

MRS. LYNDE. Mercy!

DIANA. Then it was time. And we all picked up our things and started to leave.

(Over the above, the bell rings. ANNE erases the "Take Notice" and the "+" sign from the board and adds an "E" to the end of her name. GILBERT is trying to speak to her.)

GILBERT. I'm awfully sorry I made fun of your hair, Anne. Honest I am. Don't be mad for keeps, now. *(Pause.)* Anne?

(ANNE walks disdainfully to her desk. DIANA comes over to ANNE.)

DIANA. Oh how could you, Anne?

ANNE. I shall never forgive Gilbert Blythe.

DIANA. Gilbert makes fun of all the girls. You heard him call me a crow before school.

ANNE. *(Packing all her things into her school basket:)* I don't care. Gilbert Blythe and Mr. Phillips have hurt my feelings excruciatingly.

DIANA. Why are you taking all those things home?

ANNE. *(Exiting with all her things:)* I'll never go to school to that man again!

DIANA. Oh, Anne!

(Music tag. The school room is struck. Lights restore as the girls reenter the kitchen. To MARILLA:)

And she wouldn't even let me walk home with her.

(They all look to see how MARILLA will take this. After a pause.)

MARILLA. Anne'll come see you, Diana. When she's ready. You girls run on home now.

(The girls start dejectedly for the door.)

And thank you for coming over.

(Looking back toward Anne's room, the girls exit. MATTHEW comes out of hiding.)

MRS. LYNDE. Well.

MARILLA. Well. What would you advise, Rachel?

MRS. LYNDE. Since you've asked, Marilla, I'll tell you. I'd just humor her.

MARILLA. Rachel!

MRS. LYNDE. It's my belief that Mr. Phillips was in the wrong. Of course, it doesn't do to say so in front of the children.

MARILLA. No.

MRS. LYNDE. I wouldn't say "school" to her again until she said it herself. She'll cool off in a week and be ready to go back. But, if you were to make her go back right off, dear knows what tantrum she'd throw.

(She rises to leave. MARILLA follows her out. MRS. LYNDE keeps talking until she fades from view.)

MARILLA. I suppose you're right.

MRS. LYNDE. Course I am.

(MATTHEW looks after them, then up to where ANNE has exited. He exits. Lights. Music.)

Scene 15

(Lights up. Music out. Outside Green Gables, afternoon, two weeks later. ANNE and DIANA run on wearing very nice dresses.)

ANNE. ...yes and she said we could use the second-best tea service!

DIANA. Yea! When will she be back?

ANNE. Not till late. She's left me in charge of everything.

DIANA. Well, it's awfully nice of her to let you invite me to tea.

ANNE. Yes, Marilla is a very generous woman. She said we could have fruitcake and cherry preserves for tea. And she said we could have raspberry cordial to drink! I love bright red drinks, don't you? They taste twice as good as any other color.

(They are at the door. DIANA reaches for the knob. ANNE stops her.)

No. Wait here.

DIANA. What?

ANNE. Just wait here.

(She quickly opens the door, goes inside and shuts it. In a flash, she throws off her hat and shawl. She runs back to open the door.)

Now knock.

(She shuts the door.)

DIANA. What?

ANNE. *(Shouting through the closed door:)* KNOCK!

DIANA. Oh.

(DIANA knocks demurely. ANNE opens and very politely ushers DIANA in, helping her off with her hat and shawl.)

ANNE. Why Diana Barry, do come in. Here let me take that. How very nice of you to come for tea. How is your mother?

DIANA. You were just at our house, you just saw her.

ANNE. *(Encouraging, sotto voce:)* Diana!

DIANA. *(Catching on:)* Oh. Yes. She is very well, thank you. And Marilla?

ANNE. Oh, Marilla is in excellent health, thank you, Diana.

DIANA. I suppose Mr. Cuthbert is hauling potatoes to the ship this afternoon. Is he?

ANNE. Yes. Our potato crop is very good this year. I hope your father's crop is good too.

DIANA. It is fairly good, thank you.

ANNE. *(Rising and crossing to bring a plate:)* Now, Diana, if you'll please try one of these cookies, I'll bring the cordial.

DIANA. Why thank you, Anne.

(She takes a cookie as ANNE crosses out of the room for a moment. ANNE calls from off stage, disappointed.)

ANNE. Oh!

DIANA. What's the matter?

ANNE. Marilla said the cordial was on the second shelf of the pantry and I can't find... Oh! Here it is!

(She returns with a tray with 2 small tumblers and the bottle.)

It was way back on the top shelf. Now, please help yourself, Diana. I'm going to set our tea to draw.

DIANA. *(Pouring a some in the glass and admiring the color:)* Thank you. *(She drinks it down.)* Ooh. That's awfully nice raspberry cordial, Anne. I didn't know raspberry cordial was so nice.

ANNE. I'm real glad you like it. Take as much as you want.

DIANA. Well, it's so good, and I am awful thirsty.

(She pours a full glass and holds it up to admire it, then drinks it down at once.)

That is the nicest raspberry cordial I ever drank.

ANNE. *(Readying the tea:)* Marilla is a famous cook. She is trying to teach me to cook but I assure you, Diana, it is uphill work.

DIANA. Oh, Anne! I do wish you'd come back to school. I have to sit with Josie Pye now and she drives me crazy with her wiggling and squeaking her chalk on her slate.

(ANNE is about to remove the cordial. DIANA stops her.)

Maybe I'll just have one more. Are you sure you don't want any?

ANNE. No, please. Take all you want.

DIANA. (*Sloppily pours another full glass, then blurts:*) Last week Ruby Gillis charmed all her warts away.

ANNE. She didn't!

DIANA. She did, true's you live! With a magic pebble that old Mary Joe from the Creek gave her. And Charlie Sloane's name was written up with Em White's on the porch wall and Em White was awful mad about it.

ANNE. (*Giggling and taking the cordial away and crossing to the pantry:*) I imagine so!

(DIANA drinks down the whole of the 3rd. As ANNE reenters, she blurts:)

DIANA. Gilbert Blythe is head of the fourth class now and Mr. Phillips says...

ANNE. Diana, I don't want to hear anything about...that person.

DIANA. Oh, Anne.

(ANNE is setting the tea things on a tray on the table. DIANA starts to stand up.)

Here, let me help you with that. Oh!

(She falls back into her chair.)

ANNE. (*Overlapping:*) No, thank you... Oh! Diana! What is the matter?

DIANA. (*Putting her hands to her head:*) I'm—I'm awful sick. I—I—must go right home.

ANNE. Oh, you mustn't dream of going home without your tea. It's all ready. I'll pour it this very minute.

DIANA. No, I must go home.

ANNE. Let me get you something to eat anyhow. You'll feel better then.

(DIANA struggles to get up. ANNE helps her.)

DIANA. I must go home. I must go home. I must go home.

ANNE. All right, Diana. I'll take you home. Where do you feel bad?

DIANA. (*Stumbling as ANNE helps her out the door:*) Oh, Anne. I'm awful dizzy.

(DIANA puts her hand to her mouth and runs off urgently.)

ANNE. (*She collects Diana's hat and shawl and laments as she exits:*) Oh! I never heard of company going home without their tea.

(Lights. Music tag.)

Scene 16

(Lights up. Kitchen, Green Gables. Two days later, early evening. MARILLA is on. ANNE enters in a state.)

MARILLA. Anne, did Mrs. Lynde have the quilting frames I...

ANNE. (*Flopping in a chair:*) Ohhhh!

MARILLA. Whatever has gone wrong now?

ANNE. Mrs. Lynde said Mrs. Barry is in an awful state. She says that I set Diana drunk Saturday and sent her home in a disgraceful condition. And she says I am wicked little girl and she's never, never going to let Diana play with me again.

MARILLA. Set Diana drunk! What on earth did you give her?

ANNE. Not a thing but raspberry cordial.

(MARILLA goes off to the pantry. ANNE calls after her:)

I never thought raspberry cordial would set people drunk—not even if they did drink three tumblerfuls.

MARILLA. (*Exclaiming from off stage:*) Oh, no!

ANNE. What?!

MARILLA. (*Returning with the bottle in her hand, trying not to laugh:*) Anne, you certainly have a genius for getting into trouble. You went and gave Diana currant wine instead of raspberry cordial.