



ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

An Adaptation Done Right

ANUVA ANANNYA

Episodes: 50

A lot of people are averse to watching adaptations of novels, and they are so because of valid reasons. The adaptations, in the media of drama and animation alike, often tend to do injustice to the novels by not being able to capture the atmosphere or the features of the characters according to the readers' imaginations, or by skipping small or big details that make the story coherent (the simplest example of this would be Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2). As a viewer, I have come across some exceptions of this, one of them being the animated adaptation of Anne of Green Gables, a renowned classic by Canadian

author Lucy Maud Montgomery. The 1979 World Masterpiece Theatre adaptation was done by Studio Ghibli's Isao Takahata, who also happens to be the creator of legendary animated films like Grave of the Fireflies and The Tale of the Princess Kaguya.

Set in the late 19th century, the main character of the story, Anne Shirley, is an 11-year-old orphan who's sent to the elderly Cuthbert siblings of Green Gables by mistake. The siblings had wanted to adopt a boy from the orphanage, but in the face of Anne's constant pleading, they agree to keep her. With her gift of imagination and immense positive energy, Anne continues to grow up happily in the country under the supervision of the Cuthbert siblings, going to school, mak-

ing friends, hurtling towards adolescence, and discovering more "kindred spirits" in the process.

The progression in the series deserves great appreciation. The changes in Anne and her surroundings occur very naturally without the viewer ever realising it. For instance, the physical and mental growth of Anne never seems sudden; it absolutely goes with the flow. Once you get towards the end of the series, you start reflecting on the beginning of it all and can't help wondering when the changes had occurred.

The animation is top notch and Ghibli-esque. The characters, locations, and the world of Anne's imagination are portrayed wonderfully and in detail. Some viewers may be discouraged by the old art

style, but in my opinion, it fits the plot well since the old customs and traditions can be perfectly captured in said style. The soundtracks of the series mostly consist of soothing classical music, which is highly relevant to the tone of the series.

It is a very simple tale, clichéd at times, yet extremely relatable and it teaches you things you thought you had already known all about. Anne makes you mander about your own childhood and laugh at the differences you notice between your younger and older selves. If you are a fan of both animation and literature, Akage no Anne is a perfect fit for you.

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Suspense around Every Corner

BOOK REVIEW

SANJIDA SAMIHA

If you are searching for a good book to pass time, or have a knack for suspense with hints of romance here and there, then I have the book for you.

The story has been written from the POV of a teenage girl named Kelsey, who is also the central character of the book. Kelsey's mother has not stepped outside their fortress of a house in seventeen years, from the time she escaped pregnant with Kelsey from a group of kidnapers. The captivity has had an everlasting effect on her mother's mind, presenting her as an "overly paranoid and delusional" character. Reminds me of a movie about a room, hmm.

No wonder Kelsey has a very different lifestyle than others her age. She has been trained by her mother to make escape

plans everywhere she goes, to analyse her environment, to always weigh in her options for a run, to question everything and to trust nothing. She has been taught to avoid all sorts of intimacy with others and to stay off the grid as much as possible. The obedient daughter that she is, Kelsey abides by her mother's instructions and sticks to the similar routine of home-school-home every day, until she meets with a fatal car accident. This accident turns out to be the turning point of her life, as little by little it opens the door to the secrets of their past.

The suspense is clearly maintained till the end of the book, leaving the plot unpredictable to the readers. The author sustains the plot throughout the book, illuminating the actions with elegant words and vivid portrayals. Though the climax can be deemed as a bit too dra-

matic, but the book as a whole, promises to be worth your while.

Megan Miranda, the much admired author of *Fracture*, *Vengeance*, *Hysteria* and *Soulprint*, was inspired to write "The Safest Lies" after reading a study about the way emotions, like fear, are passed down through genes. Miranda succeeds in forming mental visuals of the events and keeps her readers intrigued the whole time. There is the threat of violence, the rise of tension and plot twists - which are all it takes to keep the readers' eyes glued to the pages. I strongly recommend this book to all the YA suspense lovers out there.

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