

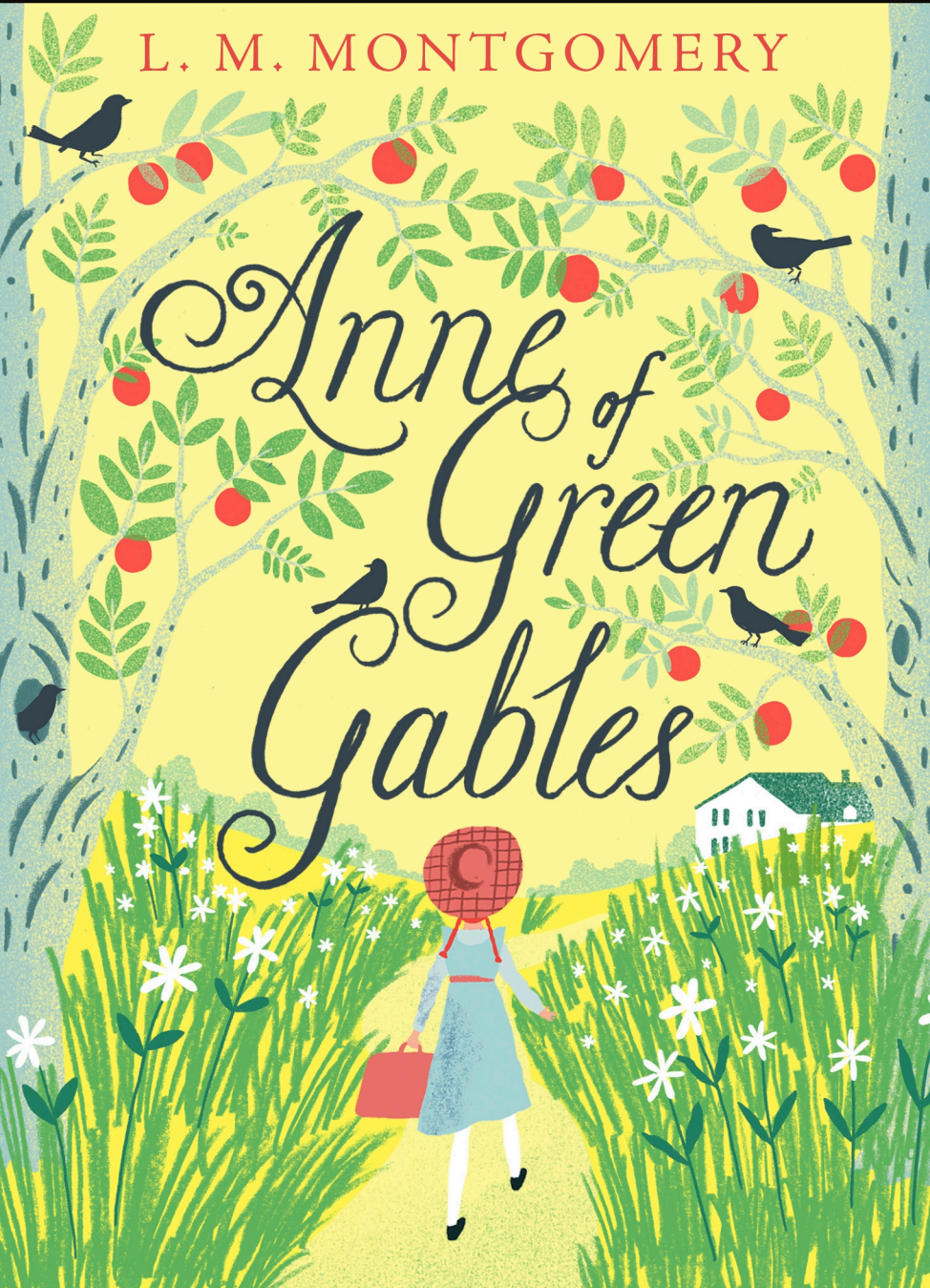
Penguin



Readers

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Anne of
Green
Gables



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CHAPTER ONE
Something strange

It was 3.30 p.m. on a sunny June day in Avonlea. Mrs. Rachel Lynde sat at her window. She watched everything and everyone in Avonlea. Strange things did not often happen there, but Mrs. Lynde always watched for them anyway.

Suddenly, Matthew Cuthbert drove past on the road out of Avonlea. Now this *was* strange! Matthew Cuthbert did not leave his home very often. He was a quiet man. He did not like going anywhere different, and he did not like talking to new people.

“Why is Matthew driving out of town, and why is he wearing his best clothes?” said Mrs. Lynde. “I must know.”



Mrs. Lynde could not rest. "I will go to Green Gables and ask Marilla. She will tell me," she thought.

Matthew and his sister, Marilla, lived at Green Gables—a house near the woods. It was away from the other houses in Avonlea. They liked that.

Mrs. Lynde walked to Green Gables. "Come in," she heard from behind the kitchen door.

Marilla Cuthbert sat at the kitchen table. There were three plates on it.

"Someone is coming here for dinner," Mrs. Lynde thought.



Marilla was a tall, thin woman with dark hair.

“Good evening, Rachel,” said Marilla. “How are you?”

“I’m well, but how are you, Marilla?” asked Mrs. Lynde. “I was **worried**. I saw Matthew driving out of town.”

“I’m fine,” answered Marilla. “Matthew went to Bright River train station. An **orphan** boy is coming from an **orphanage** in Nova Scotia. He will help Matthew on the farm.”

“Marilla! What are you thinking? You are bringing a strange child into your home. You know nothing about him,” said Mrs. Lynde.

“That is true, Rachel. But we will know him soon,” said Marilla.

Mrs. Lynde wanted to stay until Matthew came home, but she also wanted to tell people the news. She left quickly, and Marilla was happy. She did not want to talk to Mrs. Lynde about the orphan.

CHAPTER TWO

Matthew and Marilla are surprised

At Bright River, the train station was quiet. Matthew could only see a little girl.

“When will the five-thirty train be here?” he asked the man in the ticket office.

“The five-thirty train left. That little girl was on it. She is waiting for you,” the man answered.



“But I came for a boy. I don’t understand,” said Matthew.

“You can ask her about it,” the man said, quickly. He wanted to go home for his dinner.

Matthew was very frightened of new people. “What can I say to this little girl?” he thought.

The little girl watched Matthew. She was eleven years old. She wore an ugly yellow dress and a brown hat. Her face was small, white, and thin, and she had bright red hair.

“Are you Mr. Matthew Cuthbert of Green Gables?” she asked. “I am happy to see you! I thought about sleeping in a tree tonight, but going home with you is much better.”

“I’m sorry I was so late,” Matthew said, quietly. He could not tell the little girl about the **mistake**.

“I’ll take her home,” he thought. “Marilla will tell her.”



The little girl talked a lot on the drive to Green Gables. “Prince Edward Island is very pretty. Look at that cherry tree over there with all the white flowers!” she said, happily. “Well, this is wonderful. I’m going to live with you and have a home. I always wanted a home.”

Matthew enjoyed listening to this intelligent and funny girl. “We will make her very sad,” he thought, “because she can’t stay.”