

Side - Anne and Marilla

ANNE: (*ENTERS in her nightgown.*) I'm ready for bed now. It was glorifying, the sun and the arbors... (*Pulls back the covers and starts to get into bed.*)

MARILLA: Aren't you going to say your prayers, child?

ANNE: I've never done that before. What should I say?

MARILLA: You're old enough to pray for yourself, Anne. Just give thanks for your blessings and humbly ask for the things you want.

ANNE: Well, I'll do my best. (*Kneels by the side of the bed and begins to pray.*) "Oh, gracious, heavenly Father..." That's the way the ministers say it in church, so I suppose it's all right for a private prayer. "I thank thee for Bonny and the Snow Queen and Rosalie the sorrel mare and Prince Edward Island and Marilla and Matthew. I'm extremely grateful for them. As for the things I want, they would take a great deal of time to name, and I don't want to become tiresome, so I'll only mention the two most important. Please let me stay at Green Gables, and please let me be good-looking when I grow up. I remain respectfully yours, Anne Shirley." There. Did I do all right?

MARILLA: (*Deeply touched.*) Yes, you did just fine, Anne Shirley. I'm sure He took note of every word. (*Pause.*) Well, we can't get through this world without our share of trouble. I've had a pretty easy life so far, but it's clear my time has come at last, and I suppose I'll just have to make the best of it. You'll have a home with us here Anne Shirley, that is, if you can prove yourself a good and grateful girl and—

ANNE: Oh, I will, Miss Cuthbert! I will!

MARILLA: (*Responds uncomfortably to all of ANNE'S emotion but clearly enjoys it underneath it all.*) Plain Marilla will do just fine.