

December 5, 2023

Dear L.M. Montgomery,

I extend my profound gratitude for the enchanting world you created in *Anne of Green Gables*. Anne's journey has been a guiding force, lifting me from what Anne would aptly term the "depths of despair" to a place of accomplishment and happiness. Your storytelling allowed me to sympathize, grow, and learn alongside Anne in her auspicious life.

Three years ago I unwrapped your beautifully illustrated novel as a Christmas gift, and since then it has held a special place in my heart. Anne's orphaned life struck a chord with my own experiences, navigating through different homes and constant change. After an extensive period of foster homes filled with every type of abuse imaginable, I secured a place to stay for an extended period. However, in contrast to Anne's idyllic haven, mine proved to be a toxic environment where I endured for nine years, suppressing my individuality and silencing my voice.

Anne Shirley's vivid imagination became a beacon of inspiration for my own. Witnessing her use her wild imagination as a refuge from a crumbling reality allowed me to envision myself in her shoes. The initial challenges she faced with the Cuthberts mirrored aspects of my life, including the age gaps between her and her guardians which resulted with outdated rules and ideas. Yet unlike my own experience, Anne and her new parents forged compromises and understanding.

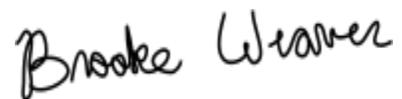
One poignant moment in the book that resonated deeply with me was when Anne, in a gesture of warmth, kissed on the cheek the misperceived cold-hearted Marilla, Anne's guardian. This simple act of affection, so beautifully depicted in your words, touched me profoundly. It

reminded me of the longing for warmth and connection in my own life, where such gestures were scarce.

Your narrative served as a lifeline as I grappled with worsening circumstances. Drawing strength from Anne's resilience, I found the courage to break free from my toxic surroundings and seek a better life. Recently, I found that new home, and I can genuinely say that I love it there. It's a place that fosters growth and allows me to embrace my individuality, a stark contrast to the oppressive environment I left behind. On this road to success, inspired by Anne's journey, I am discovering my own path to accomplishment and happiness. The parallels between Anne's positive transformation and my own journey have become a source of motivation and strength.

Thank you, L.M. Montgomery, for gifting us this timeless tale that not only allowed me to escape but also empowered me to shape my own narrative. Your creation, Anne Shirley, has become a symbol of hope and resilience in my life, and for that, I am forever grateful.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooke Weaver". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Brooke Weaver