

Anne of Green Gables

Lucy Maud Montgomery

Anne is an eleven-year-old orphan who has been sent to live at Green Gables. She becomes best friends with Diana Barry. To celebrate Diana's birthday, the girls plan to attend a Debating Club concert. This section portrays Anne's excitement towards the event.

For Anne the real excitement began with the dismissal of school and increased therefrom in crescendo until it reached to a crash of positive ecstasy in the concert itself. They had a 'perfectly elegant tea;' and then came the delicious occupation of dressing in Diana's little room upstairs. Diana did Anne's front hair in the new pompadour style and Anne tied Diana's bows with the especial knack she possessed; and they experimented with at least half a dozen different ways of arranging their back hair. At last they were ready, cheeks scarlet and eyes glowing with excitement.

True, Anne could not help a little pang when she contrasted her plain black tam and shapeless, tight-sleeved, homemade gray-cloth coat with Diana's jaunty fur cap and smart little jacket. But she remembered in time that she had an imagination and could use it.

Then Diana's cousins, the Murrays from Newbridge, came; they all crowded into the big pung sleigh, among straw and furry robes. Anne reveled in the drive to the hall, slipping along over the satin-smooth roads with the snow crispering under the runners. There was a magnificent sunset, and the snowy hills and deep-blue water of the St. Lawrence Gulf seemed to rim in the splendor like a huge bowl of pearl and sapphire brimmed with wine and fire. Tinkles of sleigh bells and distant laughter, that seemed like the mirth of wood elves, came from every quarter.

'Oh, Diana,' breathed Anne, squeezing Diana's mittened hand under the fur robe, 'isn't it all like a beautiful dream? Do I really look the same as usual? I feel so different that it seems to me it must show in my looks.'

'You look awfully nice,' said Diana, who having just received a compliment from one of her cousins, felt that she ought to pass it on. 'You've got the loveliest color.'

Chapter 19, 'A Concert a Catastrophe and a Confession'