

Anne of Windy Poplars

Lucy Maud Montgomery

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The fourth book in the Anne of Green Gables series is set in the small town of Summerside over the course of three years from when Anne leaves college to when she gets married. While her future husband is away in medical school, Anne devotes her time as the principal of Summerside High School, where she also teaches. She lives in a large house called Windy Poplars with two elderly widows, Aunt Kate and Aunt Chatty, along with their housekeeper, Rebecca Dew, and their cat, Dusty Miller.

As the years pass in Anne's life, she sends her future husband letters telling him about important events in her life, so this book is mainly written in a letter format. The writing style may be displeasing for someone to read and to me it did feel like it broke the flow of the series. I would have liked it better if we could have seen the letters her fiancé wrote to her. I think it would have made a big difference because we would have learned more about him and how he thinks. He is an important part of the series, but I often felt like we did not know enough about him. I would have personally liked to see more of him in this book. He was constantly mentioned but had no presence in the story. Out of all the books in the series, this was my least favorite. There were quite a few times where I felt like the plot was very slow because all the main characters were new in this book. I felt bored at times but even then, there were certain parts that were good, and Montgomery always writes great endings.

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. To me, however this book was not as challenging as the others.

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