



# The Selected Journals Of L.M. Montgomery, Vol. 3: 1921-1929

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Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942), the author of the classic novel for children, *Anne of Green Gables*, kept extensive journals for most of her life, beginning them in 1889 when she was fourteen and continuing them until shortly before her death. An instant bestseller in Canada, the first volume of *The Selected Journals* of L.M. Montgomery covers the years up to 1910 and culminates in the publication of *Anne of Green Gables*. The second volume (1910-1921) portrays Montgomery in the midst of great upheaval, both in her life and in the world around her. Now, the long-awaited third volume brings us through her middle years, a time when Montgomery's personal and professional lives are becoming even more complex.

Ranging from 1921-1929, this revealing journal documents her efforts to juggle the demands of motherhood, parish obligations, indifferent household help, grief at the loss of older friends and family--everyday struggles to balance a woman's social and domestic duties. Here she writes of the triumphs and trials of being a best-selling author: growing fame; the successful midwifery of her new heroines Emily and Marigold and a more adult novel, *The Blue Castle*; the struggle to allocate time for correspondence with publishers, fans, friends--and to actually write. We trace the happy conclusion of her lawsuits against an unscrupulous publisher and the disappointing outcome of a lawsuit arising in a minor automobile accident. And we learn of her personal worries: Ewan Macdonald's envy of his wife's publishing and social success; the dark shadow cast by his attacks of melancholia; and her fear that her sons might evince similar tendencies. In these years, Lucy Maud Montgomery turned more and more to her journals to record her insights, opinions, and epiphanies. These journals will not only intrigue every fan of *Anne of Green Gables* and the other Anne books, but will also provide an intimate look at life as portrayed by this remarkable writer.

### The Selected Journals Of L.M. Montgomery, Vol. 3: 1921-1929 Details

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## From Reader Review The Selected Journals Of L.M. Montgomery, Vol. 3: 1921-1929 for online ebook

### Chelsea says

By reading L.M. Montgomery's journals, I feel as if I know her personally. I am fascinated by her depth of emotion, especially with regard to beauty in nature. She has a wry sense of humor, and I love how candid she was about neighbors and acquaintances. I think I liked volume 2 better, maybe because she experiences more life-changing events, and there aren't as many legal issues discussed at length. But this volume was still extremely interesting.

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### Alison says

Not quite as interesting as the first two volumes since most of it deals with the lawsuits LMM and her husband had to fight during these years. Of course I can't blame LMM for the events of her life! It amazes me that she wrote so many books along with all her other responsibilities.

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### Katri says

I found it harder to get through this one than the previous volumes, mainly because at some points her life is dragged down by such petty, trivial affairs taking up all her energy which are not that interesting to read about. It's not her fault, but it makes for hard reading - it's not the sort of deep or glorious misery that can be gripping to read, but just annoying and dull. I'd say this especially affects the second quarter of the book, and when you get past that it gets interesting again. It especially gets much better when she and her family move to Norval, she really seems to regain a lot of her former self there. So if anyone has trouble getting through those years with the Pickering affair and the church division stuff, just persist until they get to Norval! It gets much better!

It's really interesting to read the background of her life and see in what kind of conditions she wrote her books. And also to sometimes read her thoughts on her own books. But besides that, LMM is a wonderfully gifted writer whose journals, though much less cheerful than her novels, are nevertheless full of similar kind of enchanting visions and everyday humour that I love in her novels as well. And on the other hand because here she gets to write solely her own thoughts and do so with complete honesty, not having to worry about what is thought appropriate for the market, it's wonderful to read her often scathing commentary about her times, the people she knows and the literature of the time. I must say I agree with her on post-WWI literature, and I wonder how appalled she would feel if she was reading the literature today.

I usually don't like it when people post lots of quotes from the book to make their review long, but there's one quote I just have to put here to illustrate the above point. When reading a book by Morley Callaghan, she wrote:

*But Callaghan's idea of "Literature" seems to be to photograph a latrine or pigstye meticulously and have nothing else in the picture. Now, latrines and pigstyes are not only malodorous but very uninteresting. We have a latrine in our backyard. I see it when I look that way - and I also see before it a garden of color and perfum - over it a blue sky - behind it a velvety pine caressing crystal air - a river of silver and aquamarine - misty hills of glamor beyond. These things are as "real" as the latrine and can all be seen at the same time.*

*Callaghan sees nothing but the latrine and insists blatantly that you see nothing else also. If you insist on seeing sky and river and pine you are a "sentimentalist" and the truth is not in you.*

I think that's one of the most sensible comments about literature I've read in a long time and says exactly what is wrong with literature still today, or at least that which is thought to be great literature. Similar thoughts have been expressed in Montgomery's Emily books, and I'm heartily glad I've grown up with those books to make me immune to today's views on "literature".

And it's not as if L.M. Montgomery was a stranger to the unpleasant and depressing sides of life, world and people, so one can't accuse her of simply being naïve with this world view.

I will certainly go on to Volume IV, though first I will probably take a break to get some other unfinished books out of the way.

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### **Amy says**

Still a gripping read. There's a sense of her becoming a bit mired in self-martyrdom, but that doesn't detract from the fascinating historical and psychological document this series of journals continues to represent.

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### **Marissa Burt says**

I love all things LMM and have now read through her journals twice. They give a remarkable look at daily life in her time and reveal the thoughtful tormented creative author behind the childhood classics she wrote. Definitely well worth the read, though it can be dense going, so I recommend reading a little at a time.

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### **Sara says**

This third volume of L.M. Montgomery's journals spans 9 years. It is very taken up with lawsuits, hers against the Page Publishing Company as well as one that comes after a car accident. Those drag on a lot, throughout the whole book really. Also, her constant concern with her husband's melancholia overshadows lots of it. But overall this was a fascinating book, giving insight not only into her specific life but life in general in rural Canada in the 1920s.

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### **Mireille says**

More tedious than the others - Pickering and church squabbles are not much compared to WWI or LMM's wedding. Still looking forward to the next one.

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## Mitzi says

Re-read Oct. 2014 - Just as fascinating to read the 2nd time through.

Original review - July 2010: Hard to read at times but riveting nonetheless - I feel so sad for LMM and all that she went through, but it is very inspiring that even with so much struggle she was a success...

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## Kim says

In this volume of Montgomery's journals, there are harbingers of much change will no doubt be discussed in the last two volumes. Her boys are becoming teenagers, and while there is little detail, there are hints of trouble, especially with Chester, the older boy. There are hints at the reality of changes in Canada's literary landscape. She records reading Morley Callaghan, and finding him dull, expecting him not to amount to much. She is definitely on the edge of the old and new. She mourns the death of Bliss Carman.

Further evidence of her complete unsuitability as a minister's wife is presented. She puts on a happy face toward the people around, but cuts them up, often in a most snobbish manner, behind their backs. She had no use for people whom she found dull or not her intellectual equal. That hardly seems appropriate for a minister's wife. It is clear that her marriage is not a happy one.

Yet for all that, her love of beauty is inspiring. Her love for her children radiates throughout the book, and she is generous to a fault. I think had she lived in present times, she would have been diagnosed as having anxiety and depression. Despite many times when I found myself cringing at her superior attitude, I cannot help but mourn for this woman who clearly never got over many of the hurts she suffered as a child.

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## Anna says

This volume was harder to read than the first two, taken up as it was mostly with Maud's on-going worries about legal troubles, the union of Canada's churches and Ewan's mental health issues. There were a few bright spots however, like vacations to Muskoka and Mammoth Cave.

In all the aforesaid worries (and a few other grumbles about him) I did not see the evidence that the editors claimed in their introduction for an unhappy marriage. Ewan is not perfect, but she likes him (except when he is in the throes of a "melancholic" episode) and he is even always included in her dream world.

I almost hate to forge ahead as I know more trouble awaits, but perhaps there will be compensatory joys from time to time as well.

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## Laura says

I'm not sure that "liked it" is the right phrase. Truly a hard life led by a woman cursed by her own decisions, ideals and nature.

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## **Kathee Garland says**

Another fascinating volumes of her journals, I can't wait to read the next!

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