

NAXOS
AudioBooks

L.M. Montgomery
ANNE OF AVONLEA

Read by **Liza Ross**

**JUNIOR
CLASSICS**



NA216912D

1	A tall slim girl, and an errant cow	6:57
2	The twins Dora and Davy	4:45
3	The Avonlea Village Improvement Society	2:16
4	Anne, Diana Barry – and the Jersey cow	7:43
5	The confessional visit to Mr Harrison	8:13
6	Anne prepares to be a teacher	4:38
7	Anne's first day at school	6:07
8	New children at Green Gables?	4:30
9	Dora and Davy arrive	7:25
10	Painting Avonlea Hall	6:09
11	Anne with a toothache – and out of sorts	9:55
12	A visit from the famous writer	4:08
13	Preparing for the visit	8:31
14	The visit at last	8:57
15	Miss Lavendar Lewis	4:53
16	A visit to Miss Lewis at Echo Lodge	4:55
17	A weather prophecy – a storm	9:58
18	The arrival of a stranger	4:25
19	A new resident for Green Gables	9:49
20	Anne's last day at school	3:41
21	Preparing for a wedding	11:34

Total time: 2:19:39

L.M. Montgomery

ANNE OF AVONLEA

Anne of Avonlea is the second in L.M. Montgomery's series of books about Anne Shirley. As her fans know, she is the flame-haired, vivacious and imaginative orphan who came to live with Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert in their home at Green Gables on Prince Edward Island, off the east coast of Canada.

In *Anne of Avonlea*, as the title suggests, Anne's world has opened out. She has grown up considerably and at sixteen-and-a-half she has started work as a teacher in the local school; the very school that she herself attended until recently. She may be a school teacher but she is still the same Anne; full of dreams, romances and ideals. How she copes with these in reality makes interesting listening. Anne, as we have all come to realise, has a very definite view on life and what is right and what is wrong and she is not afraid of speaking out. For example, she vows that she will never, ever use a strap to punish her pupils but will she manage to stick to this rule of her own making?

The CD opens with a typically 'Anne' adventure, when she has to chase what she

thinks is her pet cow out of Mr Harrison's wheat field. It is the second time that it has happened and Mr Harrison is a grumpy neighbour who can't afford to be upset again. It has been raining, the field is soaking and Anne's long skirts get in the way of her effort to round up the cow. In the end... well, we leave it for you to find out what happens in the end. In this and most of Anne's adventures she is joined by her greatest friend Diana, who is the complete opposite of Anne in every way.

At home at Green Gables, all is not quiet either. Marilla has been persuaded to take in six-and-a-half-year-old orphan twins to bring up. Anne is very enthusiastic about the project but even she finds young Davey a handful to keep out of mischief and to answer his never-ending questions is exhausting.

It is not only Davey whose life is eventful. Anne has always been accident-prone, falling into scrapes because of her plans and adventures. In *Anne of Avonlea*, despite her new responsibilities, she still can be harum-scarum and her life still does not always go

according to plan. Mrs Morgan's visit is a case in point but Anne copes with it with poise and humour. Yes, Anne is growing up to be a thoughtful and positive young woman who is widely respected by her friends and neighbours.

It is she who is largely responsible for the founding of the Avonlea Improvement Society. This is a society whose intent is to make the local environment of Avonlea look more beautiful and run more efficiently. She expresses her ideas in true 'Anne' style – romantically and with a flourish. Nevertheless, these ideas are not all 'hot air'. Through Anne and her friends' enthusiasm the ideas become realities and we can hear about some of them on this recording.

As in *Anne of Green Gables*, the tales contain many wonderful characters. Some of these will be familiar to us, such as Mrs Lynde, who knows everything about everything, such as, who arrives in the village and when and who said what to whom. Then there are new characters to look forward to meeting, such as the irascible Mr Harrison who owns the unlucky wheat field. Mrs Lavender is another fresh face and her friendship with Anne and her account of her past amply fuels Anne's imagination and romantic view of life.

At the heart of the book, though, is

Anne and her relationship with her friends, Gilbert, Diana, Jane, Priscilla and Fred. They all enjoy sharing their dreams and ambitions. Of these friendships, Anne and Gilbert Blythe are particularly close. Anne has her own idea of her 'ideal man' and Gilbert certainly does not answer to that description. Nevertheless their friendship grows imperceptibly closer and who knows what the future will bring.

Notes by Jan Fielden

The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS catalogue

DVOŘÁK STRING QUARTET OP. 96/105 Moyzes Quartet	8.550251
DVOŘÁK O CHARMING GOLDEN ROSE – CYPRESSES Vlach Quartet Prague	8.553375
COPLAND RODEO/BILLY THE KID Czechoslovak Radio Symphony Orchestra (Bratislava), Stephen Gunzenhauser	8.550282

Cover picture: Anne of Avonlea by Tim Beer, 1999.

L.M. Montgomery

ANNE OF AVONLEA

Read by **Liza Ross**

Anne of Avonlea is the second in L.M. Montgomery's series of books about Anne Shirley. As her fans know, she is the flame-haired, vivacious and imaginative orphan who came to live with Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert in their home at Green Gables. Anne is now sixteen-and-a-half and is about to start teaching at the very same school she herself attended.

Those of you who know Anne will realise that she has always been delightfully accident-prone, falling into scrapes because of her plans and adventures. In *Anne of Avonlea*, despite her new responsibilities, she still can be harum-scarum and her life still does not always go according to plan.



Liza Ross (*The Awakening, Anne of Green Gables, The Christmas Collection*) has appeared on stage in the West End and in repertory across the country, including *Wings* and *The Front Page* at the Royal National Theatre. She has made many TV appearances including *After the War*, *Poor Little Rich Girl*, *Two's Company* and *The Month of the Doctors*. Her film work includes *Batman* and *The Shadowchasers*. She has worked extensively as a voice artist, and has recorded *Gone With The Wind* (unabridged).

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Total time
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