

L. M. Montgomery



THE ALPINE PATH
The Story of my Career

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The Alpine Path is an autobiography of Lucy Maud Montgomery. Originally published as a series of autobiographical essays in the Toronto magazine *Everywoman's World* from June to November in 1917, it was later separately published in 1975.

The Alpine Path: The Story of My Career Details

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Beccie says

This didn't have as much information as I would have liked, but it was still fun to read it. Through a lot of the book she would mention things from real life that she had put in *Anne of Green Gables* and *The Story Girl*, but I would recognize stories from her own life that were in the *Emily of New Moon* books. Even the name of the book is a big part of the Emily books, so I wondered why she never said anything about Emily. Then I realized she hadn't written the Emily books at the time this was written. I'm very glad she kept on writing after this so I could have my beloved Emily.

Eva says

What a lovely, fascinating, charming book! I loved reading about LMM's life (except for all the journal entries from when she was traveling in Scotland). Greatly enjoyed this one and now I want to check out LMM's journals.

Dana Loo says

Valutazione 3,5

Un'autobiografia sobria abbastanza soddisfacente per quel che concerne l'infanzia della scrittrice canadese ma che lascia qualche vuoto, voluto, relativamente alla sua età adulta...

Hannah Mead says

This was a lovely little book that gives insight into the history of LMM - my favourite author. I loved learning about her early life and how she began writing. There were some absolute gems in there about writing and how it takes time and effort. (if I remember I might find some to share on here) All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed it! The only thing I wish is that it would've been longer. But seeing as LMM wrote it, it's not exactly possible to request that nearly 100 years after the fact... xD

La contessa rampante says

"Non posso ricordare un tempo nel quale io non abbia scritto o nel quale io non abbia avuto la precisa intenzione di diventare una scrittrice. Scrivere è sempre stato lo scopo centrale attorno al quale si sono concentrati tutti gli sforzi, la speranza e l'ambizione della vita".

Lucy Maud Montgomery è un nome che a molti potrà non dire niente e fino a poco fa neanche io la conoscevo, ma se vi dicessi che è l'autrice della famosissima Anna dai capelli rossi, sareste curiosi di

conoscerla meglio? Beh, io l'ho fatto ed ho scoperto la vita di questa grande autrice nata e cresciuta nell'Isola del principe Edoardo con i suoi nonni, che racconta nella sua biografia il sentiero alpino che ha dovuto percorrere per "arrivare" all'apice della sua carriera. In quest'opera la Montgomery ricorda la sua infanzia, i suoi affetti e tutti gli episodi particolari di cui è stata protagonista e che ha utilizzato per le sue storie, ma soprattutto parla di tutti i rifiuti e le umiliazioni ricevute dalle case editrici fino a quando lottando, facendo sacrifici e inseguendo la sua passione, è finalmente riuscita a mano a mano ad affermarsi come scrittrice. Prima scrivendo poesie, poi storie a puntate ed infine il suo romanzo più famoso: Anna dai capelli rossi.

Consiglio questa autobiografia a tutti coloro che hanno un sogno, perché impiegando tutte le proprie energie e non cedendo alle molte porte in faccia ricevute, prima o poi i desideri si realizzeranno e come dice Anna quando succederà sarà "un giorno epocale" della vostra vita.

Sara Staffolani says

Ricordate la meravigliosa "Anna dai capelli rossi"?

Nel 1917 l'editore chiese a Lucy Maud Montgomery, la sua brillante autrice, di scrivere una biografia della sua carriera. Nacque così Il sentiero alpino. La storia della mia carriera, curato e tradotto per la prima volta in italiano dal bravissimo Riccardo Mainetti e pubblicato dalla casa editrice flower-ed.

Lucy ci fa entrare nella sua vita, rendendoci partecipi delle sue origini scozzesi e inglesi, delle storie dei suoi antenati, della prematura scomparsa della madre, della sua infanzia felice e spensierata trascorsa con i suoi nonni materni a Cavendish presso l'Isola del Principe Edoardo. Apprendiamo con vivo piacere che c'è moltissimo di Anna in lei e che numerosi dettagli, fantasie, luoghi e personaggi del famoso libro "Anna dai capelli rossi" sono stati ispirati proprio dall'infanzia dell'autrice. Il bellissimo e incantevole paesaggio dell'Isola del Principe Edoardo ha profondamente influito nella sua vita e nello sviluppo del suo talento letterario, tanto che Lucy stessa ammetterà che senza la sua tranquilla infanzia a Cavendish "Anna dai capelli rossi" non sarebbe mai esistita.

Alcune frasi mi hanno particolarmente colpito. Sembra quasi che l'autrice mi abbia letto nel pensiero: "Sarò sempre grata del fatto che la mia scuola fosse vicina a un boschetto – un luogo con sentieri sinuosi e il suo tesoro di felci, muschi e fiori del legno. Ciò ebbe un'influenza più forte ed educativa nella mia vita rispetto alle lezioni apprese al banco di scuola".

"Sono estremamente grata che la mia infanzia sia trascorsa in un luogo dove vi erano molti alberi, alberi dotati di personalità, alberi che erano stati piantati e curati da mani da lungo tempo scomparse, legati a tutta la gioia e il dolore che hanno vissuto le nostre vite. Quando ho "vissuto" con un albero per molti anni tendo a considerarlo come un beneamato compagno in carne ed ossa".

Procedendo con la lettura, scopriamo del suo difficile apprendistato da scrittrice definito per l'appunto "un sentiero alpino", dell'emozione della prima pubblicazione di una sua poesia su un giornale, della nascita di "Anna dai capelli rossi", dei rifiuti degli editori, della sua perseveranza e coraggio per poi arrivare infine alla pubblicazione del romanzo, con il conseguente agognato successo.

Quest'opera è essenziale per comprendere appieno non solo la vita, ma anche e soprattutto i sentimenti dell'autrice. I numerosi ammiratori italiani di "Anna dai capelli rossi", che proprio in questo mese di giugno festeggia il 110 anniversario della pubblicazione del libro, potranno finalmente scoprire com'è nata quest'opera che ha dolcemente accompagnato la nostra infanzia e non solo.

Questa biografia è stata scritta con lo scopo di "infondere coraggio in quanti stanno faticando lungo l'estenuante sentiero che anch'io ho percorso per raggiungere il successo".

Io sono particolarmente affezionata ai personaggi di Anna e di Matthew. Ogni tanto torno anch'io ai Tetti Verdi, quando ne ho più bisogno. La porta di Anna è sempre aperta, per tutti noi.

Non possiamo fare a meno di ringraziare Riccardo Mainetti e Michela Alessandroni per questo splendido

regalo letterario che ci hanno fatto.

Francie says

3.5 stars

It was very interesting to see how the stories in Montgomery's books related to real-life incidents and I liked her childhood memories. However, I found some of the included diary entries too lengthy and out of place, especially those of her honeymoon.

Lekeshua says

Simple and beautiful. I already love LMM as an author but now my heart has opened to her more. Her simple and humble conveyance of her history/life brought forth so much fresh air and beauty, I have a new appreciation for her. She has a true gift and talent. Love how her inspiration came from nature!

Dawn says

I love her books, so I thought I would loving reading her autobiography. The descriptions of her girlhood were sweet and read very much like her novels. The book, however, lacked introspection. I don't feel as if I know her any better after reading this book than I already knew her. Perhaps I need a biography . . . ?

Celestine says

L. M. Montgomeryn omaelämäkerta Alppipolku ja Sisko Ylimartimon Anna ja muut ystävämme on loistava kirjapari: ensin Montgomery saa kertoa elämästään omin sanoin, minkä jälkeen Ylimartimo jatkaa syventymällä Montgomeryyn itseensä ja hänen luomiinsa tyttöihin. Toistolta ei toki välttyä, mutta varsinkin Ylimartimon kirja oli todella mielenkiintoinen ja hyvin kirjoitettu. Ainoa "huono" puoli on se, että nyt tekisi mieli kahlata koko Montgomeryn tuotanto läpi uudelleen...

Laurence R. says

I read this book in one sitting and it was a wonderful experience. I read it on the grass on the top of a cliff in Prince Edward Island, with the warmth of the sun and the sound of the waves, the wind and the seagulls. Reading about Prince Edward Island while being there felt incredibly special and all I had to do to see the beauty that LMM was talking about was to look up. To me, this afternoon felt like a religious experience, even though it had nothing to do with religion. I will always remember the time I spent reading this book.

Elizabeth says

I thoroughly enjoyed this autobiography of LMM!

Kathryn says

I finished this sweet little biography this morning and absolutely adored it! Each paragraph was such a treat. I truly find a "kindred spirit" in L. M. Montgomery--I sensed through her stories and characters that our souls were made of similar stuff--and so it was a great pleasure and delight to read through these tidbits of her own life (though it's easy to see how much of it was already reflected in her fictional literary creations.) It was charming to read about her girlhood and all her dreams and fancies; so interesting and inspiring to learn of her toils and trial and triumphs on the "Alpine Path" to literary success. A few fun little insights illustrate the "real life" spots from whence she gleaned the inspiration for places in her stories, like Lovers' Lane and The Lake of Shining Waters--though she says that only one of her characters was drawn specifically and unadulterated from real-life. Interesting, too, the little confessions with her thoughts on her own books, such as "The Story Girl" being her very favorite (at the time the biography was written--gosh, I really ought to read that novel again, then!) and the fact that she later regretted the fate of Matthew in "Anne of Green Gables." I also found it intriguing and fun to read excerpts from her journal from her honeymoon to the UK (she, like me, always dreamed of seeing that land!) and to hear of her opinions on some of the places I visited, like Abbotsford and Roslin Chapel--and that one journal entry was penned at their hotel on Prince's Street in Edinburgh--so near to the one where Annie and I stayed in June!!!

Most heartily recommended to anyone who loves L. M. Montgomery's books!

[It arrived! Hooray! The first "fun" package I received in my new mailbox. My edition doesn't have the pretty photo on the cover, but it's cool in that it was actually published in Canada. Also, tucked inside was a brochure from the L.M. Montgomery birthplace! So, I got a surprise bonus with my purchase--the house is very cute, white with green trim ("green gables??") and some inset photos show her wedding dress and the room where she was born.:]

Rachel says

Montgomery begins the book by stating that she was asked to write it for her fans, generally meaning Anne's fans. It serves its purpose: Montgomery shares what details of her life she feels are relative to her career, providing several anecdotes and sources for her inspiration. She paints a pleasant picture for her audience, rarely mentioning any emotion other than happiness or wonder.

It is measured and careful but straight from the author's pen. It was written to be shared and to maintain her image. It is a very pleasant read with some lovely insights, but it isn't as invasively informative as her journals, or the biographies they later spawned.

stephanie suh says

As one of millions of readers in the world who have loved Canada's most famous red-haired Anne of Green Gables both in books, films, and animation, I have always admired Anne's creator, Lucy Maud Montgomery's choice of words and illustrative descriptions of characters, things, and situations that make the story at once vivaciously realistic and fantastically romantic. Naturally, when I came across this book by the author herself, I knew I had to read it with heart to find out more about her not only on a professional but a personal levels.

The Alpine Path is her autobiography, originally published as a series of her essays in the Toronto magazine *Everywoman's World* in 1917 at the request of its editor to write about her writing career. In fact, Montgomery did not think it as a "career" but something of a niche where she would always find comfort, happiness, and life itself abounded with the memories of beautiful Prince Edward Island whose chaste and restive loveliness was unsurpassed. Added to her natural affinity for words was her incessant diligence in practicing writing on a daily basis. Her topics of writing ranged from scribbling her thoughts and feelings to biographic accounts of her cats and critical book reviews.

Of all her fortes that enabled her to arrive as a writer, it was her indefatigable will combined with, commendable perseverance and brilliant imaginativeness, all grouping around her indomitable aspiration to become a writer, as discerned in her narrative. Montgomery believed in herself and struggled in secrecy and silence by making writing activities strictly private because deep down, under all rejections, discouragement, and rebuff, she knew she would arrive as a writer someday.

What makes Montgomery's books entertaining and approachable to readers of all ages are her ideas of a good story that consists of the following components: (1) absence of a moral undertone in a story lest it should be a didactic textbook or a fable strips of literary merits and entertainment because literature should be "art for art's sake and fun for fun's sake"; and (2) use of imagination, which is a powerful tool to create a world of make-believe, based upon studying people and observing scenery in life to render realistic feelings to the imaginary world of fiction. To Montgomery, making use of the real to perfect the ideal is what gives to art its true meaning.

To illustrate, the famous liniment cake episode that happened when Anne made the selfsame cake by accident for the parson and his wife was based upon her own experience as a school teacher in Bideford boarding at the Methodist parsonage there; the parson's wife mistakenly put liniment in a cake, but only the parson himself did not recognize it. Also, while working as a reporter for *The Daily Echo* in Halifax, she was often asked to write up a society letter when it was not sent by the requested lady of high society. Montgomery used her wide scope of imagination by writing such letter as if she were the lady of high society, which gained popularity from readers.

As Benjamin Franklin once said, "Heaven helps those who help themselves," Montgomery's unyielding will and diligent practice of writing everyday were the sine qua non of her meet reward as a successful writer. This light volumed, charming autobiography is a must read for not only fans of her books but also those who love writing and cherish in secret the thought of becoming writers. Or those who are struggling to rise above the planes of biological, psychological, or sociological inhibition through what means they deem aspirational and meaningful to achieve will find a kindred spirit in this book. Montgomery encourages her readers to climb up the alpine path so steep, so hard that will eventually lead to the height sublime as she once did.

