

# MRS. RACHEL LYNDE

(TEA)

The Cuthbert Farm.  
Avonlea, Canada.  
The Turn of the Century.

MRS. RACHEL LYNDE quickly enters the kitchen of the farmhouse of Marilla Cuthbert. MRS. LYNDE runs the town's general store; and is also the town gossip.

RACHEL & Marilla have been friends for years despite the fact that Marilla tends to be stoic; while RACHEL is always talking too much. RACHEL just has to know about everybody else's business.

RACHEL is quick-paced, nosey, strong. She always talks too much and too fast. Yet, despite it all, she is not unlikeable.

RACHEL

(off stage)

Yoo-Hoo!! Marilla!

(she enters.)

(false cheerfulness)

Morning, Marilla

MARILLA

(greet's her perfunctory)

Rachel. How's business at the store?

RACHEL

(talking too much & too fast)

Well, matter of fact, you know that ten yards of very expensive imported material that Mrs. Allen ordered from the store last week? Well sir, Mrs. Barry was talking to her...

(derogatory - referring to Mrs. Barry)

You know her.

(back to business)

Anyway, she found out that...

(catches herself/stopping herself)

Oh, never mind that now.

(getting right to the reason she came)

(nosey)

Marilla, everyone saw your brother Matthew driving into town today.

MARILLA

(not revealing a thing - on purpose)

Oh?

RACHEL (probing)

Thought maybe he was goin' to the doctor's?

MARILLA

No.

RACHEL

(proud of herself for being right)

There. See? I told that Mrs. Barry he wasn't drivin' fast enough.

MARILLA

My brother and I are doing just fine, thank you.

RACHEL

Good. ... So?

MARILLA

So?

RACHEL  
(running out of patience)  
Marilla Cuthbert, everybody knows your brother Matthew never just drives into town.

MARILLA  
True.

RACHEL  
In fact, he never drives anywhere.

MARILLA  
True.

RACHEL  
Especially on a weekday.

MARILLA (agreeing)  
Hmm-hmm.

RACHEL  
Especially durin' plantin' time.

(Pause. RACHEL is expecting an answer.)  
(instead...)

MARILLA (false innocence)  
Cup of tea, Rachel?

RACHEL  
(annoyed, exasperated)  
Tea?!...Tea?!...Now how can a body drink tea when they're so darn curious they're just about ready to bust!  
(pause.)  
(RACHEL looks at MARILLA expectantly)  
(Finally...)

Well?

(Pause)  
(MARILLA gives in.)

MARILLA  
(explaining)(simply)  
Fact is - Matthew's gone to the train station. My brother and I are getting a little boy from the orphanage in Halifax.

END.  
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