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Rilla Of Ingleside (Anne Of Green Gables Novels)



Synopsis

Anne's children were almost grown up, except for pretty, high-spirited Rilla. No one could resist her bright hazel eyes and dazzling smile. Rilla, almost fifteen, can't think any further ahead than going to her very first dance at the Four Winds Lighthouse and getting her first kiss from handsome Kenneth Ford. But undreamed-of challenges await Rilla when the world of Ingleside becomes endangered by a far-off war. Her brothers go off to fight, and Rilla brings home an orphaned newborn. She is swept into a drama that tests her courage and leaves her changed forever. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is certainly hard to begin reading "Rilla of Ingleside," knowing it is the eighth and final book in the Anne of Green Gables series. When it was written in 1921 it was actually the sixth book that L.M. Montgomery wrote in the series. Years later she would add "Anne of Windy Poplars" as the "fourth" book and "Anne of Ingleside" as the sixth, pushing this one to eighth place. The title character is Rilla, born Bertha Marilla Blythe (named for Anne's mother and the old maid who adopted the red-headed orphan), the youngest of Anne and Gilbert's daughters. The novel is set about a decade after Montgomery's previous Anne novel, "Rainbow Valley," which was more about the four children of the new widowed minister John Meredith, who become good friends with the Blythe kids. Most of the novel is set during World War I, which is one of the most interesting aspects of the story for me. As the novel begins Rilla is almost fifteen years old, with bright hazel eyes and a dazzling smile.

Rilla is still looking forward to her first romance and for her the most important thing in the world is going to her very first dance at the Four Winds lighthouse and getting her first kiss from Kenneth Ford. But the story takes a dramatic turn as the shadow of the World War reaches all the way to Ingleside. Her brothers, her friends and her beau go over the ocean to fight in France and Rilla brings home an orphaned newborn in a soup tureen and organizes the Junior Red Cross. Everything takes on new meaning when there is a war going on, waiting to hear from the battlefields of France and Susan wondering when America is finally going to get involved so the Allies can win and the boys can finally come home.

Classics are called such for a reason, and "Rilla of Ingleside" is as classic as you can get. I have read it many times, and each one only makes me love it more. I grew up reading about Anne Shirley and her exploits, and this final novel in the "Anne of Green Gables" series spotlights Anne's daughter Rilla and her coming of age years. Rilla is 14 when the book opens, and her mother is a little worried about Rilla's lack of ambition in life, noting from the first chapter that "She has no serious ideals at all - her sole aspiration seems to be to have a good time." There's no doubt that Rilla's a touch vain and perhaps a mite spoiled, but she is a girl who goes through an incredible overhaul of character through these pages. I've read a great many books and sampled the writing of many different authors through the years, but there is something spellbinding about Lucy Maud Montgomery's way of storytelling. You feel the characters. Their joys, sorrows, struggles, and triumphs become your own. Your imagination is stirred with the slightest turns of phrase. Montgomery is a true master. Her characters will live in the hearts of readers until the end of time. The first real grown-up party Rilla is allowed to attend happens to be on August 4, 1914. The party is interrupted when the news breaks that England has declared war on Germany, and as a part of the British Empire at that time, Canadian lads would be called upon to go forth and fight. As Rilla watches her brothers and friends go war and becomes part of the war effort on the home front herself, the seriousness and sacrifice of wartime life affect Rilla deeply. She finds the strength to rise to the occasion, even in things she despises.

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