

## Audition Scene 7 – Marilla and Anne

*(Marilla is getting old and doesn't think she can handle the farm anymore with Anne going away to college so she meets with a man interested in buying the farm. Anne is willing to give up her college scholarship to stay with Marilla.)*

**ANNE:** Marilla...

**MARILLA:** You'd best be getting ready for church.

**ANNE:** All I need is my hat. What did that man want?

**MARILLA:** You know how punctual Reverend Allen is with his services.

**ANNE:** Marilla, what kind of business?

**MARILLA** *(after a brief pause)*: You may as well know now as later. The specialist prescribed me a new pair of glasses last week.

**ANNE:** You told me that.

**MARILLA:** But I didn't tell you that he said I couldn't read or sew or do any kind of work that strains my eyes *(resisting tears)* – or I'll be blind in six months.

**ANNE:** Marilla...

**MARILLA:** I can't run the farm, and there's no money to keep a hired hand anymore. I've got to sell Green Gables. Mr. Sadler wants to buy it.

**ANNE** *(in disbelief)*: Sell... Green Gables?

**MARILLA:** There's nothing else to be done. Rachel Lynde said I could board with her. I'm so thankful you're taken care of with that scholarship. I'm just sorry you won't have a home to come to on your vacations. *(She tears up)* Forgive me. Now it's my turn to cry.

**ANNE:** You mustn't sell Green Gables.

**MARILLA:** I can't stay here alone.

**ANNE** *(a pause, then with resolve)*: You won't be alone. I'll be here with you.

**MARILLA:** But you'll be at Redmond College.

**ANNE** *(firmly)*: I'm not going to Redmond.

**MARILLA:** Not going? What do you mean?

**ANNE:** Just what I said. I'm not going to take that scholarship. I've already decided, but I hadn't told you yet.

**MARILLA:** Now, Anne, you can't –

**ANNE:** I'll get a teaching job, and we'll use part of my salary to pay a hired hand.

**MARILLA:** Where will you teach? Gilbert Blythe already has the position here in Avonlea. Any place else would be too far away for you to live here.

**ANNE:** Then I'll be the hired hand myself. I'll read to you – and cook for you – and keep you cheered up. We'll be real cozy and happy here together – you and I.

**MARILLA:** I can't let you give up that scholarship.

**ANNE:** And I can't let you give up Green Gables.

**MARILLA:** But your dreams, Anne... your ambitions.

**ANNE:** They haven't changed. There'll be time for all that later on. You see, we've just come to a little bend in the road, that's all. And we just have to bend with it.

**MARILLA:** I won't allow it, Anne Shirley.

**ANNE:** I am going to do it. I'm sixteen years old and just as stubborn as you are. Now, the church service has started. You go along. I'll run to my room and get my hat. I'll catch up to you.

**MARILLA** (*hugging her*): Oh, you blessed girl. I know I ought to stick to it and make you go to college, but I've learned better than to stand in your way.