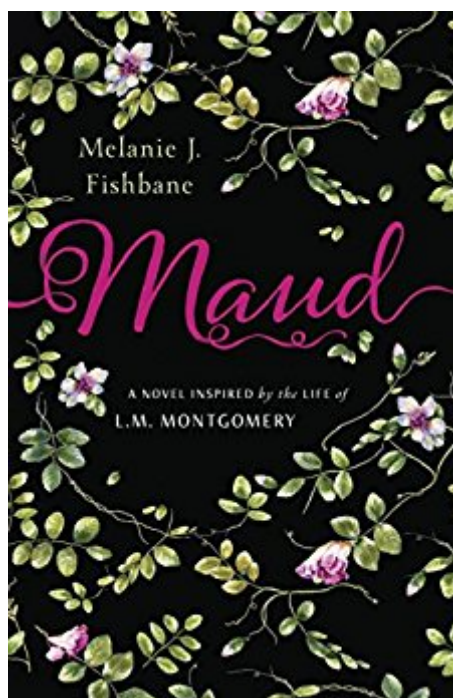


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Maud: A Novel Inspired By The Life Of L.M. Montgomery



Synopsis

For the first time ever, a young novel about the teen years of L.M. Montgomery, the author who brought us ANNE OF GREEN GABLES. Fourteen-year-old Lucy Maud Montgomery -- Maud to her friends -- has a dream: to go to college and become a writer, just like her idol, Louisa May Alcott. But living with her grandparents on Prince Edward Island, she worries that this dream will never come true. Her grandfather has strong opinions about a woman's place in the world, and they do not include spending good money on college. Luckily, she has a teacher to believe in her, and good friends to support her, including Nate, the Baptist minister's stepson and the smartest boy in the class. If only he weren't a Baptist; her Presbyterian grandparents would never approve. Then again, Maud isn't sure she wants to settle down with a boy -- her dreams of being a writer are much more important. But life changes for Maud when she goes out West to live with her father and his new wife and daughter. Her new home offers her another chance at love, as well as attending school, but tensions increase as Maud discovers her stepmother's plans for her, which threaten Maud's future -- and her happiness forever.

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Customer Reviews

Maud, by Melanie Fishbane, provided by NetGalley as a digital ARC, was downloaded by me a couple of months ago. It sat on my iPad teasing me, taunting me, daring me to read it. I delayed the pleasure because I wished to savor it for as long as possible. I knew once I began reading this novel. I wouldn't be able to stop. I was correct. I read the entire book in one day. It is delicious and delightful, Melanie Fishbane captures Lucy Maud Montgomery's voice so beautifully, it's quite haunting. It's like reading L.M. Montgomery's own journals, the words and depictions blend so well. I had to constantly remind myself this was historical fiction. It's been a long time since a book has so thoroughly entranced me like this one did. I hope the author will continue the story, with a follow up novel, soon. Melanie Fishbane is a talented Canadian writer who encapsulated a renowned, beloved icon of Canadian literature with her book.

Book: Maud
Author: Melanie J. Fishbane
Rating: 4 Out of 5 Stars
I would like to thank Netgalley and the publisher Penguin Random House Canada and Razorbill Canada for providing me with this galley in exchange for a honest review. I grew up with Anne of Green Gables. The world of L.M Montgomery was very engaging and real. Her world even drew in the boys in elementary school. It was really the first example of classic literature that was exposed to. So, whenever word got out that someone had written a book about a young L.M Montgomery, I knew I was going to have to read it. I came in with high expectations for Maud. I was expecting Maud's world to just come off the page and to be every bit as well written and developed as Anne of Green Gables. It was kind of high expectations for Melanie to live up to. However, I did feel justified in these expectations. If you are going to try to recreate an author, then you had better do a very good job with it. Now, Melanie did. Her writing was very simple and readable, which is good. L.M Montgomery's books are not really written for any age level and I really do feel like Maud could reach out to so many different groups of people. Really, I think Maud would be a great addition to anyone who is either studying L.M. Montgomery's life or/and Anne of Green Gables. The connections between this book and Anne of Green Gables will be picked up by anyone who is familiar with Anne's story. Maud is a very likable character and we can see a bit of Anne in her. She enjoys school, wants to be a writer, and really doesn't fit in anywhere. She wants to belong and is always looking for that one place where she can simply be herself. Like Anne, both of her parents really aren't in the picture. Like Anne, she also considered a bit of an outcast in her small town. Now, I do not know how much of this story is actually true, but I just love how Maud managed to put so much of her life into her books. It truly is writing about what you know at its finest. The side characters were also enjoyable. I felt like there was not a character that did not go to waste. Even the smallest of characters were well done and

developed. They were all given their own certain light. With such a large cast of characters, this is probably difficult to do, but I felt that Melanie did a wonderful job. Now, the rest of you have to wait until May 2017 to read this. However, if you want to get a head start on the others, this book is still on NetGalley. Head on over and see if you can't get your own ARC. This truly is a must read for any Anne of Green Gables fan!

Do you have a special place in your heart for Anne Of Green Gables? Then you're going to want to pay attention. Taking cues from *Loving Frank* and *The Paris Wife*, Melanie Fishbane researched Montgomery's life and developed this fictionalized account. While I have long loved the work of Lucy Maud, I didn't know much about her childhood before reading this. There are obvious comparisons between Maud's life and that of her beloved characters Anne Shirley and Emily Starr. While I've heard Emily is a closer read on Montgomery's life, Maud reminded me much more of Anne. At the same time, the novel paints a stark picture of what happened to one Lucy Maud Montgomery. After the death of her mother, Maud grows up being passed around between family members. No one wants her for long, whether due to financial hardship or an inability to tame her tongue. Maud makes the best of her circumstances, longing for her father to send for her but when he finally does, the results only serve to break her heart anew. I was deeply sad she did not have her own Marilla and Matthew to give her the home she longed for. At the same time, Maud is blessed to have wonderful bosom friends and a cadre of suitors. In fact, I found myself a little jealous over how many young men vied for her hand, especially since she wasn't all that interested in picking one. But I also admired her dedication to her dream of becoming a writer above all else and it was interesting to see the teachers who encouraged her and her beginning attempts toward making it. My heart went out to Montgomery and based on where the book ends, I'm hopeful Fishbane will write a follow up. I want to see how Montgomery's foray into adulthood treats her. Although based on the reading I did after finished this, I'm not all that hopeful about her happily ever after. Perhaps this is why she wrote Anne and Emily, to give her characters her idealized life. Disclosure: I was provided an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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