

Anne walks along the same forested path. Today she doesn't talk to herself or imagine any happy scenarios. She's full of trepidation.

Billy Andrews steps out from behind a tree.

ANNE
(startled)

Oh!

BILLY ANDREWS
Anne of Green Gables. You and me,
we're gonna talk.
You said some nasty stuff about my
sister.

ANNE
Who's your sister?

BILLY ANDREWS
Prissy Andrews, dummy.

ANNE
I'm sure I didn't mean to be nasty.

He steps towards her -- blocking her path.

BILLY ANDREWS
Is that why she was crying all
night?

Anne doesn't know what to say. She's scared.

BILLY ANDREWS (CONT'D)
My parents say that's slander. You
wanna get slandered? Is that what
you want?

ANNE
I'm sorry, I truly meant no harm.

Billy's angry, menacing --

BILLY ANDREWS
I'm gonna teach you a lesson, Fido.

He swings his belted books and moves towards her. Anne, terrified, drops her school things and backs away.

BILLY ANDREWS (CONT'D)
You're a bad dog. You're a bitch.

GILBERT (V.O.)
 (nonchalant)
 Hey Billy, how's it going?

Billy jerks his head to see GILBERT BLYTHE, 15, ambling up. Gilbert is handsome and confident, tall and fit. He carries his school supplies. He's clearly well aware of the situation he's stumbled upon and sets about diffusing it.

BILLY ANDREWS
 (busted)
 Oh, hey, Gilbert.

GILBERT
 (jovial)
 Man, it's good to be back.

Billy is unsure how to proceed. Anne is frozen.

BILLY ANDREWS
 Uh, yeah, welcome back.

GILBERT
 Good to see you, buddy.

Gilbert extends his hand. Billy is obliged to take it. They shake. Gilbert doesn't let go. Anne stares at them, barely breathing.

GILBERT (CONT'D)
 You guys playing a game or something? Looks fun, but we should probably get to school, eh?

Gilbert releases Billy's hand. Billy hesitates, deciding...

GILBERT (CONT'D)
 Hate to be tardy. That'd be bad news. Mr. Phillips sure gets his dander up about that.

BILLY ANDREWS
 Yeah... I was just about to get going anyways.

He glares at Anne -- *"I'm watching you"* -- and tromps away.

BILLY ANDREWS (CONT'D)
 See ya there.

With Billy gone, Gilbert approaches Anne. She regains her motor skills and hurries to grab her school things.

GILBERT
You all right, Miss?

Anne is traumatized. She's shaking, not thinking straight.

ANNE
School. I have to...

She hurries away. Gilbert's bemused -- *that's it?*

GILBERT
You're welcome! Need anything
else?
Any dragons around here need
slaying?

Anne, head down, continues her brisk pace towards the
schoolhouse. Gilbert's not used to his charms failing --

GILBERT (CONT'D)
Who are you?

28 EXT. AVONLEA - PATH TO SCHOOLHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 28

Gilbert catches up to Anne, walks beside her. Anne can't
deal.

GILBERT
What's your name?

ANNE
(still shaken)
I have to go.

She takes off running towards the schoolhouse. Gilbert is
intrigued by her lack of interest in him.

29 EXT. AVONLEA SCHOOLHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 29

Anne has paused at the classroom door, collecting herself.

GILBERT
Allow me.

Gilbert has arrived. He gallantly opens the door for her.

ANNE
Thank you.

INT. AVONLEA SCHOOLHOUSE - CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

As Anne and Gilbert step inside they have a tableau moment. It's picturesque. Romantic, even.

The CHATTER in the classroom stops. ALL FACES ARE TURNED TOWARDS ANNE AND GILBERT.

Anne, unaware, looks up at him, realizing she's been rude.

ANNE

I'm sorry if I was rude. I'm Anne.

GILBERT

I'm --

ALL BOYS

GILBERT!!

All the BOYS erupt with greetings, happy to see him. Gilbert is the most popular guy in school.

Anne stares at Gilbert for a beat, suddenly aware that he's everybody's hero, not just hers. She seizes the frenzied moment to scurry across the room.

The boys gather around Gilbert and escort him to his desk.

MOODY

How was the District of Alberta?
Did you see the Rocky Mountains?

GILBERT

Pretty hard to miss.

MOODY

Were they big?

GILBERT

They were mountains.

CHARLIE

Is your Dad feeling better?

GILBERT

(neutral)
We're both glad to be home.

CHARLIE

Why were you walking with that orphan girl?

GILBERT

Why not?

MOODY

She's a loon.

GILBERT

Says you.

CHARLIE

Hope you didn't get *asylum cooties*.

GILBERT

Uh-oh... there's one.

He reaches out and pokes Charlie's shirt. When Charlie looks down, Gilbert flicks his nose.

GILBERT (CONT'D)

Gotcha.

(then)

I don't care where she's from. A
cute girl is a cute girl.