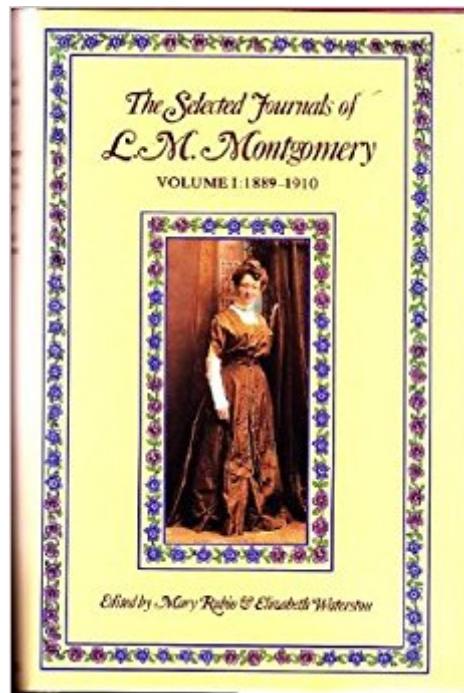




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The Selected Journals Of L. M. Montgomery: Vol. 1



Synopsis

A bestseller in Canada, this book will fascinate the legions of devoted readers of Anne of Green Gables and Montgomery's other Anne books. Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942) kept extensive journals for most of her life, beginning them in 1889 when she was fourteen and continuing them until shortly before her death. Spontaneous and frank, they are unusual for their narrative interest: Montgomery's gifts as a storyteller are as much in evidence here as in her novels. This first volume takes her to 1910, the year before her marriage, and culminates with the publication of Anne of Green Gables. The autobiographical content will intrigue every dedicated fan of the Anne books. But the Montgomery journals are especially interesting because they provide a unique social history and the privilege of viewing closely the life of a remarkable woman.

About the Author: Mary Rubio is Literary Adviser to the Estate of L.M. Montgomery and is preparing the authorized biography. Elizabeth Waterston is Professor of English at the University of Guelph. Together they edit CCL: Canadian Children's Literature: A Journal of Criticism and Review

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Customer Reviews

I am 40 years old and have kept a journal for 29 years, therefore, the journal format fascinates me. I adore Lucy Maud Montgomery's works and in 1992, I made a trip to Prince Edward Island to visit all her old haunts with my daughter and my girlfriend and her daughter. I purchased the first two journals while there. If you, dear reader, would like to know what went on in Lucy's (called Maud by everyone) mind and heart from the tender, turbulent age of 14 until her mid-thirties, I highly

recommend this book. It will transport you to a simpler time, an era where people read more, pondered in greater depth, made visiting one another a social art. There was no television, computers, internet and telephones had just come into existence. The automobile was invented during these years. The book is fascinating in a historical realm as well as entering Maud's mind and gaining a perspective on her outlook of life and those around her. I enjoyed this book thoroughly and anyone who is a fan of Lucy Maud Montgomery will relish this book and treasure it greatly. It added dimension to my life because people have always intrigued me and what their thoughts are, and where they get inspiration to write about their ideas. By reading this book, it added music and dimension to my soul. She freely discusses her love life and her miseries and joys. Read it! You will never forget it. The following journals that were published were just as compelling to read. I own them all in my personal library. My thanks to the publishers: Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston.

I picked up this volume in a bed and breakfast on Prince Edward Island a few years ago. I ran out and bought it while I was there and ordered the next 2 volumes soon after. I've been a huge "Anne" fan since I was 12 years old. Montgomery's journals make the author seem as alive as the fictional character she created. They offer insight into the author's life, her work, and the time in which she lived. I was surprised about how frank she is about her own love life and about her feelings for "Anne." A great read which may inspire you to start a journal of your own.

L.M. Montgomery wrote at the time when journalists were clamouring for details of the life of the author of the bestselling 'Anne of Green Gables', that she would give them no really personal information about herself - that was only to be found in her private journals. It is very interesting for a lover of the 'Anne' books to read of L.M. Montgomery's life in that one sees flashes of incidents or a turn of expression that reveals her to be the creator of Anne. This first part of her journals traverses L.M. Montgomery's young girlhood, in which she goes to a school which is like the school Anne goes to, and to college where she takes First Class, as Anne does, teaches as Anne eventually does as well. It is also interesting that L.M. Montgomery herself faced the prospect of marrying the wrong man, as her first engagement was a disaster - Anne later reels back from committing herself to the wrong person. But the journals are far more complex than that - L.M. Montgomery's deeper passions and even sexual desires are alluded at - and this has no place in the 'Anne' books. She is also unhappy for a lot of the time. She herself said it was a wonder that the difficulties in her own life did not come through in her writing - but she was happy as she wanted to give only optimism and

joy through her books. The journals give an insight to the conflicts within L.M. Montgomery because of her conservative, pragmatic pride warring with her shockingly powerful passions and emotions.

Obviously this is for fans of L M Montgomery - if you know and love her writing, you will recognise among the friends and acquaintances of her youth the characters that people Anne of Green Gable's turbulent world. But this wonderful journal is much more than that - it is a fascinating insight into a world which is long gone. We read of Maud's complex family arrangements, her desire to be a good teacher and disappointment with some of her placements. Her small victories selling stories to publications, and the seemingly endless stream of suitors who proclaim love for her (my favourite is the hapless Mr Mustard). It is a tale of love found and not acted on (and the agonies that accompany it), familial obligations, frustrated talents and beautiful Canadian country side. It tells of happiness, despair, joy and nostalgia, and is as engagingly written as any fabulous novel. By all means read this if you wish to understand the creator of one of the world's most engaging literary characters, but also to have a glimpse of a world none of us will ever see the likes of.

I have long since outgrown all my childhood books. Nancy Drew is long gone, and I can't even "remember" most of the books that I read growing up. But I kept every one of L.M. Montgomery's books, and I still re-read them periodically. Even though they are written for children, I find myself entertained even now, and even after I have already read all of them more than a few times. She's just that good! L.M. Montgomery was a fascinating person, and she wrote some fascinating, compelling, books. So, even though I don't EVER read journals, I decided to splurge on this abridged version of L.M. Montgomery's journals. For an abridged version, this is quite a heavy book! Lots and lots of pages. But this turns out to be a good thing, as Lucy Maud is just as interesting in her journals as in her novels, if not more so. This first volume covers her life up until her engagement, and then a few years past that as she stays to nurse her ailing grandmother. They both know that the wedding will have to be postponed until her grandmother dies. Reading this from the vantage point of 2014, it was not clear to me why this should be so, but it was obviously the way things were done back then, and neither of them seem to have too many objections to pushing off their wedding for this amount of time. This first novel is very interesting, and it is also, I think, the most optimistic journal out of the five published volumes of her journals. Her signature turn of phrase is very much in evidence here, and her observations of life in general, and her life in particular, make this journal a very interesting read.

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