



The Fragrance of Sweet-Grass: L.M. Montgomery's Heroines and the Pursuit of Romance

Elizabeth Rollins Epperly

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When it originally appeared, Elizabeth Rollins Epperly's *The Fragrance of Sweet-Grass* was one of the first challenges to the idea that L.M. Montgomery's books were unworthy of serious study. Examining all of Montgomery's fiction, Epperly argues that Montgomery was much more than a master of the romance genre and that, through her use of literary allusions, repetitions, irony, and comic inversions, she deftly manipulated the normal conventions of romance novels. Focusing on Montgomery's memorable heroines, from Anne Shirley to Emily Byrd Starr, Valancy Stirling, and Pat Gardiner, Epperly demonstrates that Montgomery deserves a place in the literary canon not just as the creator of *Anne of Green Gables* but as an artist in her chosen profession.

Since its publication more than twenty years ago, *The Fragrance of Sweet-Grass* has become a favourite of scholars, writers, and Montgomery fans. This new edition adds a preface in which Epperly discusses the book's contribution to the ongoing research on the life and writing of L.M. Montgomery, reflects on how Montgomery studies have flourished over the past two decades, and suggests new ways to approach and explore the Canadian writer's work.

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