

**JOSIE.** You know, Jimmy Glover and Ned Wright have a bet on it.

**JANE.** On what?

**JOSIE.** Who's going to win.

**RUBY.** What? *(She gets it.)* Oh.

**JOSIE.** I told Ned it was a waste of his money. There's no doubt in the world that Gilbert can beat Anne.

**JANE.** Oh, Josie!

*(From off stage we hear DIANA calling.)*

**DIANA.** Anne! Anne!

**ANNE.** Diana! *(To the others:)* Oh, my! Oh, my! She's got a paper!

*(DIANA comes in breathlessly waving the paper.)*

**DIANA.** Anne, you've passed! Passed the very first! Well, you and Gilbert both—you're ties—but your name is first!

*(ANNE takes the paper. Everyone surges around to see. GILBERT enters and joins the throng.)*

Oh, I'm so proud!

*(They all tear at the paper. ANNE walks away from it in a daze.)*

**JANE / JOSIE / RUBY / GILBERT / MOODY.** Look at that! There they are! Anne! Gilbert! Can you see me? There I am! Wait, am I on there? etc. etc.

**DIANA.** Father brought the paper from the train at Bright River. It won't be here till tomorrow by mail— You've all passed, every one of you! Won't Miss Stacy be delighted? Oh, Anne, what does it feel like to see your name at the head of a pass list like that?

**ANNE.** I'm just... I never thought I could... Yes, I did. Just once.

*(She looks around.)*

Excuse me a minute, Diana. I have to find Matthew.

**JANE.** *(Looking off:)* There they are, Anne. Matthew!

**DIANA / RUBY.** Matthew! Marilla!

*(MATTHEW and MARILLA enter at a quick pace.)*

**MARILLA.** What? What is it, Anne?

**ANNE.** I've passed! And I'm first... *(A quick look, not unkind, over to GILBERT.)* ...or one of the first! May I?

*(She asks for the paper from GILBERT, who is holding it. He gives it to her. She shows it to MATTHEW and MARILLA who look at it closely. MATTHEW drops his end of the paper and takes ANNE by the shoulders.)*

**MATTHEW.** Well now, I always said it. I knew you could beat them all—easy!

*(MARILLA returns the paper. She hides her intense pride in ANNE.)*

**MARILLA.** Well, we'd better be getting on. You've done pretty well, I must say.

**MATTHEW.** Pretty well? Pretty well?

*(He looks over at the students who shout their congratulations to ANNE. MARILLA exits. MATTHEW escorts ANNE out.)*

**ALL.** Congratulations, Anne! It's wonderful! We're so proud of you! You did so well! Hooray! Anne!

*(Lights. Music. Exit.)*

### Scene 10

*(Music continues under GILBERT in a tight spot performing "Bingen on the Rhine" at the White Sands Hotel concert.)*

**GILBERT.** There's another,—not a sister: in the happy days gone by  
You'd have known her by the merriment that sparkled in her eye;  
Too innocent for coquetry,—too fond for idle scorning,—  
O friend! I fear the lightest heart makes sometimes heaviest  
mourning!

Tell her the last night of my life (for, ere the moon be risen,  
My body will be out of pain, my soul be out of prison),—  
I dreamed I stood with her, and saw the yellow sunlight shine  
On the vine-clad hills of Bingen,—fair Bingen on the Rhine.

*(Applause. GILBERT turns to watch ANNE, his spot dims. The spot cross fades to ANNE on the other side of the stage, now dressed in long skirt—a young woman. She is completing her recitation at the White Sands Concert. She is very good.)*

ANNE. Bessie came, with flying footsteps, eyes aglow with lovelight sweet;  
Kneeling on the turf beside him, laid his pardon at his feet.  
In his brave, strong arms he clasped her, kissed the face upturned  
and white,  
Whispered, "Darling, you have saved me, curfew will not ring to-night."

*(Large crowd applauds. Music fades out. She bows. The crowd yells "Encore!")*

*(Then, lights change, GILBERT exits and we are in the kitchen, Green Gables. Early September. Late evening. DIANA is there with MATTHEW and MARILLA. ANNE has just finished reciting for them. DIANA claps.)*

DIANA. And then they made her do a second encore!

ANNE. *(Modestly.)* Oh, Diana.

DIANA. Well, they did! All those Americans ladies in all their jewels! You should be so proud, Anne! It was wonderful, Marilla. The whole of the White Sands Hotel was shouting for Anne. Go on. Do the funny one!

ANNE. No!

DIANA. Please? Matthew would love it.

ANNE. *(Sharing a look with MATTHEW.)* Not now, Di. And I've kept you here too long. Your mother is going to wonder where you are. *(Picking up her shawl.)* Come on, I'll walk you home.

DIANA. No, not tonight. You have to leave tomorrow. Stay with Marilla and Matthew.

ANNE. *(Looking at them.)* All right, Di, and thanks. I'll see you out.

DIANA. *(Putting on her shawl and heading for the door. To MATTHEW and MARILLA.)* Good night. She really was wonderful.

MARILLA. *(Smiling a little.)* Yes.

DIANA. *(The girls are outside.)* You know it was Gilbert that started everyone shouting "encore."

*(ANNE looks off and doesn't speak.)*

What are you thinking, Anne?

ANNE. Gilbert's taking the first class degree, too. I found out today.

DIANA. So you'll be in the same classes again.

ANNE. I suppose. One more year. It's funny, I don't think I'd know what to do without him there to battle. My friend the enemy.

DIANA. Yes. I suppose I'd better go.

ANNE. Yes.

DIANA. You'll stop by in the morning on your way?

ANNE. Of course.

DIANA. I can't believe you're really going.

ANNE. Oh, Diana! Don't start again. You'll just get me going too. I'll be back on the train almost every week. Go on now!

DIANA. Good night, Anne.

ANNE. Good night.

*(DIANA exits and ANNE returns to the kitchen.)*

I declare, my recitation has made you cry, Marilla. Now, that is something to be proud of.

MARILLA. *(Waving her off.)* No, no I wasn't crying over your piece. I was just wishing for a moment you could have stayed a little... "little Anne"—even with all your odd ways back then. You're going away now and you look so tall and stylish—as if you didn't really belong in Avonlea at all.

ANNE. *(Trying to hug her.)* Marilla!

**MARILLA.** (*Brushing it off—starting to exit.*) Oh! I just got lonesome thinking it all over.

**ANNE.** (*Taking her hand.*) Marilla! I'm not changed. Not a bit, really. I don't care how different I may look. I *am* still your little Anne—I always will be.

(*About to cry again, MARILLA exits. Leaving ANNE and MATTHEW looking at each other. Lights. Music.*)

### Scene 11

(*The benches are moved to make a train compartment. Music out under train sounds. Lights up. Next April. The Queens students are dressed as young adults now and are going home to visit in Avonlea. ANNE, JANE, RUBY, and JOSIE are seated in one compartment. GILBERT and MOODY are in a nearby compartment. Train sounds out under the dialogue.*)

**CONDUCTOR'S VOICE.** Carmody! Next stop, Carmody!

**JANE.** Just ten more minutes!

**RUBY.** I'm so glad to get home.

**ANNE.** Oh, me too.

**JOSIE.** Homesick for pokey old Avonlea?

**JANE.** Oh, Josie, just stop it.

**JOSIE.** Hmmph!

**JANE.** (*To the other two.*) I've lost seven pounds in the last two weeks studying for finals.

**RUBY.** Yes, this has been so much harder than I thought.

**JANE.** Are you ready, Anne?

**ANNE.** I think so. Yes.

**RUBY.** I wish I had your confidence.

**JANE.** I wish I had your brain!

**JOSIE.** I don't really care. If I don't pass this year I'll just come back next. My father can afford to send me.

**JANE.** (*Turning the conversation away from JOSIE.*) Anne, are you writing an essay for the Avery Scholarship competition?

**ANNE.** Yes...yes I am.

**JANE.** Good! My English professor said he was sure you could win it if you tried!

**JOSIE.** Professor Tremaine said Emily Clay would likely win the Avery scholarship and that Gilbert Blythe was sure to get the medal for first in class.

**RUBY.** Oh, Josie!

**JOSIE.** Oh, Josie!

**ANNE.** I'll win it if hard work can win it. Matthew would be so proud to see me go on to Redmond for a BA.

**RUBY.** You can do it, I know, Anne.

**JANE.** Yes!

**ANNE.** I think Marilla would...

**JOSIE.** But Gilbert's awfully smart at...

**JANE.** Oh, Josie!

**JOSIE.** Oh, Josie!

**RUBY.** Gil really is pretty smart at English, though.

(*A short pause. GILBERT walks over to the compartment.*)

**GILBERT.** Evening, ladies.

(*ANNE nods, the rest respond.*)

**RUBY/JOSIE/JANE.** Good evening, Gil(bert).

**GILBERT.** Ruby, I wondered if you might enjoy some company on the walk home?