

# **Anne's House of Dreams Study Guide**

**Anne's House of Dreams by Lucy Maud Montgomery**

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# Contents

<a href="#">Anne's House of Dreams Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 1 and 2.....</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 3 and 4.....</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 5 and 6.....</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 7 and 8.....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 9 and 10.....</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 11 and 12.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 13, 14 and 15.....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 16, 17 and 18.....</a>	<a href="#">20</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 19, 20 and 21.....</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 22, 23 and 24.....</a>	<a href="#">24</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 25, 26 and 27.....</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 28, 29 and 30.....</a>	<a href="#">28</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 31, 32 and 33.....</a>	<a href="#">30</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 34, 35 and 36.....</a>	<a href="#">32</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 37, 38, 39 and 40.....</a>	<a href="#">34</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">37</a>
<a href="#">Objects/Places.....</a>	<a href="#">40</a>
<a href="#">Themes.....</a>	<a href="#">42</a>
<a href="#">Style.....</a>	<a href="#">45</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">48</a>
<a href="#">Topics for Discussion.....</a>	<a href="#">50</a>





# Plot Summary

"Anne's House of Dreams" by L. M. Montgomery is the continuing story of Anne Shirley Blythe who lived in Green Gables. This book is the fifth in the "Anne of Green Gables" series. In this episode, Anne is twenty-five years old and is preparing for her wedding. She is going to marry young Gilbert Blythe who is an up and coming physician. They will be moving from Green Gables to Four Winds, a sleepy seaside community on Prince Edward Island in Nova Scotia. Anne, tall, slender and flame-haired, has been a teacher for three years at a school called Summerside. Gilbert Blythe has been after Anne for years and is finally going to make her his own.

After a small ceremony with family and close friends, the couple takes off from Green Gables to begin their new life together. Anne cannot wait to get to the house where they will make that start. Gilbert doesn't want her to expect too much. The house is old and small and they will just be renting it. But Anne is not dissuaded from believing that the house will be her house of dreams especially when Gilbert tells her about the grounds around the house. It has many large old trees and a brook that runs through the property. And there are gardens that prior owners have cultivated. Anne has foregone having a honeymoon. To her the best honeymoon she can think of is being with Gilbert in their new residence.

Anne is not disappointed with her house. She enthusiastically decorates the inside and works diligently on the flower gardens outside. She loves walking around the grounds and at the beach on the harbor. The area is more beautiful than she had imagined. Anne becomes acquainted with some of the locals and forms some strong and lasting friendships with them. There is Captain Jim who operates the lighthouse. He's an old tar who entertains everyone with stories of his adventures on the sea. Jim is a sensitive and caring older man and feels an immediate affinity for Anne.

To say that Miss Cornelia Bryant is an opinionated woman would be a conservative statement. She is a proud Presbyterian who detests the Methodists and doesn't mind telling anyone within earshot. She is also a Conservative Tory and despises the liberals. And she feels that men will be the downfall of civilization. There are only a handful of men that she can tolerate. Cornelia has two favorite forms of recreation: sewing and reading the obituaries. But beneath all her bluster, Cornelia has a good heart and really wants the best for people.

Leslie Moore becomes Anne's best friend at Four Winds. Leslie is the most beautiful girl that Anne had ever seen. In fact, she is the most beautiful girl that most people had ever seen. She is in a loveless and unusual marriage but cannot escape. She has a history of tragedy in her life and sees no hope for the future. Anne is supportive of Leslie and tries to lift her spirits whenever possible. In a surprising twist in the story however, a whole new world eventually opens up for Leslie. It's a world filled with the promise of hope, love, and romance.



Anne associates good and bad memories with her house of dreams. Despite everything, she loves her little house and doesn't ever want to leave. But just when things are perfect, that's when they change. After they have a son, Gilbert hears about a large house for sale and wants to buy it. Anne resists the change and goes through much pain to finally come to the conclusion that it is time to move on. But Anne will never let go of the memories she made in her house of dreams and it will always have a special place in her heart.



# Chapters 1 and 2

## Chapters 1 and 2 Summary

In Chapter 1, Anne Shirley is done with geometry. She sticks her book away and looks triumphantly at Diana Wright. Diana holds small Anne Cordelia in her arms. Diana thought Anne liked teaching. Anne does and her three years at Summerside have been pleasant. Mrs. Harmon Andrews had told her she wouldn't find married life any better than teaching. Anne's laugh echoes throughout Green Gables. Marilla is in the kitchen making preserves. She loves hearing that laugh and although she is happy that Anne is marrying Gilbert Blythe, she will miss Anne and her laugh.

Diana assures Anne that married life has its ups and downs but it all works out if you're married to the right man. Diana is upset to learn that Anne and Gilbert are going to settle sixty miles away in Four Winds Harbor. Anne tells Diana how beautiful Four Winds is. They will not be going on a wedding tour after their marriage. Anne will be happy to spend her honeymoon in Four Winds at her house of dreams. Anne always thought she was so homely that she'd never marry. Diana compliments Anne on her physique - so tall and slender. She will make a beautiful bride.

In Chapter 2, there had never been a wedding before at Green Gables. Marilla plans to give Anne the half dozen braided rugs that she has in the garret. She was surprised when Anne asked her for them since hooked rugs had become more popular. Marilla and Mrs. Rachel Lynde discuss the marriage of Anne and Gilbert. They are both relieved that she didn't marry the Kingsport man even though he is rich and Gilbert is poor. Marilla would never voice her private feelings about Gilbert. Had things gone differently, Gilbert may have been her son. His marrying Anne will right an old wrong.

Mrs. Inglis, formerly Jane Andrews, her mother Mrs. Harmon Andrews and Mrs. Jasper Bell stop by to see Anne. Jane had married a millionaire and despite the wealth, she is happily married. Money hadn't changed Jane. Mrs. Andrews makes a little dig about Anne being twenty-five - quite old for a bride. But Anne looks younger than her age - red-haired people often do. Anne could always defend herself against most anything except her red hair. Mrs. Bell comments that Gilbert looks very young for a doctor. Most people won't have confidence in him because of his youthful appearance.

The insults were forgotten after the visitors left and Gilbert came by. Gilbert found a house for them, he tells her. It is a little white house half-way between Glen St. Mary and Four Winds Point. It will be a little out of the way but they will have a phone. He describes the house to her and tells her there is a romantic story attached to the house that only Captain Jim, the lighthouse keeper, knows. They will be renting the house from the Glen St. Mary Presbyterian Church. The woman who owed it, Elizabeth Russell, died the year before. Some of her furniture is still there. Anne is thrilled when Gilbert tells her that there are big trees and a brook on the property. Anne tells Gilbert that she is sure that the house is truly her house of dreams.



## Chapters 1 and 2 Analysis

In Chapter 1, Anne will be leaving Green Gables and will be far away from her family and friends. She looks forward to living in her dream house but Diana warns her that there are always ups and downs in any marriage. Anne has an idealistic view of what her life will be with Gilbert Blythe. But her idealism is natural for a young woman planning to marry. Anne has a rather low opinion of herself but Diana tries to lift her confidence by boasting about how tall and slender she is.

In Chapter 2, perhaps Anne won't really miss Green Gables as much as she might have thought. After being insulted by Mrs. Andrews and Mrs. Bell, she will probably be glad to get away. The two mature women are either busybodies by nature or want to take Anne down a few notches for some reason. Even though the house she and Gilbert will live in is small, a rental and in an inconvenient place, she tells Gilbert that it truly is her dream house. The magic of starting a new life with someone she loves and the fact that the property has trees and a brook, convinces Anne that she will be living in her dream house.



# Chapters 3 and 4

## Chapters 3 and 4 Summary

In Chapter 3, Anne is not planning on inviting many people to the wedding. Many of her friends are far away now - spread all over the globe now. Mrs. Lynde tells Anne that in her day people grew up, married and settled in the same place. They plan to be married outside in the orchard at Noon. The next week, Miss Lavendar and Paul visit. Anne remembers when he was her student and was called little Paul but now he is nineteen and six feet tall. Paul says he won't call her Mrs. Blythe after she marries. She will always be "Teacher" to him. Paul is a writer and poet and Anne is sure he will be famous one day. Anne's a writer herself but her work is geared to children. Miss Charlotta the Fourth also visits. She envies Anne being married to a doctor. It would come in handy when the children get sick.

Philippa and Reverend Jo arrive at Green Gables the day before the wedding. Philippa is thrilled that Anne is marrying Gilbert. A mutual acquaintance, Miss Patty, had written a letter to both of them and sent them to Anne. Miss Patty and her sister Miss Maria had never married but are happy for Anne. She is sending her two china dogs as a wedding gift. That evening, Anne walks to the graveyard in Avonlea to pay her respects to Matthew. He would be so happy to see her married and she feels that she has his blessing even though he's not there. She recalls the day fourteen years before when Marilla told her she could stay at Green Gables and Matthew had given her the first party dress she ever had.

In Chapter 4, Anne wakes up to sunshine in her room. She recalls another time when she was in misery agonizing over whether Gilbert would die. Fifteen-year-old Dora would inherit her room. There are many memories for Anne in that room but it is time to pass it on and move on with her life. Diana and Anne Cordelia arrive for lunch. Diana comments that Anne has a beautiful day for her wedding. Mrs. Rachel tries to tone down Anne's happiness - it wasn't a good thing to flaunt it so.

Gilbert is ecstatic. After years of pursuing Anne, she will finally be his. He is worried whether he will make her happy and whether he is worthy of her. As planned, they are married in the old orchard in the sunshine. Mr. Allan marries them and the Reverend Jo recites a beautiful prayer afterward. A bird sings during the entire ceremony which everyone takes as a good omen. Paul drives them in a carriage to the Carmody train station after the wedding and celebration. Diana and some of the other guests stay with Marilla to get her through the first lonely night.

## Chapters 3 and 4 Analysis

In Chapter 3, Anne's wedding will be simple. Her wedding is a happy time but she has sad memories of Matthew who brought her there to Green Gables fourteen years





before. She visits Matthew's grave and feels like he's still watching over her and that he is pleased with her impending marriage. Leaving Green Gables, Anne is entering a new phase of her life. She is leaving behind both happy and painful memories from her time at Green Gables. She visits Matthew's grave on the night before her wedding. It was a symbolic gesture the end of her time at Green Gables has come.

In Chapter 4, another rite of passage and a sign that Anne is ready to leave Green Gables and all its memories behind is that Dora will be taking over her room when she leaves. Anne has many memories there but she knows that it's time to go and time to allow another young girl to mature and have own set memories of that she will attach to her room at Green Gables.



# Chapters 5 and 6

## Chapters 5 and 6 Summary

In Chapter 5, Dr. David Blythe sent his horse and carriage to meet Anne and Gilbert at the train station. The driver gives them the carriage so they can drive alone to their new house. The countryside is beautiful and idyllic as they make their way to their home. As they get close to their house, they pass a large green-painted house that seems to be abandoned. Gilbert is not sure if anyone will be living there or not. Anne spots a girl herding a flock of geese. As they drive closer, Anne sees that the girl's beauty is remarkable. Her eyes are haunting but have a touch of hostility in them. Gilbert doesn't know who she is. He only has eyes for Anne. Anne emphasizes that the girl has the most beautiful face she had ever seen. Still, Gilbert has no idea who she is. They arrive at their house and walk over the threshold together. Gilbert whispers to Anne, "Welcome home."

In Chapter 6, old Dr. Dave and Mrs. Dr. Dave, Gilbert's parents, greet the couple at their new house. Anne is thrilled with the house and the grounds. Inside, Gilbert introduces her to Captain Jim Boyd. Anne feels an immediate kinship with the Captain. He is an old man but has youthful eyes and a youthful spirit. In the days ahead she would come to notice how he looks out to sea as if searching for something lost. They have a big feast on trout Captain Jim brought. He tells Anne that Mrs. Dick Moore and her husband live in the house among the willows by the brook. The Moores are their only close neighbors. But there are plenty of good families and people in the surrounding community. Captain Jim tells the new couple that Miss Cornelia Bryant lives in the bright green house that they had passed on their way. Captain Jim refers to her as a "man-hater." She has a bitter mouth but a kind heart and is always in the middle of everything.

## Chapters 5 and 6 Analysis

In Chapter 5, Anne sees a beautiful girl on the way to their new house. She is the most beautiful girl Anne had ever seen. Her eyes have a tinge of hostility in them. At this point, this character is interesting and intriguing there is certainty that much more will be revealed about this girl in the chapters to come.

In Chapter 6, Anne feels an affinity for Captain Jim. Perhaps they'll become friends. Another interesting character will probably be introduced into to the story very soon. Miss Cornelia Bryant lives in the emerald green house and is, according to Captain Jim, a man-hater. He says she's always in the middle of everything so she may turn out to be the town busybody. But he says she has a good heart so it is not expected that she will be a villainous character.



# Chapters 7 and 8

## Chapters 7 and 8 Summary

In Chapter 7, Captain Jim tells Anne and Gilbert the story of the schoolmaster's bride which was the romantic story that Gilbert had eluded to. She was the first bride in the house. There were just three women who lived in the house before Anne: Elizabeth Russell, Mrs. Ned Russell and the schoolmaster's bride. The schoolmaster was John Selwyn. Captain Jim was just sixteen when Selwyn came to the Glen to teach school. He was a good teacher unlike a lot of the others who were always drunk and overly critical of the students. He boarded at Captain Jim's father's house. Captain Jim and Selwyn became good friends. Jim was a little envious when he learned that his sweetheart, Persis Leigh, was coming out to marry him.

Selwyn knew that she was coming. He had the gift of premonition. He saw the future in his dreams. He prepared the house for her arrival. Neighbors helped out by giving him household items and furniture. Everyone wanted him to be happy because he was such a good teacher. Persis was expected in mid-July but she didn't come. Her ship was eight weeks late yet Selwyn forced himself to focus on his teaching. He didn't talk about it and everyone thought he would go mad because the ship was surely lost.

John's face lit up one day. He told Jim that he envisioned the ship and it would arrive the next day. The ship arrived the next morning with Persis on board. They were married that evening at Jim's house. She was a sweet and winsome young woman. The couple lived in the house for fifteen years and then moved to Charlottetown. Jim tells Anne that they "both belong to the race that knows Joseph." (38) Anne is puzzled by the comment. He explains that Miss Cornelia separates everyone into the race that knows Joseph and the race that does not.

After everyone left, Anne and Gilbert walked through their garden in the dark night. Anne loved the smell of flowers at night.

In Chapter 8, the newlyweds get settled in their new house and spend time exploring the island, enjoying the perfect weather. Anne has no regrets about spending her honeymoon there. She's more aware of the sea than she had ever been before. She understands the lure that the sea holds for men like Captain Jim. Gilbert is doing well in his practice. He saved the life of a very sick woman—a good wife and mother. It was a victory against the Great Destroyer.

Finally, Miss Cornelia Bryant comes calling. Gilbert decides to duck inside when he spots her coming up their walkway. Miss Cornelia brought a baby's item that she was sewing for a neighbor woman who was expecting her eighth child. Anne compliments her on what a beautiful sewing job she's doing on the baby's dress. Miss Cornelia tells Anne that she would have come to visit sooner but she's been busy. It's harvest time and she had to attend the funeral of an acquaintance. She was happy to see Anne and



Gilbert in the Presbyterian Church on Sunday. She would never trust a doctor who was a Methodist. Anne admits that she and Gilbert attended the Methodist service on Sunday night. Miss Cornelia understands that Gilbert has to attend the Methodist service on occasion or he wouldn't get their business.

Miss Cornelia does not like the Methodists. Whether they go to heaven or not is up to a higher power. But she doesn't have to associate with them on earth. Miss Cornelia fills Anne in on the latest on others in the community. She hasn't many good things to say about the men in the area. She tells Anne that the good ones are all in the graveyard by the church. Miss Cornelia asks for Anne's opinion of their minister, the Presbyterian minister. Miss Cornelia doesn't like him at all. They made a mistake by picking him. He can't stand up to anyone - he agrees with everyone no matter what they say. The only men she likes are Captain Jim, the old doctor and, so far, Gilbert.

Captain Jim never married. He and Elizabeth Russell were great friends but not sweethearts. Elizabeth was a beauty when she was young. When the Prince of Wales visited the island, she attending the reception ball. He danced with her and ignored the other women who considered themselves of higher social standing than Elizabeth. She told Miss Cornelia that she never married because she had quite a temper. Anne volunteers that, on occasion, she does, too.

Anne promises to keep Elizabeth's flower garden in good order. Miss Cornelia recommends she hire Henry Hammond if she needs help. Anne invites Miss Cornelia to stay for tea. Miss Cornelia is sure they are going to be good friends. She is aware that Gilbert went and hid when he saw her coming and that he had been listening to their entire conversation.

## Chapters 7 and 8 Analysis

In Chapter 7, Captain Jim and Anne seem to have a kindred spirit. He relates the story of the first bride who lived in the house and how he was good friends with the schoolmaster and his wife. Captain Jim may be reliving his past and is in hopes of making the Blythes his new friends. He runs the lighthouse and is probably very lonely much of his time. Anne will probably be looking for companionship herself. Gilbert is a doctor and must tend to his practice and patients and will be away from home for long hours. There are very few close neighbors and she knows no one there. She will probably look forward to visits by the Captain. After everyone leaves, Anne and Gilbert are finally alone on their wedding night.

In Chapter 8, Miss Cornelia is the town gossip. She knows something about everyone. She is also very biased against the Methodists. Anne probably feels a little uncomfortable because she had enjoyed the Methodist service she and Gilbert went to. Miss Cornelia is very opinionated. She only likes a few men - Gilbert being one of them. But if Gilbert makes a move Miss Cornelia doesn't like, she probably will put him on her blacklist, too. Miss Cornelia is sure that she and Anne will become friends. Anne is curious about the Moores. Although they live the closest to them, they have not come to



call. Anne has never seen the beautiful girl she had seen when they first drove into town. She had such an unfriendly look on her face. Could this girl be one of the Moores, the neighbors who are not very neighborly?

Miss Cornelia doesn't miss much. She knew that Gilbert and basically gone in hiding when she came but it didn't seem to deter her or hurt her feelings. She's probably used to it.



# Chapters 9 and 10

## Chapters 9 and 10 Summary

In Chapter 9, Captain Jim comes by regularly. He compliments Anne on how she has decorated the house. Anne and Gilbert finally find time to visit Four Winds. Anne is upset that the Moores haven't come to visit them since they are their only close neighbors. Anne had never seen that beautiful girl again - the one who was herding the geese. They see a tall, man dressed in his Sunday best but with a scraggly beard that had grown almost to his knees. And cascading down his back was his hair that was almost as long as his beard. Anne and Gilbert are spellbound by the beauty of the harbor.

They stop by the lighthouse and visit Jim who is outside on the front steps. Captain Jim invites them in and shows them around. Jim put the fireplace in himself. He is pleased that Anne likes his tea - his secret is he doesn't skimp on the cream. Jim tells them that the man with the long hair and beard is Marshall Elliott. He is a member of the Grit party, the same political party that Captain Jim is affiliated with. A few years back he was so afraid the Liberal Party would win an election that he vowed to never shave or cut his hair again if they won. He's a bachelor or he might not be getting away with it. Captain Jim is friendly with Marshall Elliott. They go fishing together sometimes. Fishing now is about all that Captain Jim's good for. But if they saw his life-book they would know that he had quite an exciting life.

Captain Jim has a cat he named First Mate. He had rescued it from the vacation home of a family from the city who spends summers in the Harbor. They left First Mate and his siblings behind to starve to death. After tea, Captain Jim gets out his collection of curios to show Anne and Gilbert. Each piece has a story attached to it. The Captain is a born storyteller and evokes both laughter and tears with his tales. The Captain misses the sea and the adventures he had there. Later, the couple wonders why he never married. He could have his sons out their living those adventures for him. Anne says all he has now is a cat. But Captain Jim has much more - he has his memories.

In Chapter 10, Anne loves exploring the island and the harbor. Sometimes she walks with Gilbert or with Captain Jim. But sometimes, she walks alone, lost in her thoughts. August is hit with a deluge of storms and rain. When the weather cleared Anne runs to the beach where, knowing she's alone, dances and sings. She is laughing like a child when she spots the mysterious beautiful girl sitting on a boulder a short distance away. Anne is embarrassed. "You must think me crazy," (63) Anne says to the girl. The girl says she does not. But the girl has that slightly hostile look in her eyes. It isn't a welcoming look but Anne decides to introduce herself. The girl is Leslie Moore, Mrs. Dick Moore. They live in the house by the brook. Anne is quietly astonished that this young girl is a married woman.



Anne says they are such close neighbors that they should be friends. They discover that they both love the sea. They giggle about what Miss Cornelia would think of Anne's exuberant dancing. Anne tells Leslie that she is the most beautiful girl she'd ever seen. Leslie thinks her beauty is a curse. She wishes she was plain. Miss Cornelia is the best friend that Leslie has. She asks if Anne ever feels lonely. Anne has never been lonely that she can remember. If she is alone, she has her imaginations and thoughts to keep her company. She asks Leslie to come visit her often.

Anne apologizes for her childlike behavior earlier. She has only been married a short time. Leslie has been married for twelve years. She married when she was sixteen. On their walk back home, Anne promises to visit Leslie. At home, Anne tells Gilbert about Leslie. Even though she had claimed that Miss Cornelia was her best friend, Anne wonders why Miss Cornelia had never mentioned Leslie. One thing Anne is sure of, Leslie Moore is not happy. She feels that there is great depth to the woman but she shuts that part of herself off to everyone. Anne plans to ask Miss Cornelia about her.

## Chapters 9 and 10 Analysis

In Chapter 9, more is revealed about Captain Jim. He lives in the past and loves evoking emotion from those he cares about. The tears that Anne sheds over his stories tell him that she connects with him on an emotional level. Captain Jim lives a solitary life. He's a very sensitive and caring man. He has a cat but no dog. He's more the dog type but when his dog died it hurt so much that he refused to get another dog and go through that kind of loss again. Jim didn't like cats much but rescued some that were stranded by heartless vacationers who just left them behind after their vacation ended. That's how he got his cat.

Captain Jim lives somewhere in between the past and the present. His true joy is in the past when he was at sea. He'd give anything if he could be there again. But second best, is bringing his stories and adventures alive once again and sharing them with friends.

Anne is wrong when she says that all Captain Jim has in his old age is a cat. Captain Jim has much more - he has a world of wonderful memories.

In Chapter 10, Leslie Moore is a mysterious figure. She has a past that Anne would like to know about but when Anne tries to get too close, Leslie shuts down. She considers Miss Cornelia her best friend but Miss Cornelia has never mentioned her. It is odd that as easy as it is for Miss Cornelia to gossip about everyone else in the community, that she failed to even mention Leslie's name. Perhaps she's protective of the younger woman. Leslie was a child bride and apparently is in an unhappy marriage. She feels trapped and that her future holds no hope. She likes to go to the shore and feel the freedom of the wind in her hair. She is lured by the sea - perhaps she has hopes and dreams that it will someday take her away from her miserable life.



# Chapters 11 and 12

## Chapters 11 and 12 Summary

In Chapter 11, Miss Cornelia tells Anne that her friend had her eighth baby. Miss Cornelia's cousin, Flora, has eleven children. Her husband committed suicide and left her to raise all those children by herself. Just like a man! He jumped in their well. Flora didn't feel right ever using the well again so she had another well dug. There have only been two suicides in Four Winds. The other was Frank West, Leslie Moore's father. Leslie's life has been a tragedy. Miss Cornelia is happy that Anne and Leslie met and plan to see one another.

Leslie's father was Frank West. He was shiftless like most men. He dropped out of college and returned to Four Winds and married Rose Elliot. Rose was beautiful but lazy and selfish. They had two children, Leslie and Kenneth who was four years younger than Leslie. When Leslie was twelve years-old, Kenneth was killed when he fell off a wagon. The wagon ran over and crushed him. Leslie witnessed the accident and was beside herself in grief. They had to tear her away from his body. They sent for Miss Cornelia to comfort her. Leslie never mentioned the incident again.

Frank didn't do well after his son's death. When Leslie was fourteen, he hung himself in the parlor where Leslie discovered his body. Leslie's grandmother died and left her a small inheritance which she used to educate herself. She passed herself off as a teacher and older than she really was. She got a teaching position at the Glen school.

Dick Moore came into her life then. He was a sailor in the summer and worked in his father's store in the winter. He drank too much and although he was a big, handsome man, he was small and ugly inside. He decided he wanted Leslie because of her looks and he got her. He forced her into the marriage, vowing to have his father foreclose on her mother unless Leslie married him. Rose pleaded with Leslie not to have her thrown out of her house and Leslie finally gave in. Her mother died a year later at which time Dick Moore went on a sea voyage to Havana. He was to come back in nine weeks but didn't. The next year, Captain Jack was in Havana and stumbled onto him. He had been badly beaten in a bar brawl and had suffered brain damage. He was like a child and remembered nothing about his life or home. Captain Jack brought him back. He is child-like and does nothing, just stays inside the house. Leslie takes care of him and it's been her life for eleven years. Anne feels horrible after hearing Leslie's story. She promises Miss Cornelia that she will make every effort to befriend Leslie. Miss Cornelia warns her that Leslie will resist but she must not give up on her.

In Chapter 12, Leslie comes over late one evening. Anne and Gilbert had just made fudge and they insisted that she have some. Leslie seems to come alive, finally in the company of people her own age. Leslie admires Anne and Gilbert's collection of books. Anne tells Leslie she can borrow as many as she likes. At the stroke of ten, Leslie rises to leave. As she is leaving, Anne sees the hostility return to her eyes. After Leslie





leaves, she gushes about Leslie's beauty and shining golden hair. Gilbert agrees that Leslie is very beautiful. Anne feels a little twinge of hurt and insecurity but Gilbert assures her that she is his queen and that she wouldn't look right with anything but her red hair.

## Chapters 11 and 12 Analysis

In Chapter 11, Anne learns of Leslie's tragic life. The earlier description of the hurt and hostility that Anne saw in her eyes is now explained. Leslie is a tragic figure who has suffered great loss - the loss of her loved ones and the loss of her youth. She is a loyal person even though she did not marry Dick Moore because she loved him. Leslie is a martyr who has pushed aside her life, her hopes and dreams, to live a life with no joy and no reward. She is attracted to the sea because it holds the promise of escape. Would Leslie ever answer the beckoning of the sea and leave her life in Four Winds so that she could start anew and have some happiness and fulfillment in her life. Anne, who is a caring and spirited person, may have a good influence on Leslie. Leslie saw that Anne was able to sing and dance and laugh and be free. Maybe someday Leslie will be able to emulate this behavior and feel free herself.

In Chapter 12, when Leslie spends some time with young vital people she feels like one of them. As soon as she prepares to leave, the desolate look returns to her face. Leslie likes to read - like the sea, reading takes her to another place, away from her miserable life. Both are forms of escapism.



# Chapters 13, 14 and 15

## Chapters 13, 14 and 15 Summary

In Chapter 13, Anne decides to drop by the Moore house. It is a dark gloomy evening and Anne feels the need for some companionship. The wind is blowing and making strange noises in the house. Anne feels a little frightened. She grabs some new magazines she had just gotten and takes off to see Leslie. The house is dark when she arrives. She slips around the back of the house where she can see Leslie inside, sitting with her head on the table, sobbing and choking on her tears. Anne fears that she will embarrass Leslie if she sees her like this. Anne runs into Captain Jim and Dick Moore. Dick had spent the day with Captain Jim who is escorting him home. After he takes Dick inside, Anne tells Jim that Leslie was sobbing. Leslie doesn't cry often, Captain Jim tells Anne. She must have really been feeling very low.

In Chapter 14, by November, the beautiful island has turned gray and frosty. Anne and Leslie take regular walks on the beach. Anne and Gilbert spend many nights at the lighthouse. They enjoy their conversations with Captain Jim and hearing his stories. Sometimes Leslie joins them. Just her mere presence seems to brighten and inspire the conversation. Anne thinks that Leslie is a born leader and that her life and brilliance is being wasted. Gilbert reminds Anne that no life is wasted and that the Creator knows how to run his universe.

In Chapter 15, Anne and Gilbert consider going home to Avonlea for Christmas but then decide to stay in Four Winds. So Marilla and Mrs. Rachel Lynde and the twins come to Four Winds for Christmas. A light snow falls on Christmas Eve. Captain Jim and Miss Cornelia come to Christmas dinner. Leslie and Dick were invited but have other commitments. Cornelia is sewing another gown for an expected arrival. She and Captain Jim get into it a little about the men in the area. One is a widower who she could have had when he was fresh! She's not interested in second-hand goods. Another man treats his pigs better than his kids.

Jim gets under her skin when he tells her he attended a Methodist service. They talk about a split in the Presbyterian church a few years back when there were disagreements among the congregation as to where the new church should be built. Jim reminds her that the Methodists allow women to preach. The Methodists have common sense, she responds, but they don't have much religion. Jim asks if she is in favor of women voting. She is not obsessing about it. But when the men get things messed up enough, they'll give women the vote and expect them to straighten everything out.

Anne's first Christmas in her dream house is a huge success. She is appropriately proud.



## Chapters 13, 14 and 15 Analysis

In Chapter 13, an eerie feeling overcomes Anne when she is alone in the house. Perhaps it was a premonition because after she arrives at Leslie's house, she sees that she has broken down and is crying. Anne is afraid of the ghosts that swirl within the storm. Leslie lives with many ghosts every day of her life.

In Chapter 14, Anne is seeing Leslie's brilliance and leadership skills. Anne is convinced that she is not meant for the solitary, tragic life that she leads. Anne has a bold nature and perhaps she will broach the subject with Leslie and encourage her to choose another way to live.

In Chapter 15, Anne is thrilled with the first Christmas at her dream house. Captain Jim and Cornelia bickered and disagreed about everything. But far from disturbing, their repartee was entertaining and at times hilarious. The two are glib and quick and inventive in their thoughts and remarks. They've probably been debating this way for years - it keeps their debate skills honed. Leslie and her husband had other plans for Christmas. Miss Cornelia commented that Leslie didn't like to bring her husband around new people. Leslie is ashamed of her husband's condition which reflects the loveless relationship that she is in.



# Chapters 16, 17 and 18

## Chapters 16, 17 and 18 Summary

In Chapter 16, the snow falls more heavily after Christmas and the harbor is frozen over. Anne, Gilbert and Leslie walk together to the lighthouse to see in the New Year. They observe the setting sun and Venus at its closest point to earth. The hairy Marshall Elliott joins the sky-watchers. It is the first time that Anne has been in his company. She is surprised to find him intelligent, witty and well read. He's very much like Captain Jim. Joe, one of Jim's little nephews, is visiting too but has fallen asleep on the couch. Jim tells some of his tales and later Marshall sings old Scottish ballads in his fine tenor voice while Jim accompanies him on the fiddle. Marshall pulls Leslie to her feet and they dance round and round the room. Leslie lets herself go and enjoys the dancing. She sits down, laughing and exhausted. They sit around the fire for the last hour before the New Year. When clock strikes twelve, Jim opens the door to let the New Year in. He wishes that everyone will have the best year of their lives.

In Chapter 17, it is a rough winter. The harbor ice grows thicker and harder allowing the townspeople to walk across it. With a frozen harbor, Captain Jim has nothing to do until the spring thaw. He takes Anne, Gilbert and Leslie on some wild rides on the harbor in his ice boat. Anne and Leslie take long walks in the snow over the fields and into the woods. The two young women are growing closer but Anne still senses that a barrier exists between them. Captain Jim tells her that the tragedy that Leslie experienced in her life keeps her at arms length. Sometimes Anne thinks Leslie doesn't like her. The Captain tells her to get that notion out of her mind. Leslie is greatly improved since Anne's arrival. But Anne is not able to completely discard her concern that Leslie resents her.

When Anne tells Leslie she is expecting, Leslie gets upset and storms off. A few days later she visits Anne and brings her a sweet hand-made baby garment. Anne receives similar gifts from Miss Cornelia, Philippa Blake and Diana Wright. Anne's most frequent visitor is Captain Jim. She never tires of him and his stories and loves him more all the time. He's always in good spirits and lifts everyone else's. One night he shows Anne his life-book which is a record of his voyages and adventures. Jim is a much better talker than he is writer. A good writer could take his material and write a wonderful book. Jim suggest that Anne try her hand at it. Anne writes to Paul and asks him to come. He's a great writer and could do justice to Jim's stories. But Paul is going abroad for two years. Jim is growing quite old and there's no one to write his story.

In Chapter 18, by March the harbor starts to melt and by April the blue waters have returned. Captain Jim brings Anne a load of shells for her garden and some sweet grass. As Anne's pregnancy advances, she is unable to take long walks. Miss Cornelia comes by often and lets loose with her unique take on things. When Miss Cornelia and Captain Jim happen to visit at the same time, Anne and Gilbert have to hold their sides in laughter as the two always engage in a verbal battle. Of course, Captain Jim loves to



rile Miss Cornelia and get her off on a tangent. As usual, they get into discussions about religion - in particular Presbyterian vs. Methodist talk. Susan Baker, a kind-hearted elderly spinster is helping Anne with housework. She tells Cornelia that old Aunt Mandy will soon be in heaven which she finds very upsetting.

## Chapters 16, 17 and 18 Analysis

In Chapter 16, Leslie is opening up more and more. She dances with complete abandon, signaling that she is a young woman who needs to have fun and laugh the night away. Jim has seen seventy-six New Years. When Marshall tells him he'll see one-hundred, Jim responds that he doesn't want to. But he acknowledges that no matter how old people become, they never want to die. The talk of death may be a foreshadowing of future events.

In Chapter 17, although Anne and Leslie are growing closer, Anne still feels a wall between them. Captain Jim is right when he says that the tragedy in her life has made her learn to keep up her defenses. It is difficult for someone who life has hurt so badly and so often to trust again. Leslie storms off when Anne hints that she's having a baby. Leslie is married to a man who has the intelligence of a child. She will not have children with him. She is twenty-eight and probably feels that her chance for motherhood is slipping away from her. She looks at Anne as the person who has everything she wants - a happy and loving relationship, security and impending motherhood.

In Chapter 18, Anne appears to be nearing the birth of her child. It is Spring - the time of renewal. Just as the ice melts and the air warms and green sprouts shoot up in the garden, it is time for a new life to be born into the little dream house.



# Chapters 19, 20 and 21

## Chapters 19, 20 and 21 Summary

In Chapter 19, Susan Baker feels threatened at first by the presence of Marilla Cuthbert. But after she realizes that she will not interfere with the work she does for Anne, Susan accepts her. There is much concern in the little house of dreams. Anne is in labor through the night. But the next morning, she has a new baby daughter lying beside her. Her name is Joyce but they will call her Joy. The baby is taken from her and soon she begins to worry. Gilbert should look happier. Why is Susan so glum? Finally, she asks Gilbert if something is wrong. He has to tell her that the baby will not live. Miss Cornelia dresses the baby in the gown that Leslie had made for it. The baby is laid in the bed next to her mother and father. The next day they bury Joy. Leslie says she would change places with Anne. At least Anne got to be a mother for one day. Anne is destroyed by the loss. Anne feels that part of herself is buried with the child and that she will never recover. Marilla tries to comfort her - it won't hurt forever, she tells her.

In Chapter 20, Anne smiles again but there is something missing in her smile. Gilbert takes her to town while he tends to a patient. She visits Captain Jim who is thrilled to see her. They go down to the shore and sit on the rocks. He says it's a good place to dream but she says she is done with dreams. He promises her that she will dream again. Anne's feelings are very tender and her tears are always near. He asks if she would like to hear the story of lost Margaret. It was over fifty years ago that Margaret was lost at sea. He walked the shore for months, looking for her. He'll find her one day, he tells Anne. He swears he can hear her calling to him sometimes. Lost Margaret took his heart and he could never love anyone else. He asks Anne to remember the story of lost Margaret so she's never forgotten. She can tell her little ones about her some day and he's sure she will have little ones.

In Chapter 21, Leslie is grateful that Anne is able to sit and sew with her. Leslie had realized how much Anne and their friendship meant to her on that night before her baby was born. Leslie admits to Anne that she had hated her at times because she envied her life. She tells Anne how empty her life is, how loveless it is. Just as Anne thought, Leslie had resented her from the time she first saw Anne. Anne tells Leslie how confused she had been at times. She'd feel close to her one minute and the next she could feel Leslie pulling away. But now she understands. Leslie had to get away from her husband that night they met on the shore. He had been particularly difficult to deal with that day. Leslie refers to herself as a horrid beast but Anne won't hear of it. She demands that she not blame herself. It's been the tragedy of her life that has made her the way she is. The two women both feel they are much closer now that everything is out in the open.

Anne says they can look forward to the future but Leslie knows that her future will be no different than the present. She tells Anne about the deaths of her brother and father and how Captain Jim brought Dick home. Anne encourages her not to dwell on those horrid



events. Anne tells Leslie that they will be friends forever. She's had friends before, good friends, but Leslie will always be special to her.

## Chapters 19, 20 and 21 Analysis

In Chapter 19, Anne is destroyed by the loss of her child. Tragedy has now struck Anne. She may now be able to relate to Leslie on a deeper level since Leslie has known so much tragedy herself. Marilla tells her that it will take time. And Marilla is right but Anne will be changed forever. She feels a part of her was buried with her child.

In Chapter 20, Captain Jim tries to comfort Anne with the story of lost Margaret. It seems that Captain Jim suffered his own personal tragedy. He was deeply hurt and gained an understanding of what loss is. That's why he can relate to Leslie so well and now to Anne. By telling Anne that she can tell her little ones about Lost Margaret, it gives her hope for the future.

In Chapter 21, as tragedy does sometime, it brings Leslie and Anne closer together. Leslie really opens up and confesses the hatred and resentment that she had for Anne at times. Anne was living her life - the life she wanted to live. Even in her grief and mourning, Anne has a kind and big heart. She tries to comfort Leslie and promises that they will always be friends. Anne has an understanding heart and does not have any anger for the hateful thoughts that Leslie had about her. What counts is that they are friends and will be there for one another. They both need to move forward from their tragedies. But how can Leslie go forward from hers? She is stuck in a tragedy.



# Chapters 22, 23 and 24

## Chapters 22, 23 and 24 Summary

In Chapter 22, Gilbert insists that Susan stay on at the house over the summer. Anne tells Gilbert she doesn't need Susan to stay but Gilbert says it's doctor's orders and that they'll keep Susan until the spring comes back into Anne's step. Susan wants to serve her breakfast in bed every morning but Anne draws the line there. What would Cornelia say?! Susan tells her not to listen to Miss Cornelia. She's such a man-hater because she's an old maid. Susan is an old maid too but she doesn't hate men.

Miss Cornelia stops by on her way to see Leslie. She's going to ask if she'll take in a boarder. His name is Owen Ford. He's a newspaperman and the grandson of the schoolmaster who first lived in Anne's house. He's getting over an illness and his doctor ordered him to stay by the sea to speed his recovery. Miss Cornelia returns later and tells Anne that Leslie agreed to take the boarder. Miss Cornelia compliments Anne on what a wonderful job she's done in bringing Leslie out of her shell. Anne tells Miss Cornelia that she relies on Leslie as much as Leslie relies on her. Miss Cornelia mentions that Gilbert should take a look at the boil that is developing on Dick's neck. Anne should get along with Owen because they are both writers.

In Chapter 23, Miss Cornelia calls and tells Anne that she's bringing Owen Ford to her house. She asks Anne to show him the rest of the way to Leslie's house. Anne gathers from Miss Cornelia's evasiveness that Mr. Ford must be a handsome man. Anne and Susan agree that Owen is quite handsome and charming. He is thrilled to see the house where his mother was raised. Anne invites him to stop by any time. She tells him about Captain Jim and how he was great friends with his grandfather. He is thrilled and looks forward to meeting him.

On the way to Leslie's house, he comments about how beautiful Four Winds is. He plans to continue writing his novel during his stay there. As they near Leslie's house, they spot her standing on the veranda. Owen actually gasps at her beauty. He has never seen a lovelier creature in his life. He didn't expect a goddess would be his landlady. He has heard about her husband. He feels great empathy for what a difficult life she is forced to live. Leslie is cold and businesslike when she meets Owen. She tells him his room and dinner are both ready.

In Chapter 24, Anne and Susan have nothing but glowing reviews for Owen Ford. Anne tells Gilbert that she has an idea about something Owen might be able to do while he's in Four Winds. The next night Owen stops over and for a sail with Anne and Gilbert. They both like him immediately. A few days later, Anne takes Owen to the lighthouse to introduce him to Captain Jim. Jim had just gotten back from the harbor where he had to tell an old friend, Henry Pollack, that he was dying - everyone else was afraid to. He told him that he got his sailing orders. But his old friend knew it all along. It wasn't news to him. Captain Jim shares a few more stories about his old friend, Henry.





Anne introduces Owen to Captain Jim asking him if he knows who he is. There is something about his eyes that is familiar to Jim but he can't quite place it. After Anne gives him a few hints, Captain Jim's eyes light up. He realizes that Owen is Persis Selwyn's grandson. Anne tells Captain Jim that Owen is a writer and wants to hear some of his stories. After a few salty old stories, Owen asks to see Jim's life-book. Jim lets him take it home with him.

## Chapters 22, 23 and 24 Analysis

In Chapter 22, Owen Ford may be a key element of the story. He will be living at Leslie's house. He is young and sophisticated. He writes for a newspaper. Leslie is young and beautiful and in need of romance and being loved. Perhaps a relationship will develop between them. Anne has woken Leslie up to the present-day world. Could Owen be the one to introduce Leslie to a whole new world? Is the growth on Dick's neck an integral part of the story?

In Chapter 23, it seems that the story is moving toward a relationship between Leslie and Owen. No one could blame her if she left Dick for the chance to have a happy life. He is like a big child and has no real feelings for Leslie. He just looks at her as his nanny and housekeeper. Leslie is not friendly when she meets the handsome man who will be boarding with her. Perhaps she's afraid to let herself entertain the idea that her life could be anything than what it is. She's been disappointed too many times in life. She's going to avoid getting hurt again. Owen mentions that he's writing a novel. Maybe Anne will suggest to Captain Jim that Owen could write his book.

In Chapter 24, Owen is the perfect choice to write Jim's book. Time was running out for Jim and it was just a stroke of fate that Owen came to Four Winds. Jim is a very emotional and sentimental man and the fact that his best friend's grandson will be writing his book is a poignant moment. That connection will bring even more meaning to the book for Jim.



# Chapters 25, 26 and 27

## Chapters 25, 26 and 27 Summary

In Chapter 25, the next morning Owen comes by and tells Anne he wants to write Jim's book. Anne is sure that Jim will be thrilled. They visit him that night and he is excited at the prospect of having his book written. Jim makes an office in one of the small rooms in the lighthouse where Owen can write and have access to Jim with any questions he might have. He has Anne and Leslie read and edit his work. Owen writes in the mornings and usually goes on outings with the Blythes and Leslie in the afternoons. It was a wonderful summer for everyone. By summer's end, the book is complete and it's time for Owen to end his vacation. He is sure that the book will be published and that he'll win fame and fortune. But as the summer ends, it is not his career that is on his mind.

In Chapter 26, Gilbert is called away to tend to a neighbor who was injured in an accident and is not able to be at the party for Owen's last night in Four Winds. Gilbert plans to get up early the next morning to tell him goodbye. Anne is concerned because Owen looks so pale. He confesses that he is in love with Leslie. He has not told Leslie about his feelings. She might care about him if she were free. But Anne reminds Owen that she is not free. He must leave in silence and leave her to her own life. It would be easier to leave her, Owen responds, if she were happy. She has no future other than growing old with that wretch. Even though he is in misery, being able to know and love her was worth the pain. He'll never forget Leslie and he'll never return to Four Winds because it would be too painful.

In Chapter 27, Owen left the next morning. That night Anne went to see Leslie but the house was dark and abandoned. Leslie did not come to visit the next day which struck Anne as odd. That evening, Anne planned to spend time with Captain Jim while Gilbert attended to a patient. But Jim isn't at the lighthouse so she rides over to the cove with Gilbert. While he tended to the patient, Anne spends her time walking on the shore. Anne is taking in the late evening beauty of the shore when a figure emerges from the mist. It is Leslie who came over to the channel to walk and think. Leslie is upset but she tells Anne she can't tell her why.

Anne boldly asks Leslie if the source of her frayed emotions is because she has fallen for Owen. Anne fears that loving Owen will only add to her misery. Leslie only realized her feelings for Owen a few weeks ago when he announced he would be leaving soon. She'd been happier this summer than she ever had. She didn't realize that it was because Owen was there. But Owen does not return her feelings. He said goodbye in a cold unemotional tone as if he barely knew her. Later, Gilbert comments that it was a shame that Leslie hadn't met someone like Owen years before. She could have had a normal, happy life.



## Chapters 25, 26 and 27 Analysis

In Chapter 25, Owen will be leaving Four Winds but he left his mark in many ways. The Blythes finds a new friend in him and Captain Jack finds a writer for his book who represents part of his youth. The circumstances could not have been better for Jim. Owen is very satisfied with his book and feels it will bring him fame and fortune but he's not thinking about his career. He's probably thinking about Leslie. Could there be any future for them?

In Chapter 26, Anne is the only person who knows that Owen is desperately in love with Leslie. She advised him to do the "right thing." Is the right thing to live a life of misery with someone who is demented and is really a stranger to her? But will Anne's romantic nature compel her to intercede. If Leslie knew of Owen's feelings would she respond in kind and would she leave with him? Captain Jim often takes care of Dick so that Leslie can have a break. Jim thinks so much of Leslie would he be willing to take on the care of Dick to allow Leslie to have a normal and happy life?

In Chapter 27, not surprisingly, Leslie is just as much in love with Owen as he is with her. Anne is keeping silent about his confession of love for Leslie. She figures it would only hurt Leslie more to know that the man she loves also loves her because they can never be together. Anne must keep this secret from her best friend because she promised Owen that she would tell no one. Additionally, this knowledge would only bring more misery to her friend. Gilbert sees that Leslie and Owen would be a perfect match. If Gilbert knew about Owen's feelings, perhaps he would tell Leslie. If Anne or Gilbert would tell Leslie how Owen feels, they would only be telling her the truth. Can that ever be wrong?



# Chapters 28, 29 and 30

## Chapters 28, 29 and 30 Summary

In Chapter 28, Cornelia is visiting Anne. She is reading the obituaries which she says is one of her favorite forms of recreation. It doesn't take long for Miss Cornelia to return to her favorite topic - religion. She hates being called "sister" by anyone even the minister. The only sibling she had was a brother who died fifteen years before. She isn't a sister to anyone else. An evangelist who came through town once paid so much unwanted attention to Leslie that she stopped going to the services. Men!

Anne tells Miss Cornelia that she received a letter from Owen. He wanted Anne to remember him to Miss Cornelia. She doesn't want his remembrances. She'll never forgive him for breaking Leslie's heart. No one had to tell Miss Cornelia. She saw how Leslie felt in her eyes. She can't forgive herself for bringing him there. Anne had hoped that Leslie would begin to forget Owen but she sees the pain in her eyes at just the mention of his name. Anne spent the holidays in Avonlea and returned to Four Winds to a deep blanket of snow. Captain Jim had received word from Owen that his book was accepted by the editor and was going to be published. Miss Cornelia thinks that there's too many books already.

In Chapter 29, it is early spring and Gilbert has something on his mind that he wants to talk about with Anne. He's been doing some research and he thinks that if Dick were taken to a large medical center and underwent the process of trephining he could be returned to normal. He feels it's his duty to tell Leslie about his findings. Anne is totally against telling Leslie. She would be all the more miserable if Dick were her husband rather than her patient. Besides, Leslie can't afford such a procedure. She would have to sell everything she has. And then, the operation may not be successful. Gilbert insists that it is his duty to tell Leslie. Anne insists that Gilbert ask Captain Jim and Miss Cornelia what they think. Gilbert quotes the Bible: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." (170)

In Chapter 30, an outbreak of influenza in the Glen and fishing village keeps Gilbert so busy that he doesn't have time to talk to Captain Jim. Anne is hoping that Gilbert is going to abandon the idea of telling Leslie about the procedure that could return Dick to normal. She wonders to herself if Gilbert would feel any different if he knew that Leslie was in love with Owen. But she will not break her promise.

One evening, Gilbert suggests they go visit Uncle Jim. Anne's heart sinks. The Captain sides with Gilbert. Leslie should be told. He agrees with Anne that Dick's recovery would not be the best thing in the world for Leslie, yet, it's the right thing to do. It is Leslie's decision to make. Anne is concerned that the Captain is becoming more frail and so bent over. The next evening, Gilbert tells Leslie about the procedure. Gilbert tells Anne that Leslie seemed dazed and promised to think it over. Gilbert feels bad about having told her after seeing the sheer terror in her eyes.



Three days later, Leslie stops by and tells Gilbert she will take Dick to Montreal where he can undergo the procedure. Anne is worried that she will lose her friend if Dick recovers. She will retreat within herself and return to her remote and isolated self. Gilbert comments that she might leave Dick if he does recover. Miss Cornelia is enraged when she learns about the operation. She accuses Anne of betraying Leslie. If he recovers, Leslie will once again be with an abusive hopeless drunk. Miss Cornelia looks on the bright side - perhaps the operation will be a failure.

## Chapters 28, 29 and 30 Analysis

In Chapter 28, Miss Cornelia was aware of Leslie's feelings for Owen which she, not surprisingly, blames one-hundred percent on Owen. Miss Cornelia is so devoted to Leslie that she might support Leslie leaving Dick and having a real life. Even though Cornelia is prudish and religious, there is a tenderness about her that is revealed every now and then. Leslie might have more support for leaving Dick than it would first appear. Will romance win out over propriety?

In Chapter 29, Anne panics at the thought of Dick Moore being returned to normal. Anne was not thinking along the same lines as Gilbert was - that making Dick whole again was the right thing to do. She is only concerned with Leslie because she knows how she feels about Owen. It would be yet another tragedy for Dick to become her real husband again. He's easier to stomach as her patient.

In Chapter 30, Anne gives no consideration to the fact that as a physician Gilbert took the Hippocratic Oath that all doctors must take. They vow to put the needs and care of the patient above all else. Gilbert is following that vow when he tells Leslie about the procedure that could recover Dick to full health. Gilbert says something important: perhaps Leslie will leave Dick if he recovers. Leslie might feel that she has devoted enough years to a man she doesn't love. And, once recovered, Dick will not need her for his existence. How will Miss Cornelia feel if Leslie does leave Dick? She is outraged that Dick may be returned to normalcy. She is so against Leslie spending her life with a "normal" Dick that she might support her leaving him.



# Chapters 31, 32 and 33

## Chapters 31, 32 and 33 Summary

In Chapter 31, Miss Cornelia helps Leslie clean her house and tie up loose ends in preparation for her trip to Montreal. She doesn't visit Anne much during that time and never speaks of the operation. Miss Cornelia is loathe to mention it and when it comes up she treats it in a businesslike manner. Captain Jim loaned her the money and at her insistence took a mortgage out on her property. Captain Jim tells Miss Cornelia that he has no intention of requiring Leslie to repay the loan. Dick is acting up more than normal. He chased all the ducks away and kept getting in Miss Cornelia's way which sent her into a rage.

Gilbert accompanies Leslie and Dick to Montreal. The doctors tell Gilbert that Dick has a good chance for full recovery. The operation is deemed a success by the doctors but if he is to recover his memory and other faculties it will be a slow process. Gilbert comes home one day and is met by Susan who tells him that Anne is pacing in the garden, upset over a letter she received. Gilbert is relieved when he sees a smile on Anne's face. She had received a letter from Leslie. There is no "Dick." The man that Leslie has been tending to all those years is his identical cousin, George Moore. Dick Moore died of yellow fever thirteen years ago in Cuba.

In Chapter 32, the news leaves Miss Cornelia sputtering and, uncharacteristically at a loss for words. After the operation the man, George, recovered his memory and recalled who he was. He was with Dick in Cuba when he died. George planned to tell Leslie what happened when he returned home but then he had an accident which resulted in the brain damage. Miss Cornelia starts to remember being around George Moore. She recalls that George was a little taller and heavier than Dick but they did look just alike. They both had unusual eyes - each man had one blue eye and one hazel eye. Leslie is going to stay with George until he can travel. Cornelia admits that if Gilbert hadn't insisted on telling Leslie about the operation and if Captain Jim hadn't paid for it, Leslie would still be tending to her demented "husband."

Miss Cornelia brings up Owen Ford, reminding Anne that they both know that Leslie has strong feelings for him. Miss Cornelia urges Anne to write Owen a letter to tell him what happened.

In Chapter 33, Leslie returns without any prior word. She returned alone, she tells Anne, because George's sister came and took him home with her. Leslie is still getting used to the reality of her new life. Leslie is worried about the gossip and speculation that her story might generate. George's memory is almost fully recovered. He began to remember more and more each day while she was with him. Now she is alone and in a way misses Dick. Leslie had been in a "cage" so long that she didn't know how to act without it. That huge responsibility of tending to a brain-damaged person is off her shoulders but the memory of all those years still linger. It was her life for so long. Anne



tells her that she understands but that the chain is broken and she's no longer in a cage. Her life is ahead of her. Leslie is grateful that Anne is her dear friend.

## Chapters 31, 32 and 33 Analysis

In Chapter 31, just as Gilbert said, the truth will set you free. If Gilbert had not pushed for Dick to have the operation, Leslie would have never taken Dick to Montreal where doctors exposed "Dick's" true identity to be his cousin "George." The truth has set Leslie free although having spent twelve plus years as a nursemaid to a virtual strange would be cause for some bitterness. But Leslie is free to pursue a new life. She is the Widow Moore now. But Leslie will be afraid to tell Owen of her feelings for him because she thinks he doesn't care for her. Someone must intercede if the two are ever to be together.

In Chapter 32, Miss Cornelia has to admit that the men - Gilbert and Jim - came through for Leslie. She and Anne are having the same thoughts about Leslie and Owen. There is nothing to keep them apart now. Anne will write and tell him. She is the only one who knows beyond any doubt how thrilled Owen will be to get the news.

In Chapter 33, Leslie is adjusting to a new reality. She says that she misses Dick but what she really misses is that huge responsibility that had been her life for so long. Freedom is a gift but it's a little frightening for someone who had never had it before. She doesn't mention Owen by name but says that she felt foolish that night on the cove and that she is still a fool. Leslie was saying that she still have feelings for Owen. She doesn't know that a letter has been sent to Owen telling him that Leslie is no longer a married woman.





# Chapters 34, 35 and 36

## Chapters 34, 35 and 36 Summary

In Chapter 34, Anne has given birth to a healthy baby boy. Marilla is visiting and joins in the celebration of the new arrival. Marilla tells Anne that this baby will take Joy's place. Anne says that this baby will have a place of his own but will never replace Joy. Just like Captain Jim has told her, Anne is sure that she will see Joy again in heaven. Anne's recovery is quick. Miss Cornelia and Captain Jim are thrilled with the new baby. Leslie, still getting used to her new life, hovers over the baby like an angel. The baby is named James Matthew. Miss Cornelia is pleased with the name. She detests the high-falutin names that some people give their babies. Mrs. William Drew named her baby Bertie Shakespeare!

When they are alone, Miss Cornelia tells Anne that she got a letter from Owen. He's in Vancouver and plans to travel to Four Winds. He asked to board with Miss Cornelia. They are not going to tell Leslie until he arrives. Leslie plans to attend nursing school in Montreal at some point in the future.

In Chapter 35, an election is coming up. Gilbert, who is a staunch conservative, is often called upon to give speeches. Mr. Cornelia warns Anne that he shouldn't get mixed up in politics. On the morning after the election, Captain Jim drops by to tell Ann that the Liberals are in the majority because of eighteen years of Tory mismanagement.

Anne leaves the baby for the first time to get some fish from Jim but he wasn't at the lighthouse. Instead, she found a nice-looking middle-aged man working in his place. The man was acting so familiar with her that she thought him rude. As it turned out, it was Marshall Elliott. He had shaved his face and cut his hair because the Liberals had swept into office. Jim doesn't have any fish for Anne. He rarely goes out any more. He mentions that the sunrise that morning was the most magnificent he had ever seen. He is sure that lost Margaret would have been out there had he looked for her. Anne orders him to stop talking about leaving them. He asks Anne to take First Mate as her own if anything happens to him. He asks her to recite Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar."

In Chapter 36, Anne is giving Gilbert and Leslie an update on the latest at Green Gables from a letter she received from Marilla. Leslie recently got a letter from George Moore. He is doing better but is finding it difficult to adapt to his old life. He is going back to sea in the fall because that's all he knows. When he returned home, he found that his old girlfriend had never married and still loved him. They plan to marry before he leaves for the sea. Susan's sister broke her leg and Susan feels a responsibility to help her while she's recovering. Anne agrees that she should go. If she needs help, she will get a girl from the cove. Leslie begs Anne to let her fill in. She's lonely and she'd love to help Anne. Anne heartily agrees. Later, Miss Cornelia gives her blessing to the plan. Leslie will be at the dream house while Owen's courting her.





Owen Ford steps in the living room one evening when Leslie and Anne are on the floor playing with the baby. They didn't notice him standing there. Leslie's face goes pale when she turns and spots Owen who calls to her and holds his hand out to her. Leslie remains quiet all evening. She leaves early and Owen's spirit is immediately deflated. Later, Anne goes upstairs to talk to her. Anne tells her to put her tragic persona away forever. She will at last have a full and happy life. The next day when Owen comes to call she does not tell him no.

## Chapters 34, 35 and 36 Analysis

In Chapter 34, it's a joyful day at the dream house. Anne has a big healthy baby boy. It takes some of the sadness of losing Joy but she will never forget her first child and will always mourn that loss. Miss Cordelia is having more fun than anyone else trying to get Owen and Leslie together. She keeps claiming that she doesn't want to be a matchmaker - but she's only kidding herself.

In Chapter 35, Anne is becoming emotional over Captain Jim's talk of lost Margaret and the sea. That morning the sunrise was the most beautiful he had ever seen in all his years. He was sure he would have found lost Margaret if he had gone out there. The sea, which is symbolic of the afterlife, is beckoning to him. He senses that his time is short. Another indication that Captain Jim will soon slip his earthly bonds is his asking Anne to take his cat if something happens to him. It's almost as if he's softening the blow for Anne, getting her used to the idea that he won't be there much longer.

In Chapter 36, seeing Owen was almost too much for Leslie. She is still not aware of his feelings. Anne could tell her but she is smart to leave that to Owen. It has been so long since Leslie has felt loved in a romantic way and trusted someone that it will take her time to open up to Owen. But Owen seems undeterred despite the time he was forced to spend away from her and despite her cool attitude toward him. The coolness she displays is just a defense mechanism. She doesn't want to get hurt again so she has sent up barriers. But Owen is not giving up and will knock the barriers down one at a time.



# Chapters 37, 38, 39 and 40

## Chapters 37, 38, 39 and 40 Summary

In Chapter 37, after asking where Leslie was and finding that she was out picking raspberries with Owen, Miss Cornelia makes an announcement. She is getting married to, of all people, Marshall Elliott. Anne and Gilbert are speechless which Miss Cornelia somewhat enjoys. Anne wishes her the best but says she'll miss her. Miss Cornelia is not going anywhere. Marshall will live in her house. She's not about to live across the harbor with all the snooty people. Gilbert points out that Marshall is stubborn and has a temper and worst of all, he's a Grit. From the twinkle in her eye, it is obvious that Miss Cornelia can't wait to tangle with Marshall. She wouldn't want someone who changes his mind and has no passion about anything.

In Chapter 38, it is late August and it will soon be time for Owen to leave. Anne's dream house was built on love and it exerts an influence on those who live there, Owen tells Leslie. Leslie loves the red roses. Owen tells her that the red rose is the late bloomer among all roses. Leslie tells him that the red rose stands for "love triumphant." He tells her that he loves her and knows she loves him but needs to hear it. They kiss and embrace in the old garden. Owen tenderly puts a red rose in Leslie's hair.

Later everyone gathers around the fire with Jim who claims he can read their futures in the fire. He sees that everyone is destined to be happy. Captain Jim stands and places a hand on Leslie's and Anne's heads at the same time in a kind of quasi-blessing. He tells them that their husbands and children will consider themselves blessed to have them. Later, Anne and Leslie speak privately. Leslie is so happy it scares her. She's afraid it's a dream. She is worried because all she has to offer Owen is her beauty. Anne assures her she is a woman of substance and has so much more to offer him than her outward appearance. Susan returns from her sister's house. She has always liked men and resents the fact that Miss Cornelia is getting married - Cornelia, a woman who has nothing but abusive things to say about men!

In Chapter 39, in late September, Owen Ford's book about Captain Jim comes out. Leslie picked up Jim's copy at the post office and plans to bring it to him that evening when she and Anne visit him. Anne and Leslie will never forget the look of euphoria on his face when he opened the package and saw his book. The book is entitled, "The Life-Book of Captain Jim." It is the best day of Captain Jim's life. He insists they stay for tea and cake. On their way home, Leslie wonders how he'll like the ending. But she will never know.

The next morning, Anne and Gilbert notice that Captain Jim's evening lights are still on. Gilbert decides to run down there and see if something is wrong. Anne goes with him. There is no answer to their repeated knocking. They push the door open and find Jim lying on the couch with his hands grasping his book which is opened to the last page. Gilbert cannot tell how long he's been dead.



In Chapter 40, Captain Jim was buried in the little over-harbor graveyard. Some time later, Leslie laments that he did not live long enough to see how wildly successful his book was. The First Mate is in his new home in the little house. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Elliott are settled in the greenhouse. Leslie and Owen are being married at Christmas. Gilbert mentions that the old Morgan place up at the Glen is for sale. Gilbert is serious about buying the house. It's the largest house in the area and they had talked about eventually getting a larger place. But Anne doesn't want to leave her dream home yet. It's too soon. But Gilbert keeps pushing the idea. Anne agrees to think about it but the matter is upsetting her.

Anne thinks of all the things she loves about the house - the garden and the brook that runs through the property and the gorgeous trees. There are so many memories there - good ones like the friendships they developed with Miss Cornelia and Captain Jim and Leslie and Owen. Sad ones as well - the loss of Joy being the most traumatic and unforgettable. Leaving there would be like tearing something out of her life. Susan is excited at the prospect of living in the elegant old house. She points out that once Anne has a half-dozen kids, she'll need the room. Finally, Anne agrees to make the move although it is only with half a heart.

Leslie tells Anne that Owen intends to buy the little house so they can spend their summers there. Gilbert leaves Anne alone to say goodbye to her house of dreams. She walks through the empty rooms and thinks of the house on the backdrop of the seasons. She wouldn't be there to see them again. As a final act, she bends down and kisses the step that she and Gilbert had stepped over as newlyweds. "Good-bye, dear little house of dreams." (227)

## Chapters 37, 38, 39 and 40 Analysis

In Chapter 37, love even strikes Miss Cornelia. Perhaps she was inspired by Anne and Gilbert who are still desperately in love and the budding romance and growing love of Leslie and Owen. But there is little doubt who will wear the pants in that family.

In Chapter 38, Leslie is slowly gaining confidence in herself. But she was in a deep-hole and the climb out is not a simple or fast one. She still looks at herself as one-dimensional. She is glad she has her beauty because she at least has that to give to Owen. She does not see more deeply within herself. She ignores her strengths or just takes them for granted. She devoted herself to a brain-damaged man for over twelve years and put her hopes and dreams on hold. She made the difficult decision to try to bring her husband back to full recovery even though she had no love for him. Anne always noticed how everyone lit up when Leslie was around. With the love and support of a good man, Leslie will continue to climb out from the darkness and eventually realize her full potential.

In Chapter 39, Captain Jim got to see the story of his life published before he passed away. When he was found, the book is opened to the last page which indicates he must have read the entire book before he died. Anne grieves his passing but is somewhat

philosophical about it. He had his wish to go out on a beautiful sunrise over the sea that he loved.

In Chapter 40, Anne has said that when things are perfect that's just when they change. It could not be more true in the case of Anne's house of dreams. She was utterly content in her house. The house had embraced her in good times and bad. She lost her child there. She found her best friend there. The size of the house was perfect for the young family - like a warm hug. But Gilbert is a practical man and not so much a man of dreams. He is looking forward to the future when they will need a larger house. Anne is content to stay where they are. In the end practicality wins out over dreams. But no one can take your dreams away. And even though Anne is leaving her house of dreams, what it gave her will be with her forever in reality and in her dreams.



# Characters

## Anne Shirley Blythe

Anne Shirley Blythe is the protagonist of "Anne's House of Dreams," the fifth book in the "Anne of Green Gables" series. This episode finds twenty-five year-old Anne Shirley preparing to marry young Dr. Gilbert Blythe. He's been chasing her for years and finally will make her his own. Anne is tall, slender and flame-haired. She is a kind-hearted woman and always sensitive to the feelings and needs of others. She has great life-long friends in Green Gables but her time there is coming to an end. After she and Gilbert marry, they plan to travel to Four Winds Harbor on Prince Edward Island where Dr. Blythe is establishing his practice.

Although Anne hates to leave her friends behind, she cannot wait to see the house where she and Gilbert will begin their lives together. Gilbert doesn't want her to expect too much. The house is little and old and it's just a rental. But Anne's enthusiasm is not diminished especially when Gilbert tells her about the many surrounding old trees, the brook that runs through the property and the flower and vegetable gardens that have been cultivated by former residents. Anne has forgone a wedding trip in favor of staying at their new house.

Anne decorates the house and works in the garden. She makes the house her own and it truly becomes her house of dreams. More important than how large the house is and how many rooms it has are the wonderful friends she makes in her new community. Anne is a popular young woman who is seen as bright, loving, loyal and compassionate. It is safe to say that no matter where Anne might travel or live, she would always be loved and admired.

## Leslie Moore

When Anne first arrived in Four Winds Harbor, she saw a girl on the side of the road herding geese. As her husband's carriage drew closer to the girl, Anne was able to get a good look at her. She was by far the most beautiful girl she had ever seen. She had the most perfect face and golden blond hair that gleamed in the sun. Later, Anne meets the girl on the beach and learns that she is a neighbor, Leslie Moore, who lives just up the pathway.

Leslie seems rather cool and reserved but Anne learns later that Leslie had lived a life of tragedy. Her mother died when she was very young. When she was fourteen her brother was killed in an accident. Her alcoholic father couldn't deal with the death of his son and committed suicide. Alone in the world, she had no one to save her from a marriage that was doomed to fail. She was just sixteen when she married a much older man. The man had influence in the community and warned her he would foreclose on her mother's house if she didn't marry him.



A year later, Leslie's husband sustains brain damage in a fight. His injuries leave him with the mind of a child and he must be under the care of a nursemaid. Leslie becomes that nursemaid for the next eleven years until a huge twist of fate finally allows her to seek happiness with a man she loves.

Although Leslie is at first unsure and even resentful of Anne because Anne is everything she wants to be, Anne sticks by her and they become best friends. Leslie tells Anne that she will cherish her friendship forever.

## **Gilbert Blythe**

Anne marries young Dr. Gilbert Blythe at Green Gables. He has a practice in Four Winds Harbor across the island and that's where they begin their life together.

## **Captain Jim Boyd**

Captain Jim Boyd is a retired sailor. He loves the sea and if he were able, he'd still be out there adding to his already lengthy list of adventures.

## **Miss Cornelia Bryant**

Miss Cornelia is the town busybody. She is always aware of the latest goings-on. Although she is opinionated, judgmental, and pious, deep down she has a good heart and wants nothing but the best for her friends.

## **Owen Ford**

Owen Ford comes to the island to recuperate from an illness. He is a newspaperman and a novelist. He writes Captain Jim's book for him and has it published. He also falls in love with Leslie Moore.

## **Marshall Elliott**

Marshall Elliott is a member of the liberal party known simply as the Grit. On the eve of an election, he vows to never cut his hair again or shave his face if the liberals lose the election. He kept his promise and when Anne first saw him his hair was down to his knees.

## **Dick and George Moore**

Dick Moore is married to Leslie Moore when he takes off on what was supposed to be a nine-week jaunt. But he never comes back. Jim runs into who he thinks is George and brings him back to Leslie. But the man is really George Moore, Dick's identical cousin.



## **Susan Baker**

Susan Baker is Anne's housekeeper. She is always up on the latest gossip and laments her life as an old maid.

## **Marilla Cuthbert**

Marilla Cuthbert is the woman who adopted and raised Anne. She loves Anne and thinks of her as a special daughter.



## Objects/Places

### Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island is the location where the story takes place. Its softer Indian name was Abegweit. The island is located in the St. Lawrence Gulf.

### Green Gables

Anne Shirley lived on the Green Gables farm from the time she was fourteen-years-old until she married at age twenty-five.

### Summerside

Before she married, Anne Shirley taught geometry for three years at Summerside.

### Four Winds Harbor

After their marriage, Anne Shirley and Gilbert Blythe settled in Four Winds Harbor, sixty miles from Green Gables.

### Anne's House of Dreams

Although the house where Anne and Gilbert would begin their life together was old and small and just a rental property, to Anne it was everything she dreamed of. It was her house of dreams.

### The Lighthouse

Captain Jim works and lives in the harbor's lighthouse. He is a retired sailor who befriends Anne and Gilbert. They spend a lot of time at the lighthouse.

### Havana, Cuba

Dick Moore, Leslie Moore's husband leaves to work on a steamship headed for Havana. He is supposed to be back in nine weeks but fails to return then.





## **Montreal**

Leslie Moore takes her husband to Montreal for a procedure that might return his damaged brain to full capacity.

## **The Life-Book of Captain Jim**

Owen Ford writes the story of Captain Jim's wife. The title of the book is "The Life-Book of Captain Jim."

## **Tennyson's**

Captain Jim likes to hear Anne recite Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar," because it reminds him of his life at sea.



# Themes

## Irony

In her book, "Anne's House of Dreams," author L. M. Montgomery employs the literary trope known as irony in several episodes in the story. Following are two examples. The opinionated and harping Miss Cornelia Bryant is known among the community as a man-hater. Miss Cornelia does her best to blame a man for anything and everything that goes wrong. She proclaims that women will get the vote after men mess everything up enough and need women to clean up after them. Unlike Miss Cornelia who is an old maid who detests men, Susan Baker is another old spinster who actually likes men.

Miss Cornelia is a staunch conservative who hates the Liberal Grit party as much as she does men. In a surprising turn of events near the conclusion of the story, Miss Cornelia announces that she is going to marry Marshall Elliott who is a man and who is also a Liberal. Susan Baker laments the cruelty and irony of life: Miss Cornelia hates men and Susan likes them. Why does Miss Cornelia get a chance at love and matrimony while she does not? Call it hypocrisy on the part of the character but the author is using situational irony by having the character do the unexpected. Why did the author choose to have this character do something so out of character? Perhaps it was to show the human nature of even the most strident among us. It simply could have been used to insert an unexpected twist to the story or to soften a character who is biased and prejudiced.

The story takes a turn in tragic irony when it comes to Leslie Moore, the long-suffering beauty of Four Winds. She has been the nursemaid to her brain-damaged husband for eleven years. She was only sixteen when she was forced into marrying her husband and never loved him. When he was injured he became totally dependent on her. Not only was she stuck with a man that she didn't love, she had to tend to his every need. He first stole her youth and then stole her freedom. But she feels she has no choice. But fate steps in and the plot takes another ironic turn. Doctors discover that the man she had been tending to all those years was not her husband but was, in fact, her husband's identical cousin. All those years she wasted, all that responsibility that was zapping her youth and freedom - none of it was necessary. Her husband died while he was away at sea thirteen years before.

Dramatic or situational irony can be used by an author to add interest and dimension to a story or to make a statement and get a point across. In the case of "Anne's House of Dreams," the author uses irony in both ways.

## Loyalty

In the quaint setting of Four Winds Harbor on St. Edward's Island, the people are, in the main, socially conservative middle class working people and devout church-going



Christians. Perhaps it was their Christian upbringing mixed with the proprieties and common customs of the day, that laid the groundwork for the loyalty and esprit de corps that is part of the community and is a backdrop to the story of Anne's dream house. No character has more loyalty than the protagonist, Anne Shirley Blythe. She is grateful to have been brought up at Green Gables farm. Although she is marrying and leaving the farm as this story unfolds, Green Gables will be in her heart all her life. She will be ever loyal to the family and community that took her in when she was just a young teenager.

Anne would never break a vow to anyone. When Leslie Moore and Owen Ford both confide in her about their love for one another, she would not dream of breaking her promises even though her meddling may, in this case, have been helpful. Her word is her bond. Leslie was just as loyal - in fact painfully so - and to a husband who did not deserve her kindness for more than one reason. After being forced into marrying a much older man at sixteen, her husband suffered brain damage in an accident and the seventeen-year-old cared for the man for the next twelve plus years. Although she did not love her husband and he had been an abusive drunk before he became demented, Leslie's sense of duty and responsibility even at her young age triumphed over her desire and need for a loving and caring relationship and a free unfettered life.

Leslie couldn't afford to take her husband to Canada for an operation so Captain Jim gave her the money without blinking an eye. She insisted on putting her house in the deal but he told Anne he wouldn't accept any payments from Leslie. Even though Leslie and Anne were much younger than Captain Jim, the three were great friends. The young women looked past his wrinkled face and stopped body and saw a young prince who would slay the dragon for them. To Captain Jim, the girls were the daughters he never had and, he would indeed, lay down his life for them.

Although the judgmental and persnickety Miss Cornelia Bryant had a sharp tongue and never hesitated to share her narrow opinions, she had a good heart and deep down really wanted nothing but the best for her friends. Having babies was a popular and frequent occurrence in Four Winds. It would be a safe bet that no new mothers in Four Winds ever had to buy baby clothes. The sewing needles and crochet hooks around town were sent buzzing at just the mention of an expected arrival.

The story demonstrates in many ways that loyalty and friendship are the basis for a happy and successful community. People who establish such strong bonds know they can depend on one another in times of need. And there will come a time when every person will face the impossible and need that support.

## **Bias**

"Anne's House of Dreams" is a light-hearted story of romance and new beginnings. However, there is a secondary theme of bias and prejudice in the story. It is not a thread that takes a central role in the plot; however, it is interspersed throughout the story. Whether the author planted her own personal feelings about some of the issues that are touched upon is impossible to say. This book was written around the beginning of the



20th century so the kind of loaded comments that are contained in the book may have been acceptable or ordinary at the time. The country and world has grown much more politically correct since that time. Most of the prejudiced comments are made through the character Miss Cornelia Bryant. She is an outspoken but comical character. Because it is a featured character and not one of the main characters who makes biased remarks and because that character is funny, the remarks do not seem dark and as mean-spirited as the words would suggest. However, many ideas are proliferated through humor. Does the author use humor to insert her own biases? Or, is it a form of satire? A book written today with these references would receive a deluge of criticism.

One of Miss Cornelia's favorite pass times is pitting the virtuous Presbyterians against the godless Methodists. She is relieved to learn that young Dr. Blythe is a Presbyterian. She would refuse to be treated by a Methodist. Miss Cornelia admits that whether Methodists are allowed to go to heaven is up to a higher power. However, she doesn't have to associate with them on earth. Someone reminds Cornelia that Methodists are more progressive than Presbyterians because they allow women to preach. She responds that just because Methodists have common sense doesn't mean that they have religion.

Miss Cornelia is also a staunch conservative and has no use for Liberals or Grits and is not shy about sharing her views. She is known by many as a man-hater. She blames everything but the weather on men. She doesn't miss an opportunity to make derisive remarks about men and she will argue with them tooth on nail about the virtues of women against virtue-less men. In fact, most of the good men of the community are in the graveyard according to Miss Cornelia.



# Style

## Point of View

"Anne's House of Dreams" by L. M. Montgomery is written in the third-person narrative and limited omniscient perspective. The reader is privy to the thoughts and intentions of the main characters of the story. "Anne's House of Dreams" is the fifth book in the "Anne of Green Gables" series. The entire "Anne" series consists of eight books. It was a very popular series with millions of readers. By the time Montgomery wrote this edition, the protagonist, Anne Shirley Blythe, was well established and well known to fans around the world.

Lucy Maud Montgomery was a Canadian author who stepped out of the normal life of a woman of the early twentieth century. She attended college and first used her writing skills as a newspaper reporter in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Montgomery was born and raised on Prince Edward Island and spent much of her adult life there. Prince Edward Island is the location in which the story of Anne and her dream house takes place. Like Anne Shirley, Montgomery spent some of her career teaching. She was familiar with the people of the villages and farms of the island and based many of her characters on people she knew and encountered there.

## Setting

"Anne's House of Dreams" by L. M. Montgomery, takes place on St. Edwards Island, Nova Scotia. The story begins when Anne is still on the Green Gables farm on the Island. Anne's wedding takes place at Green Gables. Immediately afterward, Anne and her new husband, Gilbert Blythe, travel by horse and buggy sixty miles away to Four Winds Harbor where they will live. Even before she sees it, Anne considers the house they will be living in as her house of dreams. Gilbert does not want Anne to be disappointed and tells her that the house is a rental house and it's small and old. But Anne doesn't lose any enthusiasm about the house especially when Gilbert describes the old orchard, the brook that runs through the property and the huge old trees throughout the grounds. Anne becomes an avid gardener and is proud of the beautiful flowers she grows in the gardens around the house.

As Anne and Gilbert arrive, she is taken with the beauty of the harbor which was "like a great, shining mirror of rose and silver." (22) She looks down over the harbor and spots sand dunes on one side and on the other side a steep red-sandstone cliff. The sea was calm when Anne saw it but it would not always remain that way. There was a little fishing village nestled in the cove. All the elements of the harbor combined to form an idyllic and magical setting.

The sea was very important to one of the residents of Four Winds. Captain Jim was an old tar who manned the harbor's lighthouse. He told Anne and Gilbert of his adventures



at sea and though retired the lure of the sea never ebbed for him. Near the end of Captain Jim's life, the call of the sea becomes even stronger. He remarked to Anne one morning that he had just seen the most beautiful sunrise he had ever seen. To Captain Jim, it would be best to leave his earthly bonds at such a beautiful morning and be swept over the deep blue ocean waters and past the white mist to whatever awaited him beyond the sea.

Leslie Moore lived just up the way from Anne's dream house in a gray house by the brook. Leslie takes her husband, who suffered from brain damage, to a large Montreal hospital for a procedure that will return him to full capacity. Miss Cornelia Bryant lives in a hideous emerald green house located in the Glen not far from the Harbor. When Miss Cornelia marries, she refuses to move across the harbor where all the snobbish folks live.

## Language and Meaning

"Anne's House of Dreams" by L. M. Montgomery is the fifth book in the "Anne of Green Gables" series and was written around the turn of the century and first published in 1908. The author was Canadian and the story takes place in Nova Scotia. The style of writing in the early 20th century differs greatly from that of today. The descriptions and expository writing are, at times, effusive and flowery unlike most writing of today. Additionally, there are certain terms and words used that are indicative of the people of Nova Scotia. Spelling of words such as parlour (parlor) and harbour (harbor) reflect the use of proper old English.

A speech pattern or vernacular is used in the dialog of some of the characters, in particular Captain Jim who is an old salt who lived his life at sea. He tells Anne that someone looked "jest like you." He said he "wasn't more'n half pleased, onery young lump of selfishness that I was," and "Twasn't no easy journey for a woman in them days. There weren't no steamers, you must ricollect." By using vernacular, the author adds richness to the character and dimension to the story. From his dialogue, one can envision the old seaman talking about his adventures at sea.

The author provides beautiful descriptions of the rugged countryside of St. Edwards Island, Nova Scotia. She creates a lush background against which her lovely story is told.

## Structure

"Anne's House of Dreams" by L. M. Montgomery is the fifth book in the "Anne of Green Gables" series. The book is divided into forty small to medium-sized chapters. As a series book, "House of Dreams" covers a specific time frame in the life of heroine, Anne Shirley Blythe. There are references to past events in this book that occurred in prior books. One passage refers to Anne having been desolate when Gilbert almost died. There are references to Matthew having brought Anne to Green Gables and Marilla accepting her years before. These two scenarios are not explained in this book.



Some passages and references in this book are not particularly clear without knowledge of the contents of prior books. It is not a totally stand-alone work because of these references. However, this issue only impacts the early chapters of "House of Dreams." As the story progresses there are less and less references to earlier books and the focus switches in the most part to the current story.

Author Montgomery uses literary devices such as foreshadowing and cliffhangers that add interest and engage the reader. For example, Captain Jim talks of looking for lost Margaret out at sea and the lure of the sea at sunrise. These passages are thinly veiled references to his ultimate passing. When Owen Ford is preparing to leave Four Winds, he is not thinking of the book he wrote, he is thinking of something else. If the reader was paying attention, it will be obvious that what he is thinking about is Leslie.



## Quotes

"Through the other window was glimpsed a distant, white-capped, blue sea - the beautiful St. Lawrence Gulf, on which floats, like a jewel, Abegweit, whose softer, sweeter Indian name has long been forsaken for the more prosaic one of Prince Edward Island" (Chapter 1, p. 1).

"When I was a child I heard an old minister say that a house was not a real home until it had been consecrated by a birth, a wedding and a death" (Chapter 2, p. 6).

"Anne wakened on the morning of her wedding day to find the sunshine winking in at the window of the little porch gable and a September breeze frolicking with her curtains. 'I'm so glad the sun will shine on me,' she thought happily" (Chapter 4, p. 18).

"The woods call to us with a hundred voices, but the sea has one only—a might voice that drowns our souls in its majestic music. The woods are human, but the sea is of the company of the archangels" (Chapter 9, p. 54).

"'I wonder why he never married. He should have sons with their ships at sea now, and grandchildren climbing over him to hear his stories - he's that kind of man. Instead, he has nothing but a magnificent cat.' But Anne was mistaken. Captain Jim had more than that. He had a memory" (Chapter 9, p. 61).

"Marilla had the face of a woman who had circumnavigated the globe. She had never been sixty miles away from home before; and had never eaten a Christmas dinner anywhere save at Green Gables" (Chapter 15, p. 88).

"His pigs are the best pigs possible while his children don't amount to much. He picked a poor mother for them, and starved her while she was bearing and rearing them. His pigs bot the cream and his children got the skim milk" (Chapter 15, p. 94).

"The milk of human kindness and the wisdom of the serpent were mingled in his composition in delightful proportions" (Chapter 17, p. 104).

"There's an old proverb to the effect that shoemakers' wives go barefoot and doctors' wives die young. I don't mean that it shall be true in my household" (Chapter 22, p. 128).

"Here's ten obituaries, and every one of them saints and models, even the men. Here's old Peter Stimson, who has 'left a large circle of friends to mourn his untimely loss.'





Lord, Anne, dearie, that man was eighty, and everybody who knew him had been wishing him dead these thirty years" (Chapter 28, p. 159).

"But it'll be a memory that won't hurt - I like to think that my memory won't hurt my friend - it'll always be kind of pleasant to them, I hope and believe" (Chapter 35, p. 199).

"Out on that shining tide his spirit drifted, over the sunrise sea of pearl and silver, to the haven where lost Margaret waited, beyond the storms and calms" (Chapter 39, p. 220).



## Topics for Discussion

Why did Anne consider her new house her dream house? What were some of the good and bad memories that she attached to that house?

How did Captain Jim get the First Mate? Why didn't he have a dog? Who was Lost Margaret?

Why was Gilbert's urging for Dick Moore to have surgery an important part of the story's plot? How would the story have happened if Leslie had not taken Dick to Montreal for the operation?

What were Miss Cornelia's opinion on Presbyterians and on Methodists? What did she mean when she said referred to the "race that knows Joseph?"

Why did Marshall Elliott refuse to shave his face or cut his hair? What made him finally shave and get a haircut? Who did he marry?

What was Owen Ford's profession? In what ways was Owen's arrival in Four Winds good timing?

Why did Leslie resent Anne? Why did she regret being beautiful? What strengths did Leslie have that she seemed to be unaware of?