

# MARILLA / MATTHEW #2

The farm of Matthew & Marilla Cuthbert.  
Avonlea, Canada.  
The Turn of the Century.

ANNE SHIRLEY, a young orphan girl with a big imagination, has come to stay at the Cuthbert farm on a trial basis - waiting the approval of a disapproving and stern MARILLA CUTHBERT.

Just prior to this scene, MARILLA's prized possession given to her by an ex-love - an amethyst brooch - is noticed as missing. MARILLA accuses ANNE of stealing it. ANNE has just run out.

MARILLA is strong, sensible, no-nonsense. commanding; a gruff exterior hides a well-buried warm heart. She's scared to love anyone anymore because she has been hurt in the past.

MATTHEW is usually quiet and shy - a man of few words - dominated for years by his sister MARILLA. He loves MARILLA and sees ANNE's staying here as a way of helping MARILLA out of her protective shell. He also likes ANNE and wants her to stay.

NOTE: Puffed sleeves is a dress fashion which ANNE greatly admires; while MARILLA derides it as being foolish and impractical.

(pause)  
(MATTHEW & MARILLA are alone.)

MATTHEW  
(troubled)(searching for an answer)  
Did ya...Did ya look behind the bureau?

MARILLA  
(stern)(trying to keep her composure)  
Matthew, now I know how you feel about the girl and I was prepared...

MATTHEW  
(still searching)(cutting her off)  
Between the floor boards?

MARILLA  
(angry)  
Oh, face it, Matthew! She's taken the brooch and lied about it!

MATTHEW  
If she says that she didn't take it,...

MARILLA  
(stern)(cutting him off)  
Matthew, you leave this to me!

MATTHEW  
(a new resolve)  
No.

MARILLA  
We agreed that...

MATTHEW  
(cutting her off)(getting angry)  
No, you agreed.

MARILLA  
(strong)(a warning)  
No interfering!

MATTHEW  
(angry)  
(strong - for the first time in years)  
It ain't interfering just to have an opinion!

MARILLA  
(shocked at MATTHEW's outburst)  
Matthew!

MATTHEW  
It's about time that I did!

MARILLA

(stern)

Fact is, ever since that child...

MATTHEW

(cutting her off)

(impassioned)

Fact is, you've never worn puffed sleeves, Marilla! Or imagined things; or give your heart away anymore because it scares ya! Ya stopped lovin' everything and everybody the day John Blythe walked out and now ya hang on to that brooch like it was gonna bring him back!

MARILLA

(defensive)

That's not true!

MATTHEW

That little girl deserves all the love we can give her!

MARILLA

A liar and a thief!

MATTHEW

You don't know that!

MARILLA

(strong)

I know that child is no good for us!

MATTHEW

(impassioned)

Maybe. Or maybe we need her more than she needs us!

(MATTHEW storms out.)

MARILLA

(calls after him)

(anxious)

Matthew! Matthew, where are you going?! Come back here!...Matthew!

(MARILLA looks worried.)

MUSIC.

SCENE CHANGE.