3. Marilla Cuthbert Is Surprised
1) Marilla came briskly forward as Matthew opened the door.
2) But when her eyes fell on the odd little figure
in the stiff, ugly dress, with the long braids of red hair and
the eager, luminous eyes, she stopped short in amazement.
3) "Matthew Cuthbert, who's that?" she ejaculated.
4) "Where is the boy?"
5) "There wasn't any boy," said Matthew wretchedly.
6) "There was only her."
7) He nodded at the child, remembering that he had never even
asked her name.

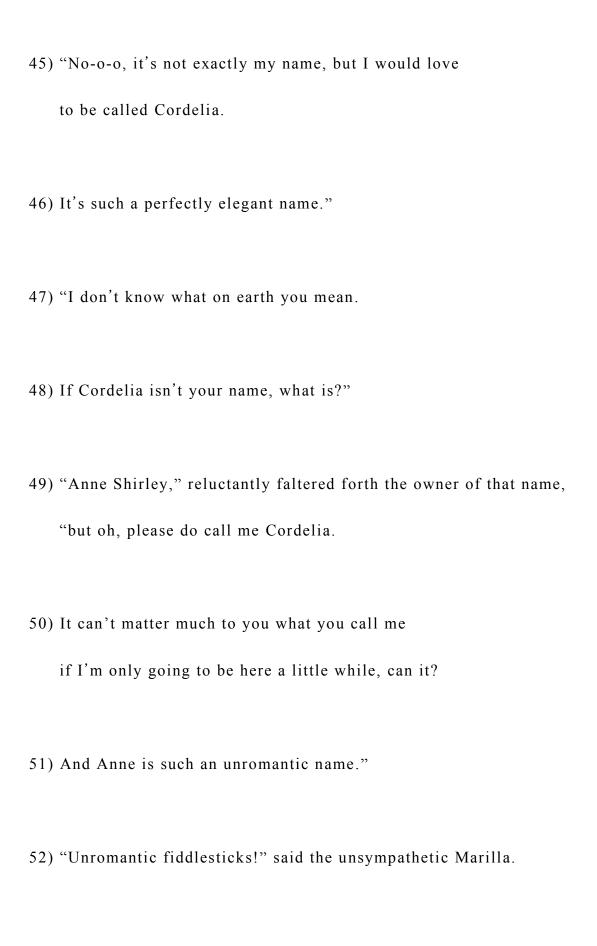
8) "No boy!
8-1) But there must have been a boy," insisted Marilla.
9) "We sent word to Mrs. Spencer to bring a boy."
10) "Well, she didn't.
11) She brought her.
12) I asked the stationmaster.
13) And I had to bring her home.
14) She couldn't be left there, no matter where the mistake had come in."
15) "Well, this is a pretty piece of business!" ejaculated Marilla.

16)	During this dialogue the child had remained silent,
	her eyes roving from one to the other, all the animation
	fading out of her face.
17)	Suddenly she seemed to grasp the full meaning
	of what had been said.
18)	Dropping her precious carpetbag she sprang forward
	a step and clasped her hands.
19)	"You don't want me!" she cried.
20)	"You don't want me because I'm not a boy!
21)	I might have expected it
<b>41)</b>	I might have expected it.
22)	Nobody ever did want me.
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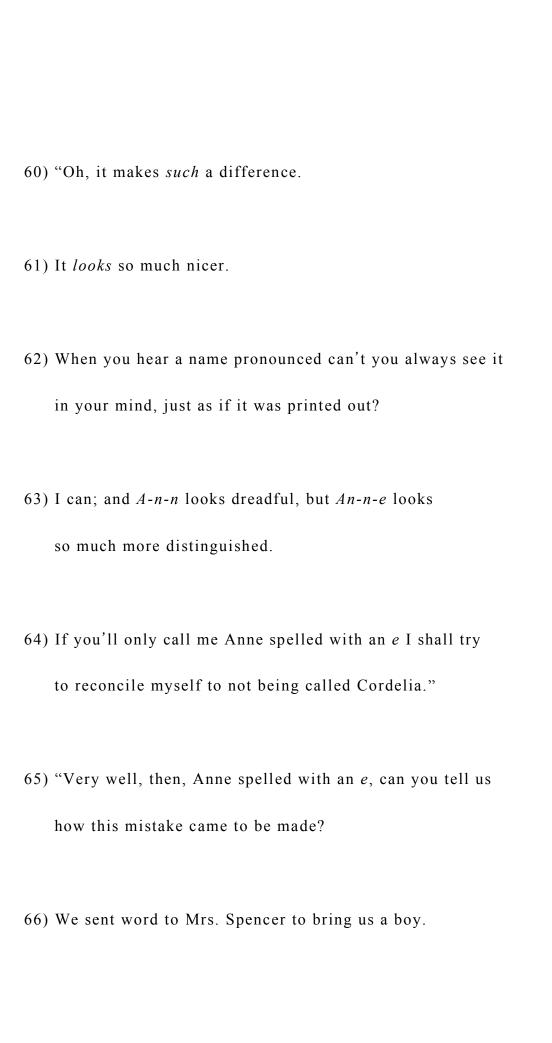
23)	I might have known it was all too beautiful to last.
24)	I might have known nobody really did want me.
25)	Oh, what shall I do?
26)	I'm going to burst into tears!"
27)	Burst into tears she did.
28)	Sitting down on a chair by the table, flinging her arms out upon it, and burying her face in them, she proceeded to cry stormily.
29)	Marilla and Matthew looked at each other deprecatingly across the stove.
30)	Neither of them knew what to say or do.

31)	Finally Marilla stepped lamely into the breach.
32)	"Well, well, there's no need to cry so about it."
33)	"Yes, there is need!"
34)	The child raised her head quickly, revealing a tear-stained face and trembling lips.
35)	"You would cry, too, if you were an orphan and had come
	to a place you thought was going to be home and found
	that they didn't want you because you weren't a boy.
36)	Oh, this is the most tragical thing that ever happened to me!"
37)	Something like a reluctant smile, rather rusty from long disuse,
	mellowed Marilla's grim expression.

38) "Well, don't cry any more.
39) We're not going to turn you out of doors tonight.
40) You'll have to stay here until we investigate this affair.
41) What's your name?"
42) The child hesitated for a moment.
43) "Will you please call me Cordelia?" she said eagerly.
44) "Call you Cordelia!
44-1) Is that your name?"



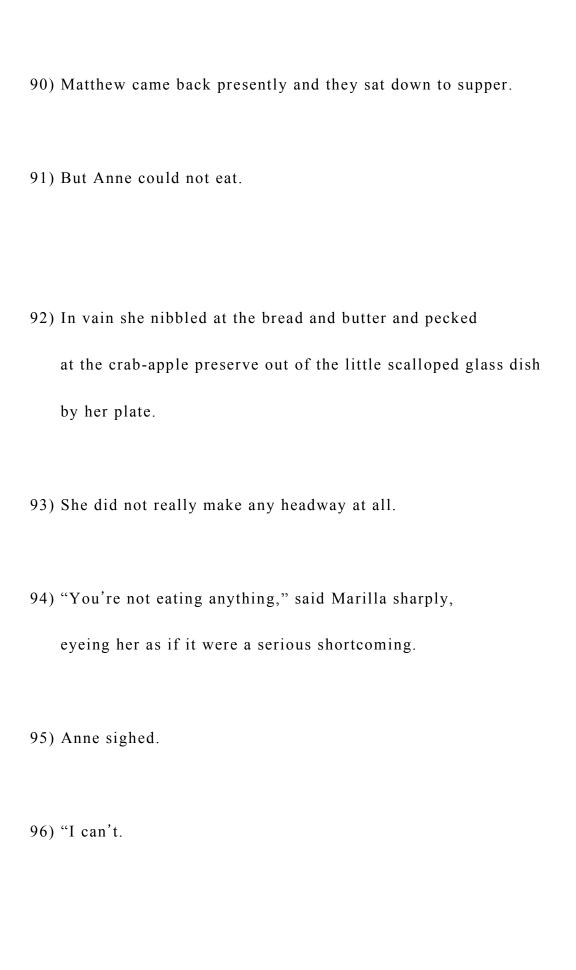
53)	"Anne is a real good plain sensible name.
54)	You've no need to be ashamed of it."
55)	"Oh, I'm not ashamed of it," explained Anne,  "only I like Cordelia better.
56)	I've always imagined that my name was Cordelia—at least, I always have of late years.
57)	When I was young I used to imagine it was Geraldine, but I like Cordelia better now.
58)	But if you call me Anne, please call me Anne spelled with an $e$ ."
59)	"What difference does it make how it's spelled?" asked Marilla with another rusty smile as she picked up the teapot.

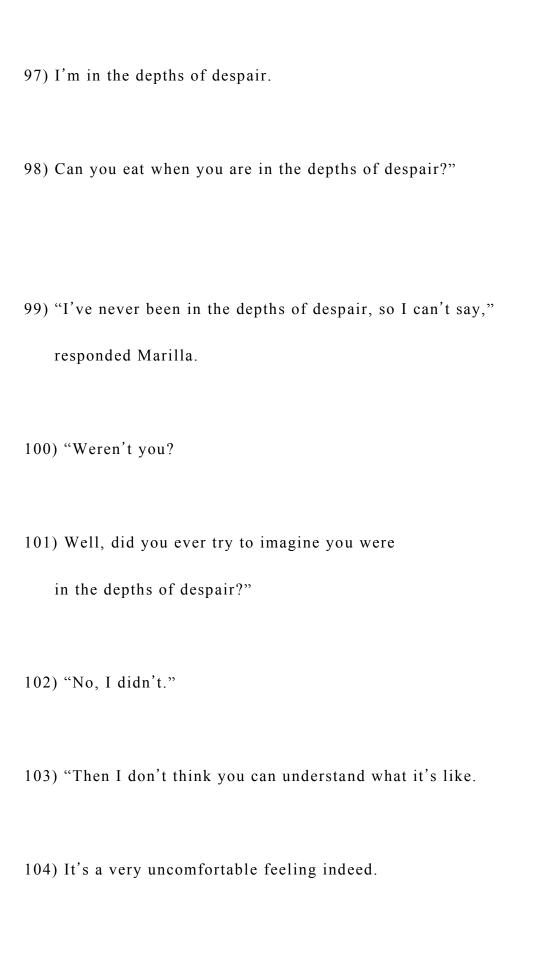


67)	Were there no boys at the asylum?"
68)	"Oh, yes, there was an abundance of them.
69)	But Mrs. Spencer said distinctly that you wanted a girl about eleven years old.
70)	And the matron said she thought I would do.
71)	You don't know how delighted I was.
72)	I couldn't sleep all last night for joy.
73)	Oh," she added reproachfully, turning to Matthew, "why didn't you tell me at the station that you didn't want me and leave me there?

74)	If I hadn't seen the White Way of Delight and the Lake
	of Shining Waters it wouldn't be so hard."
75)	"What on earth does she mean?" demanded Marilla,
	staring at Matthew.
76)	"She—she's just referring to some conversation we had on the road,"
	said Matthew hastily.
77)	"I'm going out to put the mare in, Marilla.
78)	Have tea ready when I come back."
79)	"Did Mrs. Spencer bring anybody over besides you?"
	continued Marilla when Matthew had gone out.
80)	"She brought Lily Jones for herself.

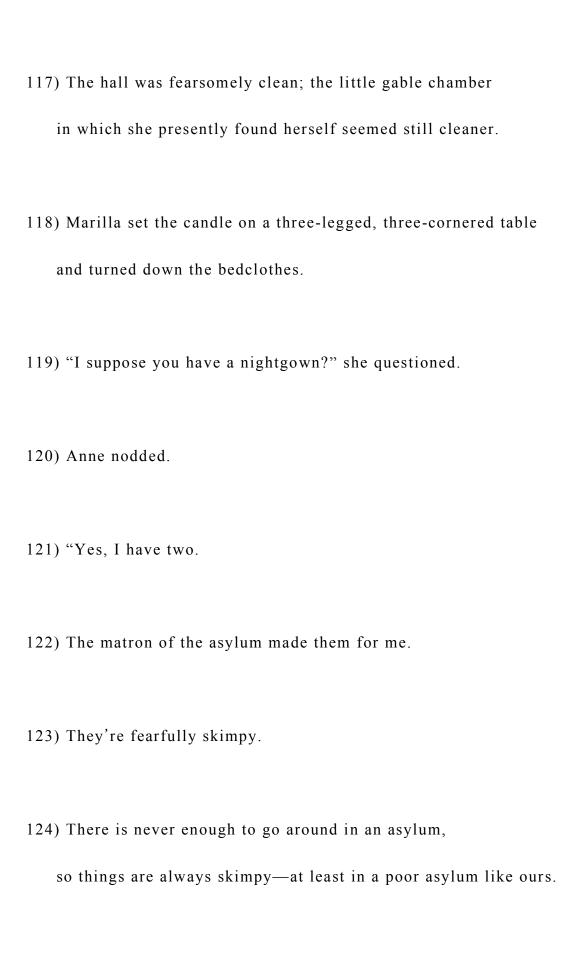
81) Lily is only five years old and she is very beautiful.
82) She has nutbrown hair.
83) If I was very beautiful and had nutbrown hair would you keep me?"
84) "No.
85) We want a boy to help Matthew on the farm.
86) A girl would be of no use to us.
87) Take off your hat.
88) I'll lay it and your bag on the hall table."
89) Anne took off her hat meekly.







111) "Best put her to bed, Marilla."
112) Marilla had been wondering where Anne should be put to bed.
113) She had prepared a couch in the kitchen chamber
for the desired and expected boy.
114) But, although it was neat and clean, it did not seem quite the thing to put a girl there somehow.
115) But the spare room was out of the question for such a stray waif,
so there remained only the east gable room.
116) Marilla lighted a candle and told Anne to follow her,
which Anne spiritlessly did, taking her hat and carpetbag
from the hall table as she passed.



125) I hate skimpy nightdresses.
ones, with frills around the neck, that's one consolation."
127) "Well, undress as quick as you can and go to bed.
128) I'll come back in a few minutes for the candle.
129) I daren't trust you to put it out yourself.
130) You'd likely set the place on fire."
131) When Marilla had gone Anne looked around her wistfully.
132) The whitewashed walls were so painfully bare and staring that she thought they must ache over their own bareness.

- 133) The floor was bare, too, except for a round braided mat in the middle such as Anne had never seen before.
- 134) In one corner was the bed, a high, old-fashioned one, with four dark, low-turned posts.
- 135) In the other corner was the aforesaid three-cornered table adorned with a fat, red velvet pincushion hard enough to turn the point of the most adventurous pin.
- 13) 6Above it hung a little six-by-eight mirror.
- 137) Midway between table and bed was the window, with an icy white muslin frill over it, and opposite it was the washstand.

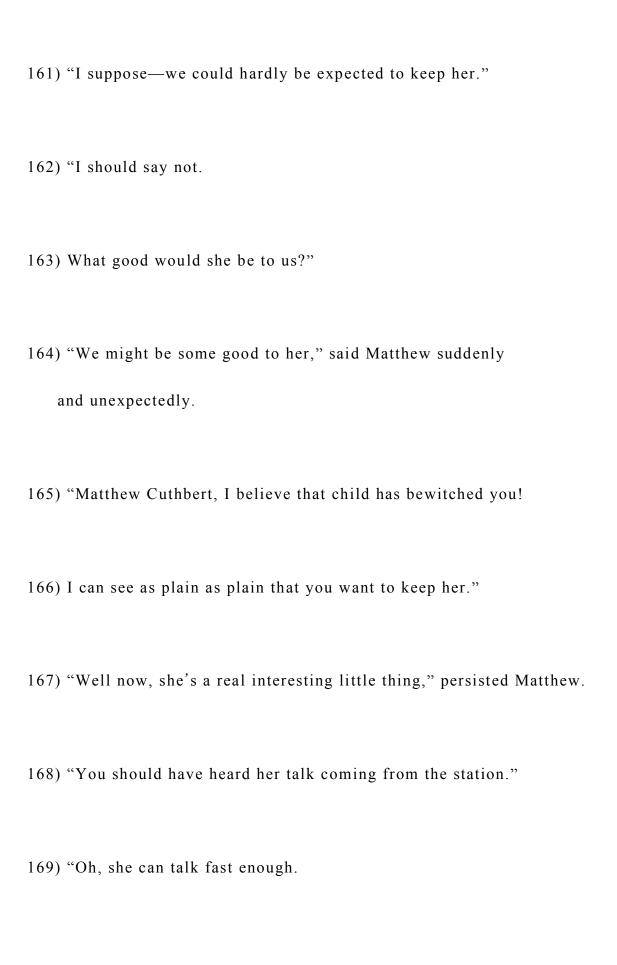
138) The whole apartment was of a rigidity not to be described in words, but which sent a shiver to the very marrow of Anne's bones.

- 139) With a sob she hastily discarded her garments, put on
  the skimpy nightgown and sprang into bed,
  where she burrowed face downward into the pillow and pulled
  the clothes over her head.
- of raiment scattered most untidily over the floor and a certain tempestuous appearance of the bed were the only indications of any presence save her own.
- 141) She deliberately picked up Anne's clothes, placed them neatly on a prim yellow chair, and then, taking up the candle, went over to the bed.

142) "Good night," she said, a little awkwardly, but not unkind	ly.
143) Anne's white face and big eyes appeared over the bedcloth with a startling suddenness.	ies
144) "How can you call it a good night when you know it must the very worst night I've ever had?" she said reproachfully.	
145) Then she dived down into invisibility again.	
146) Marilla went slowly down to the kitchen and proceeded to the supper dishes.	wash
147) Matthew was smoking—a sure sign of perturbation of min	d.

- 148) He seldom smoked, for Marilla set her face against it
  as a filthy habit; but at certain times and seasons
  he felt driven to it, and then Marilla winked at the practice,
  realizing that a mere man must have some vent for his emotions.
- 149) "Well, this is a pretty kettle of fish," she said wrathfully.
- 150) "This is what comes of sending word instead of going ourselves.
- 151) Robert Spencer's folks have twisted that message somehow.
- 152) One of us will have to drive over and see Mrs. Spencer tomorrow, that's certain.
- 153) This girl will have to be sent back to the asylum."
- 154) "Yes, I suppose so," said Matthew reluctantly.

155) "You suppose so!
155-1) Don't you know it?"
156) "Well now, she's a real nice little thing, Marilla.
157) It's kind of a pity to send her back when she's so set on staying here."
158) "Matthew Cuthbert, you don't mean to say you think we ought to keep her!"
159) Marilla's astonishment could not have been greater if Matthew had expressed a predilection for standing on his head.
160) "Well now, no, I suppose not—not exactly," stammered Matthew, uncomfortably driven into a corner for his precise meaning.



170) I saw that at once.
171) It's nothing in her favor, either.
172) I don't like children who have so much to say.
173) I don't want an orphan girl, and if I did she isn't the style I'd pick out.
174) There's something I don't understand about her.
175) No, she's got to be dispatched straightway back to where she came from."
176) "I could hire a French boy to help me," said Matthew,  "and she'd be company for you."

177) "I'm not suffering for company," said Marilla shortly.
178) "And I'm not going to keep her."
179) "Well now, it's just as you say, of course, Marilla," said Matthew, rising and putting his pipe away.
180) "I'm going to bed."
181) To bed went Matthew.
182) And to bed, when she had put her dishes away, went Marilla, frowning most resolutely.
183) And upstairs, in the east gable, a lonely, heart-hungry, friendless child cried herself to sleep.