



2017

Anne with an "E": Your Will Shall Decide Your Destiny

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TV Show Review

Title: Anne with an "E": Your Will Shall Decide Your Destiny

Main Performers: Amybeth McNulty, Geraldine James, R.H. Thomson

Studio/Network: CBC

Reviewer: Abigail Packard

Season/Episodes: 1

Air Date: March 19, 2017

TV Rating: TV-PG

Interest Level: Primary, Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Review



Anne is a thirteen-year-old girl with an immense imagination and a fiery tongue, two attributes that have kept her from finding a real home after being orphaned as a baby. But all this changes when she arrives by mistake at Green Gables, home to Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert. The Cuthberts had originally wanted a boy to help Matthew with his work around their farm. So when Anne flounces into their quiet lives with her endless chatter and boundless imagination, Matthew and Marilla aren't quite sure what to do. Or rather, Marilla isn't quite sure and Matthew secretly hopes that they get to keep Anne. After seeing the alternative life that Anne will have to lead if she leaves the Cuthbert's care, Marilla decides to give Anne one week to prove that she can behave and obey. Anne charms her way into Marilla's heart, but then Marilla's brooch goes missing and she sends Anne away. She later discovers the brooch in a cushion after Anne has already left.

The first in a season of seven episodes, *Your Will Shall Decide Your Destiny* is a charming, if somewhat more dark and abrupt, introduction to this new version of the classic story by Lucy Maud Montgomery. Amybeth McNulty is charming and sweet, playing the dreamy Anne with added flare, energy, and enthusiasm that viewers familiar with Megan Follows' version of Anne will find both similar and drastically different. Moreover, this production of Montgomery's beloved tale has added background (provided through flashbacks) that show Anne's dark and abused past in the home of the Hammonds and by the hands of girls at the asylum. Despite these darker images of bullying and abuse, McNulty's Anne is upbeat, cheerful, and dramatic; seasoned and newer audiences alike will adore Anne's spunk. *Anne with an "E"* promises to be an interesting adaptation with elements that speak to viewers today, making this timeless story even more relevant for modern audiences.

*Contains mild violence.