



Anne's House of Dreams

L.M. Montgomery

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Anne's own true love, Gilbert Blythe, is finally a doctor, and in the sunshine of the old orchard, among their dearest friends, they are about to speak their vows. Soon the happy couple will be bound for a new life together and their own dream house, on the misty purple shores of Four Winds Harbor.

A new life means fresh problems to solve, fresh surprises. Anne and Gilbert will make new friends and meet their neighbors: Captain Jim, the lighthouse attendant, with his sad stories of the sea; Miss Cornelia Bryant, the lady who speaks from the heart -- and speaks her mind; and the tragically beautiful Leslie Moore, into whose dark life Anne shines a brilliant light.

The original, unabridged text

A specially commissioned biography of L. M. Montgomery

A map of Prince Edward Island

Anne's House of Dreams Details

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Author : L.M. Montgomery

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From Reader Review Anne's House of Dreams for online ebook

Miranda Reads says

What *happened* to Anne??

You'll stay right here with me, Anne-girl," said Gilbert lazily. "I won't have you flying away from me into the hearts of storms.

Oh, that's right. She got married.

I miss the adventuring **Young Anne** - with haunted woods and dryad's bubble.

I wish we still had the **College-gal Anne** - with her little cottage of friends.

I would even prefer the **Schoolmistress Anne** - battling the Pringles and educating young minds.

Anne was strong, independent, with dreams and ambitions of writing. I liked to see how she reached out and over the heads of many women who were confined to traditional rolls.

And all of a sudden, her **highest goal** is to be married and to raise children. It's like L. M Montgomery flipped a switch.

I suppose at those times, women **were expected to contentedly give up everything to raise the children** but Anne used to have her heart set on so, so many things. And for her to give all that up without even the slightest protest??

She does still have her **quiet dreamy-ness and her thoughtless meddling**, but everything is so much tamer. **So much more domestic.**

Oh, Marilla, I thought I was happy before. Now I know that I just dreamed a pleasant dream of happiness. This is the reality.

So...she does it because...happiness?

This whole book had me questioning everything. Namely, **what was even the point of the first four books?**

We spend so much time following Anne through her education. She spent so many of years of her life doing her best in school solely so she could become a school teacher. Then, only a few years in, **she completely drops everything??**

L. M. Montgomery **forced Anne into marriage** and erased convenient bits of her personality to fit her into the mold.

Audiobook Comments

Read by Susan O'Malley and while the audiobook wasn't terrible...the plot of this book just gave me an overall negative impression.

Marnie Krüger says

I've always been and always will be one of Anne's biggest fans! Her poetic love for the world and her vivid imagination has always capture me in ways unexplainable. Even so, I've never read this particular book, for reasons beyond me.

This is most definitely my favourite! It makes you smile, it makes you cry and it makes you feel. To think I've missed out on it before is almost heartbreak. But never the less, it's part of me now and I will forever cherish it and hold it O so close to my heart.

L.M Montgomery is the Queen of her era!

Britany says

Anne and Gilbert are finally reunited and move to Four Winds in their House of Dreams (I wonder how many times that phrase is used in this book teehee). Montgomery has once again created a new cast of characters in Captain Jim, Ms Cornelia Bryant (sounds just like a man!) and beautiful Leslie Moore. I enjoyed this jaunt into the newlywed's life on another part of the island. I enjoyed getting to know Leslie's dark past and appreciated the darker undertones in this novel and the strong female protagonist characters that can stand up for themselves.

I am enjoying this series and I really love being introduced to these wonderful new characters, while still getting interactions with the older, beloved cast. Looking forward to the next one.

kris says

ANNE AND GILBERT SITTING IN A TREE. K-I-S-S—OH WAIT THERE'S BARELY ANY KISSING IN THIS ONE EITHER.

Yes, if you read between the lines (and "decode" the stork metaphor), then you know that there's a lot more than kissing happening in their "house of dreams", but the on-page count is in the single digits. Saddest trombone noises.

1. I am very frustrated by my reaction to this book on this reread. It's for multiple reasons, but the gist of it is that it didn't tell the story I remembered it telling, and I was bored and annoyed by turns. This feels like a betrayal of the highest order, obviously, so the rest of my review will need many grains of salt to be palatable.

2. I had forgotten just how much of the book was wrapped up in Captain Jim and Miss Cornelia and Leslie. And as much as I enjoy those characters (less so their dialogue tics), I looked forward to *Anne's House of*

Dreams as the story that would be most about Anne and Gilbert. And I don't feel like I ever really got very much to do with them.

There's a sensation in Montgomery's books of stepping back from her characters as they "grow up"; a feeling of giving them space and allowing them privacy. It starts with a small step back with *Anne of Avonlea*, and another with *Anne of the Island*—to me, it feels like Montgomery stepped *too* far back in *House of Dreams*, and left Anne a shadow creature in the book that could have used her presence most of all.

This is not to say that I disagree with that approach—just that it kept me from engaging with this novel the way I once was able to.

3. This was the first time I read this book as a "newlywed", which I only bring up because I remember all those shining moments of "newness" I experienced and was looking forward to seeing those moments captured between the Blythes. But other than one or two (the first time Gil introduces Anne as his wife! their first "quarrel"!), I felt like all the "good parts" were left to the imagination.

4. Most petty, dated complaint ever, but having "Anne" erased for "Mrs. Dr. Blythe" was...not fun for me.

5. I'm just going to swing for all the petty complaints while I'm at bat: I want the book where Anne keeps writing and doesn't give up everything to play homemaker to Gil. I know Anne wants a family and loves her family more than everything, but her story ultimately makes me *sad* in a way it didn't just a decade or two ago.

6. JESUS FUCK, GIL: The fact that Gil refuses to believe Anne and Miss Cornelia about the life Leslie would face if Dick "returned to his old self" until he's already told Leslie about the option to operate is just...kind of the biggest dick move. I mean, yes, I see absolutely where he's coming from medically, but he's not looking at the "bigger picture": i.e., Leslie is *trapped* in that marriage. This is Canada where divorce wasn't a thing. And to know that he values the "health" of Dick Moore so much that he is willing to risk the health and well-being of Leslie to achieve those ends is one of those plot points that blots out forever a portion of the love I felt for Gilbert Blythe.

And sure, it all turns out for the best. *But Gil didn't know that would happen..* If that had truly been Dick and Dick returned to being a dick, then what? Do you think he'd have stepped in and "saved" Leslie from the tyranny of her husband? Somehow, I think not.

And that's an unforgivable sin in my book.

7. All my bitter complaining aside, this book is still melded into my DNA. It's rather like hating your nose: you may look at it and seethe but ultimately the only people who can say bad things about it are you and your plastic surgeon.

Maureen says

I enjoyed this, though not as much as precious books! I still love Anne and Gilbert and I really love all the new characters and Four Winds! Just so lovely.

Laurence R. says

AMAZING AMAZING AMAZING

CS says

I originally read the entire Anne series when I was 11. In fact, the Anne books were among the first ones I bought with my money, money I had earned doing odd chores or watching my younger brothers for an hour or two.

I recently went to an event at the Margaret Mitchell House featuring romance authors, and one of the questions was "What's your favorite literary kiss?" I started thinking about my own answer, and decided it might be the very end of "Anne of the Island" - FINALLY Anne realized she and Gilbert were meant to be. That led to a re-reading of the end of "Anne of the Island," and before I knew it I had flipped the Kindle to "Anne's House of Dreams" (alas, I don't possess "Anne of Windy Poplars" in e-form.)

"Anne's House of Dreams" was among my favorite Anne books, and it held up for me all these many years later. I think it's the most personal of the Anne books, the most poignant. Montgomery wrote many angry and disillusioned characters, but in my opinion Leslie Moore is the most nuanced character in the entire series - and that includes Anne. It's also the most romantic book in the series- there's not only the sweet newlywed relationship between Anne and Gilbert, but also Captain Jim and Lost Margaret, Leslie and Owen. And the setting is romance personified - an out of the way cottage, a wild seashore, a lighthouse still manually operated by its keeper. This is not the close-knit village of Avonlea, or the large, rambling, center of town Ingleside manor where Anne and Gilbert will raise their family. In those books, the greater community plays a large role in Anne's life. "Anne's House of Dreams" is more self-contained, centering on a smaller cast of characters: Anne, Gilbert and their immediate neighbors Miss Cornelia, Leslie and Captain Jim.

In fact, "dreams" is very apropos because there is a dream-like quality to much of the book. Anne is often referred to as a "dreamer of dreams" - most of them centering around building a family with Gilbert. Captain Jim sees Lost Margaret in his dreams. Leslie's dreams are dead - or so she thinks. Even Gilbert refers to his dreams coming true, and hates to argue with Anne lest he finds his marriage to his long-sought after love is nothing but a waking dream.

But for all the dream references, this is also (along with "Rilla of Ingleside") the most poignant of the Anne novels. There is plenty of romance, and even humor in the form of Miss Cornelia, but also tragedy and sadness. This is the last book to focus exclusively on Anne - subsequent books are more about the children than her - and Anne is truly a grown-up by the end: a wife, a mother, a survivor of grief and joy.

I find the reviews disappointed in Anne's choice to marry Gilbert and become a wife and mother rather...puzzling. Anne is a product of her times. More important, she is a product of L.M. Montgomery's particular times. Anne was never set up to be a bohemian or to flout society. Anne wanted more than anything to fit in and have a family of her own - go read the scene in "Anne of Green Gables" where Matthew gives her the dress with the puffed sleeves. She doesn't settle for Gilbert - she actively chooses to be with him.

Anne had examples of women who chose careers away from home instead of marriage before her: Stella went to Vancouver, Jane went out West (and landed a millionaire, true, but it wasn't Jane's stated goal), Aunt Jamesina's daughter was a missionary in India, Katherine became a secretary to a globe trotting MP. And Anne saw that women could remain unmarried and still lead productive lives, Marilla being only one example. So she could have followed in their footsteps.

But Anne LOVES. That is Anne's great gift. She loves people unconditionally. She gave love to Matthew and Marilla, to Davy and Dora, to Diana and Phil and Katherine and Leslie. She's everyone's favorite confidante - not because she's some saccharine, two-dimensional Mary Sue, but because Anne demonstrates a deep and abiding interest in and care for others.

For Anne to chose career over love and a family of her own just wouldn't be in her character. At all. Creating a home and a community for Gilbert and their family - and for Leslie, Captain Jim, Miss Cornelius, and all the other characters who spend more time in her house than their own - that's Anne's true calling. Is it anti-feminist? Not at all. Anne isn't held back, she isn't put down, she doesn't kowtow to Gilbert. In fact, he, more than anyone, knows that Anne had plenty of choices and he's still amazed and grateful that she chose him.

Also: written in 1917, people.

If anything, Montgomery is rather subversive in showing that women truly call the shots in the communities she creates.

Melki says

"Anne was always romantic, you know," said Marilla apologetically.

"Well, married life will most likely cure her of that," Mrs. Lynde responded comfortingly.

Woo-hoo! This is the moment we've been waiting for - the wedding of Anne and Gilbert.

After a simple ceremony at Green Gables, the two lovebirds head to a small house in Four Winds Harbour. (As this book was first published in 1917, there are, or course, no details of the wedding night. That's rather a pity, as I would love to hear Anne's comments about sex.) It's not long until Anne meets her charming and eccentric neighbors: Captain Jim, an elderly sea dog who is bursting with tales about the local area, the lovely and ethereal Leslie, whose life has been touched by so much tragedy, and Miss Cornelius, an opinionated, though kindly, spinster, who has seldom known the luxury of an unexpressed thought. She's not a big fan of the masculine gender; one of her most used expressions is "isn't that just like a man."

"I like a man who can stick to a thing," retorted Miss Cornelius. "Amos Grant, who used to be after me long ago, couldn't. You never saw such a weather-vane. He jumped into the pond to drown himself once and then changed his mind and swum out again. Wasn't that just like a man? Marshall would have stuck to it and drowned."

As always, Anne is surrounded by love and laughter, great joy and sadness. This is my third visit to this book, and it remains one of my favorites of the series.

steph says

Review December 2014: *Oh* this book. I mean, I love all the books in this series but AHOD has a special place in my heart because it's the first (and only) book that is all about Anne and Gilbert. The previous four books are more about Anne and all the people she meets throughout the years with Gilbert (of course) sprinkled in. And the next three books (especially the last two) are focused mainly on their kids with Anne and Gilbert mentioned in third person. But this book, this is *their* book with their wedding and their first few years of marriage at their little house of dreams and it's wonderful and brilliant and some moments make me cry and others make me laugh and I just love this book so much for showing me Anne and Gilbert as Anne and Gilbert.

Anne watched her until she was lost in the shadows of the chill and misty night. Then she turned slowly back to the glow of her own radiant hearthstone.

"Isn't she lovely, Gilbert? Her hair fascinates me. Miss Cornelia says it reaches to her feet. Ruby Gillis had beautiful hair—but Leslie's is ALIVE—every thread of it is living gold."

"She is very beautiful," agreed Gilbert, so heartily that Anne almost wished he were a LITTLE less enthusiastic.

"Gilbert, would you like my hair better if it were like Leslie's?" she asked wistfully.

"I wouldn't have your hair any color but just what it is for the world," said Gilbert, with one or two convincing accompaniments. "You wouldn't be ANNE if you had golden hair—or hair of any color but"—

"Red," said Anne, with gloomy satisfaction.

"Yes, red—to give warmth to that milk-white skin and those shining gray-green eyes of yours. Golden hair wouldn't suit you at all Queen Anne—MY Queen Anne—queen of my heart and life and home."

"Then you may admire Leslie's all you like," said Anne magnanimously.

GR read: pre-2009, June 2009, May 2011 and December 2014

Miranda Atchley says

After rivalling one another throughout grade school in book one, keeping a distant friendship in book two, Anne coming to realize that she truly loves Gilbert as she is threatened with losing him in book three, and spending a long courtship apart in book four, Anne Shirley and Gilbert Blythe are now getting married. The book begins as Anne spends her last evening as a single woman reminiscing with her bosom friend, Diana Wright. The next day, a simple, yet beautiful, September wedding takes place at the beloved Green Gables, Marilla Cuthbert and Rachel Lynde crying as they watch their Anne girl ride off to her new home in a small and charming sea-side town called Four Winds. Having finished medical school, Gilbert is now taking over his late uncle's practice. Alone, he searched for Anne's house of dreams and succeeded in a quaint little home

in the woods, which Anne adores. Over the two years in which the book takes place, we see Anne make friends with a woman named Leslie Moore, a feisty spinster Miss Cornelia Bryant, and a sailor named Captain Jim, whose stories Anne listens to in awe. We also read of Anne being pregnant for the first time, giving birth to Joy in their home, and Joy passing shortly after being born. We watch as Anne suffers from grief and then begins to carry on with life, later giving birth to a healthy boy she names James Matthew.

I think this is where the series really begins to change, for obvious reasons. Anne is now married. She and Gilbert move to Four Winds and she begins keeping house, something some of us never expected to see Anne do, but she still maintains that whimsy you can only find in Anne. She manages to find a friend in Leslie Moore, a lonely young woman trapped in a loveless marriage. And Owen Ford? *swoon*

I love this book. I love the lovely simplicity to it. Anne and Gilbert's wedding is so beautiful and simple. The little seaside town sounds so charming and delightful. I love Leslie and how Anne helped her. Miss Cornelia Bryant made me laugh with her biting remarks. I never thought I would enjoy seeing Anne away from Green Gables. It isn't that I'm glad to see her away from the dear home she so dearly loved, I just love reading about how happy she is.

For a lot of us, we turned to the Anne books for comfort as we grew because Anne understood how hard growing up can be. And yet now we see Anne happy as an adult. I feel like Anne is more carefree in this book. She still has that spice to her, but her temper is more controlled than in the first books and she's more understanding of those around her. And though this book is full of Anne's happiness, we see her sadness, too, as she loses her firstborn. It's a terrible pain, but she faces it with grace and overcomes to live a better life.

Anne's House of Dreams is a lovely addition to the Anne series; one of my favorites of the lot. It's full of happiness, sadness, strength, and grace.

Ferdy says

2.5 stars

Really didn't like the setting, every page seemed to have some long, detailed description of Anne's House or the area surrounding it and it was plain boring. I did enjoy some of the new characters though, Cornelia, Owen, and Captain Jim were all great. The parts that were most interesting though were the ones which mentioned Green Gables or had old characters from Green Gables pop up. Anne/Gilbert's relationship was rather weird, after four books of waiting for them to properly get together they hardly interacted with each other, and when they did they didn't seem like a young, married couple in love, especially from Anne's side. Anne just seemed weirdly obsessed with her neighbour and how beautiful and amazing she was, at points it was like she was more in love with her female neighbour than with Gilbert. It was all quite strange.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Anne's House of Dreams (Anne of Green Gables #5), L.M. Montgomery

Anne's House of Dreams is a novel by Canadian author Lucy Maud Montgomery. It was first published in 1917 by McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart. The novel is from a series of books written primarily for girls and young women, about a young girl named Anne Shirley. The books follow the course of Anne's life. It is

set principally on Canada's Prince Edward Island, Montgomery's birthplace and home for much of her life.
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Lea says

I probably first read this book back in elementary school, and have reread it a few times since then, but I sat down last weekend and actually reread every word, and just LOVED this book all over again. Anne and Gilbert are grown up and get married in an early chapter, and then leave Avonlea to start their lives together far away (60 miles!) from Green Gables. This book was moving, and sad, and funny, and everything that you want for a favorite character as she matures. There may not be as many adventures as in Anne of Green Gables, but L.M. Montgomery tells her story with as much loving and moving detail as ever.

Elaina says

These books have a special place in my heart now <3 I can definitely see these being ones that I will reread over and over again as I get older! :D Like I've said before, the characters are just what makes these books so great to me! We got to meet some new ones in this one...Captain Jim, Miss Cornelia, and Leslie Moore are a few :) I was surprised by how much development Leslie's character went through in the story and I just enjoyed seeing her grow. I loved getting to see Anne and Gilbert as husband and wife of course too! :))

It is getting much harder now to try and pick a favorite Anne book :P, but for right now I think this one and Anne of the Island are tied and the very first one is my second favorite!

April (Aprilius Maximus) says

I hate to admit that the first half bored me to tears but the second half gave me so many feelings!

Kathryn says

Thoroughly enjoyed this one in the series and it was very ably narrated by Karen Savage for LibriVox. Highly recommend.

Shannon says

I really enjoyed the Anne of Green Gable series and this book is no exception. In this book Anne marries and has her first 2 children. This book is sadder than the others and there is a sense of loss through the book that can be paralleled to the loss within L.M. Montgomery's life at the time. I don't want to say anymore than that and give anything away. I wish that we knew more what Gilbert is/was thinking in this book-- I think she (L.M. Montgomery) could have done more with his character, but that is my only criticism. It is a wonderful end to the first of the Anne books... The others in the series were written many years later when L.M. Montgomery was older.

Celeste says

Full (mini) review now posted! (And I do mean 'mini'...)

Rating: 3.5 stars

I thought I had never read this book, but I was evidently mistaken! Every book in this series has it's share of ups and downs, but this installment had the most devastating heartbreak. There was heartbreak on more than one front, but beauty and healing were still right around the corner. Here we have Anne fully grown and embarking on married life. Her joys are now deeper, but her sorrows are those of an adult, as well. She manages to deal with them gracefully, and makes some remarkable new friends in the process. Captain Jim is a lovely man, and I thoroughly enjoyed him. I've been enjoying this series immensely, but this particular book was definitely sadder than preceding novels. Only three more to go! And I'm positive I've never read these last three. Really, I am. XD

Hannah says

Oh....my....goodness....

I must sadly admit I didn't like this one, at first...by the second half it had grown on me immensely.

I must say that I find this to be the most sorrowful Anne book. There do seem to be many more tragedies wrapped up in this one than any of the others.

I find this one to be darker, too. Not in a bad way. But the feel of it is just so different. I have to say, that that is why I didn't like this at first. But, the book did have many happy moments, as well. (Also, when I was reading the majority of this book, the weather was dark, dreary, and rainy. That sometimes dampens my mood and makes me feel oppressed. That could have played a big role on why I didn't like the first part of this book. I mean, if it must rain, why doesn't it just come with a thunderstorm. Those make me happy, as long as they don't get out of hand.)

Leslie, my heavens, she just makes me want to cry! I felt so sorry (sorry seems too little a word for it) her during the entire book! Here she is, caring for a grown man, who thinks he's a child for 13 years.

THIRTEEN YEARS!!! Does anyone realize how much time that is?! And to believe when she knew Dick might come back, the real Dick, why it nearly broke my heart:(I just know I'd have done the same exact thing, because it was right. But, 'The truth will set you free.' And so it did, in Leslie's case, and will in all

cases.

Her relationship with Owen Ford was absolutely adorable! Oh, I imagine just the cutest little couple. In my mind, thought not in the book, Owen is short and dumpy, and Leslie is short and petite with the longest blonde hair anyone every saw. And they love each other, and she always holds his arm wherever they go. And when they are perhaps visiting others, though they enjoy the others' company, they steal glances at each other, and their eyes say just how much they love each other, and that no one could ever come between them or that love.

Dreamy, isn't it?

Ok...now on to actual details about the book.

When Joy died I was nearly heartbroken. I remember reading this for the first time, and I felt so for Anne. Anne either really, deeply loves something or doesn't like it all, usually. And you know she would just adore her own children. And when that baby died, a part of her died as well. I knew she was going to become depressed, and when Anne is depressed there seems to be no hope for the rest of the world...

But then she got little James Matthew, Little Jem, in the end. Not to replace Joy, but to help heal the wound that she had left a little bit more.

The first time I read this book, nearly two years ago, I didn't like it. It was my least favorite Anne book. Though, it still remains my least favorite out of the series, I must admit I do love this one. Just because a book isn't all happy, doesn't mean that it's all bad...now does it?

A few favorite quotes of mine from the book:

“I'd like to add some beauty to life,” said Anne dreamily. “I don't exactly want to make people KNOW more... though I know that IS the noblest ambition... but I'd love to make them have a pleasanter time because of me... to have some little joy or happy thought that would never have existed if I hadn't been born.”

“I couldn't live where there were no trees--something vital in me would starve.”

“Even when I'm alone I have real good company — dreams and imaginations and pretendings. I like to be alone now and then, just to think over things and taste them. But I love friendships — and nice, jolly little times with people.”

“Thank goodness, we can choose our friends. We have to take our relatives as they are, and be thankful...”

“It always amazes me to look at the little, wrinkled brown seeds and think of the rainbows in 'em,” said Captain Jim. “When I ponder on them seeds I don't find it nowise hard to believe that we've got souls that'll live in other worlds. You couldn't hardly believe there was life in them tiny things, some no bigger than grains of dust, let alone colour and scent, if you hadn't seen the miracle, could you?”

“When one great passion seizes possession of the soul all other feelings are crowded out.”

“I suppose all this sounds very crazy — all these terrible emotions always do sound foolish when we put

them into our inadequate words. They are not meant to be spoken — only felt and endured."

"But just think what a dull world it would be if everyone was sensible,' pleaded Anne."

"My library isn't very extensive but every book in it is a friend."

Castalia says

Sadly, my enjoyment of Montgomery's Anne series diminishes as the series goes along. While even those books set outside of Avonlea still manage to contain wonderful characters who add such lovely color to the stories, especially the Redmond group and the clan at Windy Poplars, once Anne is married and sets up house the appeal goes right out the window for me. One must agree with Gilbert's statement in *House of Dreams*, that many people would indeed think that Anne, a Redmond B.A. and a published author, is wasted as wife to a poor country doctor. While I as a young girl could relate to Anne in her educational endeavors, I could not relate to her once she set all that aside to become a housewife and mother of six children. I so wanted to like the later books, and was sad when I did not.
