



**Two short stories**

**Poetry too**

**Enjoy! Enjoy!**

**From me to you.**

**COULDN'T BE BOTHERED**

**A Story of My Life**

**Chapter I – That's Me**

All this intellectual garbage

Doesn't mean a thing

I know who I really am

A five-year-old on a swing

How far back do I remember? I remember nursery school. I was playing by myself in the yard. I walked up to two girls to play with them but they couldn't be bothered.

And that was the story of my life growing up at home. No one could be bothered. It was up to me to fit in.

When I got to be about 5-years-old I was introduced to antisemitism. I played outside with a little girl whose grandparents lived next door to us. When I told her I was Jewish, she didn't believe me, saying,

“Your father is my parents' doctor. They wouldn't go to a Jewish doctor.”

Then, I went to Sunday School for a short while when I was little. I was taught about all the battles the Jews fought. I found that scary. But I was also taught we won those battles because we were good and God was on our side.

When I told this to one of the girls in public school, she said,

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

"Oh no! The Jews did bad things too!"

I was shocked.

Then there was the problem of being born female. You just weren't good enough. For example, I wanted to go to Hebrew school to learn about my religion. My parents couldn't be bothered sending me.

"You're a girl. You don't have to go."

I made up for that. I went as an adult to Hebrew School.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

I'm single again and loving it. I'm doing everything now that I wanted to do when younger but couldn't. I live alone and no one bothers me. I'm alone when I want to be alone and mingle when I want to mingle.

I'll go through my list of achievements. Maybe you can relate to it. Maybe you, too, can accomplish something you thought you couldn't as I have.

**Chapter II - School**

It started at age four or five before I started school. I wanted so much to learn to read. But they told the parents,

“Don't teach your child to read.”

So, my parents did not teach me to read.

I overcame that to a small degree. There was a calendar on the wall in my kitchen. So, I sat at the table with a pencil and paper and copied down the numbers from the calendar.

When we were taught to read in school, I was out sick. I managed to learn anyway. Now I'm always reading.

Elementary School was all fun and games. But then there was Junior High. That's where I learned not to like school. I saw and felt my body and mind changing. I was also bullied. I knew something wasn't right with me and there was no one to talk to. So, I asked my mother if I could go to a psychiatrist. Her answer,

“That's just for rich people.”

In other words, not for me.

Then there was High School. I went to a private High School, which was okay. I loved English and Art, which I am still pursuing today.

**Chapter III - College and Beyond**

My father sent me to The University of Vermont for my first year of college. It was a real challenge for me to get used to college life. I didn't do well in school the first year and my parents didn't like my boyfriend. So, they wouldn't send me back even though my then ex-boyfriend graduated and moved to Germany with the ROTC Program.

I was devastated but not defeated. A few years later I was working, went to school at night, and did much better. I thought my parents would be pleased, but they didn't care. At that point they just wanted me to get married.

So, that's what I did. I wasn't happy about getting married, but did it anyway. And the marriage was terrible even though it lasted 41 years when my late husband passed away. I'm still in the process of healing from my former life. The physical scars are gone (the black and blue marks from being punched) but not the emotional scars.

There were a few accomplishments during my marriage. I finished college, had a career working for my husband and was his caregiver when he was ill. And I have my wonderful daughter, Debbi. I also had natural childbirth and nursed her for 23 months. Loved both natural childbirth and nursing.

A few months ago, at age 80, I graduated Wilkes University with a Master of Arts in Creative Writing and a Concentration in Poetry. I have a website, [www.AnneLCohen.com](http://www.AnneLCohen.com), with my paintings and my e-books for all to look at.

And that's where I am right now. Where am I going? We shall see.

**LUCY**

**A Short Story**

**Chapter 1 - Lucy and Larry, Long Island City, New York**

Lucy hates kindergarten. It is the worst. Miss R, the teacher, is always yelling and stamping her feet. Sometimes Mrs. M comes in and helps out. Mrs. M is nice.

There is a little boy in Lucy's class, Larry, who Lucy plays with. They live on the same block and they walk to and from school together. The school is only one and a half blocks away. The most fun thing they do together is to make mudpies. They would get a pail of water and play in the dirt.

"We can't eat these mudpies," Lucy would say. "But we can pretend to."

"Yes," says Larry. "Let's play 'Let's Pretend.' "

"Yes," says Lucy. "Let's play 'Let's Pretend.' "

And they go on pretending:

Larry and Lucy are living together in a tremendous castle. It is so tremendous that they sometimes get lost going from one room to the next. And that's exactly what happens to Lucy.

"Where am I?" says Lucy to herself. "There are two doors to this room. Which one did I come in from and which one do I go out of? But look at this door. It is gold—a gold door. I think I'll go through the gold door."

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

Lucy opens the door and sees in front of her a long red carpet leading to a gold and diamond throne. On the throne is a beautiful young woman with dark skin and long straight shiny black hair.

“Hello Lucy. My name is Princess Passion. How are you? And why are you here?”

“Hello Princess Passion. I’m here playing the game, ‘Let’s Pretend,’ in this tremendous castle.”

“And what are you pretending?” asks Princess Passion.

“I’m pretending I’m a grown-up,” says Lucy. “And I’m looking for grown-ups.”

“And what is a grown-up?” asks Princess Passion.

“Someone who knows everything.” says Lucy.

“I’m afraid I can’t help you.” says Princess Passion. “However, we do have people who think they know everything and they call themselves grown-ups.”

“Where are they?” asks Lucy.

“They are in the playground,” answers Princess Passion.

“And what are they doing in the playground,” asks Lucy.

“They are making mudpies in the dirt,” says Princess Passion.

Later when Lucy comes home for dinner:

“Lucy!” says Mommy, “you’re all dirty! How did you get so dirty?”

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

"Pretending to be a grown-up," says Lucy.

"Wash your hands and we'll have dinner," says Mommy. "Then straight into the shower with you."

Lucy washes up and comes to the table.

"I'm so hungry," she says. "Larry and I were making mudpies and pretending to eat them. But mudpies don't help you when you are hungry."

"No," says Mommy. "But here we have salmon and salad. Enjoy your dinner."



Chapter II - Elementary School—Fourth Grade

Part One

Before going to school each morning, Lucy's mother teaches her some of the laws of this great nation. In the United States of America, we have freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly.

Later, Lucy notices a sign over the door to her school with two words on it. It says "No" for the first word, but the second word she cannot read. One day Lucy and her mother are walking by the school.

"What does that sign say?" Lucy asks her mother.

"It says 'No Loitering.' "

"And what does loitering mean?" asks Lucy.

"It means just standing around?"

"And what's wrong with that?" asks Lucy.

"Those people could be up to no good," says Mommy.

Lucy starts thinking:

"No Loitering. Just standing around. Freedom of Assembly. No Loitering. Just standing around. Freedom of Assembly. No Loitering. Just standing around. Freedom of Assembly."

**Part Two**

In school Lucy learns about the American Revolution. It is fourth grade and the students are little so the teacher has them all sit on the floor in front of the room. And the teacher is very adamant about how bad the English were. And she goes on and on about the terrible English. And Lucy wonders,

“What do they teach the students in England. They won't teach them 'that' in England.”

Well, Lucy never forgets this incident. And when she becomes a young woman she makes friends with another young woman, Jane, who is from England and teaches college in this country. Lucy asks Jane,

“What do they teach in the elementary schools in England about the American Revolution?”

Jane says, “they just say that the colonies got their independence on 'such and such a date.' “

Also, the teacher, when Lucy was in elementary school, when walking through the halls with the class, tells them they have to be quiet and says,

“Lock your mouth and through the key away.”

The kids twist their lips around with their fingers and throw the 'key' away. Lucy refuses to do it. She gets yelled at but refuses.

“What a bunch of idiots, including the teacher,” she is thinking.

**Chapter III - Junior High**

Enough of elementary school. Next comes Junior High. That's where you learn about sex, when girls can be whores but not boys.

Lucy is not ready for all this. It makes no sense to her. Also, she feels that something was not quite right with her. She asks her mother if she can see a psychiatrist. The answer is "no." "That's just for rich people," her mother tells her.

Then comes the depression.

"My mom doesn't love me," thinks Lucy. "When I hug her, she won't hug me back."

"What are you doing that for?" Mommy would say.

Then comes the mania. Lucy would make out with some of the boys in her class. The kids in school find out and call Lucy a whore. "Whore! Whore!" they would taunt her and spit at her. However, Lucy remains a virgin.

Meanwhile, while all this is going on, Lucy is taking an art class in Manhattan. She loves it. There, Lucy is an artist, not a whore. She's also been reading and writing poetry since the age of ten. She loves all that, but in her head keeps hearing "whore, whore." It never leaves her mind.

Also, in Junior High, Uncle Al would come over Lucy's house at night and give Lucy rides in his new yellow convertible car—top down, of course. Lucy loves it. She laughs and laughs.

**Chapter IV - High School**

Next, Lucy goes to a private high school. The school teaches grades K-12, but Lucy attends 9-12. Some of it, Lucy loves. Some of it, Lucy hates. They didn't offer art until Lucy's last year in the school. She takes art the whole last year and loves it. When she graduates, she wins honors in art. English, Lucy also loves, especially literature and grammar.

Almost all the girls when they graduate go to college to become teachers and to find a husband. That's what Lucy's parents want her to do. But not Lucy. Lucy remembers being in class in high school thinking,

"The only thing worse than sitting in this class would be up there teaching."

Chapter V - The University of Vermont (UVM)

While in high school Lucy would think of a future career. She also would think about marriage and wonder if you could combine both. Then she would think about doing art and the term “starving artist.”

“I know I could teach art,” thinks Lucy, “But I don’t want to teach.

Lucy applies and gets into The University of Vermont. She applies for the Home Economics Department because she is interested in domestic subjects such as “meal preparation” and “clothing construction.” They also offer within the Home Economics Department, “textile design.”

“I think I’d be interested in textile design,” says Lucy to herself.

The first semester Lucy doesn’t do so well in college and feels defeated. But she goes onto her second semester and tries to do her best, later thinking,

“Now that I’m in the middle of my second semester, I’m beginning to like school. I know I haven’t been doing too well, but I’m going to improve.”

However, at the end of the year Lucy’s father doesn’t see things that way. She wasn’t doing well. In fact, she is on probation. He also doesn’t like her boyfriend, Tom. Therefore, he tells Lucy when the year is over,

“You are not going back to school.”

“But I just broke off with Tom,” says Lucy, thinking that Tom is the reason.

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

"It doesn't matter. You are not going back."

At times he would get very angry with her when she asks him again and again to send her back.

"You're flunking out!" he would angrily say.

When Lucy mentions this to her therapist sometime in the future, her therapist says,

"You weren't flunking out. You were on probation. That's not the same thing. You could have gone back."

"And I will go back," says Lucy, "not to The University of Vermont, but a school near home. My father is sending me to secretarial school right now. When I finish, I'll get a job and go to school at night.

And so, she does.

**Chapter VI - The Job**

Secretarial school is OK. It is the late 1960's when if a woman knows typing and shorthand, she can always get a job. And so, Lucy learns not only typing and shorthand but also bookkeeping.

After Lucy graduates, the school sends her for interviews at several different places. Lucy decides on Busy Bank in the mortgage department. Her boss is Jon.

Lucy is determined to do well at work, to start school soon and do well there also. Jon is friendly and helpful and Lucy enjoys working with him. But Jon is a little too friendly and a little too helpful when he tells Lucy that he would get her into college. Lucy takes him at his word and actually believes him and thinks he is wonderful, doing all this for her.

Then one evening Jon and Lucy are working late, the only two left in the office. Jon suggests they go out to eat dinner, then come back to the office and finish up. And so, they leave for dinner.

They go to a small, dark restaurant and sit at a booth in the back. Jon orders champagne for the two of them. Lucy doesn't remember too much of what happens next. She has a few sips of champagne, the room turns around a few times, and everything goes black. When she comes to, she is all alone in a strange bed in a strange room.

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

"Where am I?" Lucy wonders. "What time is it? What day is it? Where are my mother and father? Oh, they are on vacation. Why do I feel dizzy? Where am I?"

Jon walks into the room. He goes to the sink and fills a glass with water.

"You must take this pill," says Jon, going over to Lucy and putting the pill in her mouth. Lucy complies.

"I hope you had a good time last night," says Jon.

"Good time last night?! What happened? I don't remember a thing!"

"I'm giving you today off from work. It's Friday. I'll see you Monday."

Jon starts to leave.

"Wait a minute, Jon. Where am I?"

"You're a block away from the office. You can get dressed and go home."

Jon leaves.

"Where am I? What's going on?" wonders Lucy.

Lucy slowly manages to get washed and dressed. She checks her money in her bag. It's all there. She leaves the room. Then she leaves the building. She goes to a coffee shop, sits at the counter and has orange juice, bagel with cream cheese and coffee. Then Lucy takes the bus home.



Chapter VII - Lucy at Home

Lucy goes home and sits down in a comfortable chair. She sits and sits and does not budge. Finally, she gets up, takes off her clothes, takes a shower, washes her hair and then gets into a nightgown and robe.

"Well, I'm finally comfortable," she thinks to herself. "I'll make myself a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and watch TV."

And that's what she does. She then lies down on the couch watching TV and falls asleep.

Lucy wakes up with the morning light and spends the whole day home trying to figure things out. In the middle of it all, the phone rings. It's Jon.

"How are you, Sweetheart?"

"I'm OK, Jon."

"Just making sure you're OK," he says.

"I'm OK," says Lucy. "Bye."

"Bye," and they hang up.

"Monday, I go to my therapist. Something is very wrong and I have to speak to somebody. And Jon, he is married. I don't know what he did to me. But he gave me that pill so I can imagine what he did to me. All this is happening and all I want to do is go to work and go to school."

Chapter VIII - Moving Forward

Lucy decides to quit her job at the bank.

“Am I ever going to find a decent job?” she wonders.

She reads in the paper that there are job openings at an engineering company. She calls up for an appointment for an interview and makes a date for it.

“I’ll see where this takes me. I’m not too optimistic about getting this job. I don’t know what Busy Bank will tell them about me.”

Lucy goes for the interview and to her surprise, she gets the job. She starts right away and after two weeks is thinking,

“This job is very nice, not too demanding and the women I work with are lovely. I’m so happy here. Now—to apply to school.”

Later at home. Lucy’s parents are back from vacation.

“Mom, I’m thinking of applying to college.”

“You’d better be serious. You’d better be serious,” says Mom.

“Of course, I’m serious. I want to study for a career.”

“I’m not sure you can manage a career and marriage,” says Mom.

“Marriage! I’m not sure about marriage! They say women have to make the choice of marriage or a career. And I live for my painting.”

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

"Then what!" Exclaims Mom. "You'll have affairs and be a tainted woman! But if you're married, you can still paint in your spare time. By the way, your cousin, Benny, fixed you up for a date this Saturday night. His name is Richard."

"What! How did you know I'd be free Saturday night?"

Pause

"It just so happens I am free, so I'll go on this date."

"I remember," says Mom, "your date last Saturday night—the man was so poor. All his clothes were ragged."

"Yes, I remember," says Lucy. "But what does this have to do with me. That's *his* problem."

"Where did you meet him asks Mom.

"At the Young Adult Group at the Temple."

"I'm glad you go there," says Mom. "Just make better choices."

Saturday night—

"Hi Richard. I'm Lucy," says Lucy as she answers the door.

"Hi Lucy," says Richard coming inside. "As I mentioned to you on the phone, we'll go to dinner in this nice restaurant."

"OK Richard. Sounds great."

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

Richard proceeds in telling Lucy all about himself. First, while going to the restaurant, then, while at the restaurant. However, on the way home, it's Lucy's turn to speak.

"You have so many ideas and ambitions," says Lucy. "I think it's wonderful to study medicine and follow your dream."

"Thank you, Lucy."

"I, too, have ambitions. I want to work in the field of art and painting, to show the beauty in our lives, the not so beautiful, and even the ugly. I, too, want to follow my dream."

The more Lucy elaborates on what she wants from life, the more Richard objects.

"I told your cousin what I want," he complains.

Well, Richard takes Lucy home and they say good-bye for the first and last time.

A few days later, Lucy's mom gets wind of that date.

"What's the matter with you, Lucy," she says. "Richard would make a wonderful husband."

"Well," says Lucy, "if he's what marriage is all about, I want no part of it."

"Lucy," says mom. "You are going to end up a tainted woman, in which case your dad and I will have nothing to do with you."

Lucy doesn't know how to handle her life. However, there is another dance at the Young Adult Group.

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

"I think I'll go," says Lucy to herself. "Maybe I'll meet someone I can relate to."

And that seems to be happening when Lucy goes to the dance. There she meets Harry.

"Hi," he says to Lucy. My name is Harry."

"And my name is Lucy. You have an interesting name. There is an old song, 'I'm just wild about Harry and Harry's wild about me.' "

"Yes, but would you like to dance even though another song is playing?"

"I'd love to," says Lucy.

And that's how Lucy meets Harry. Right from the beginning, Harry pulls Lucy close to him for the slow dances. And he is very interested in all that she tells him.

"He's so sweet and kind," thinks Lucy to herself. "And he's interested in my dreams. And he is a physician's assistant, also with dreams. He wants to go to medical school."

On their first date Harry tells Lucy that he is leaving for Italy in three months. He is going to Italy where he will go to the University of Rome where he will study medicine.

On the second date Harry asks Lucy to marry him and come to Italy with him. Lucy, being so much in love, agrees. And Lucy's parents agree. Although Lucy's father keeps saying,

"We don't know if he'll finish school. We don't know if he'll finish school."

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

Lucy would think, "He's so worried about Harry finishing school. What about me? I want to go to school too. I don't know if I'll be able to go to school in Europe. If not, I definitely will go when I get back to the States."

After a few weeks, Lucy is having second thoughts about getting married. Lucy's mom could see this. She says to Lucy,

"You know, you don't have to marry Harry right away. We could go visit him together in Europe."

Lucy would think, "that's not a bad idea. But I don't want to go with my mom because my mom and I are always fighting and she would not let me go by myself."

Then something happens. Lucy and Harry have a disagreement on how the wedding invitations should be worded. They are discussing this over the phone and Harry, getting annoyed, just hangs up on her.

"This is no good," thinks Lucy. "I'm going to marry someone I can't even have a discussion with?"

That night when Harry is over Lucy's house, Lucy says to him and her parents, "I've been doing a lot of thinking about the wedding. I've decided, I'm not getting married."

Harry gets up and leaves and they never see him again.

**Chapter IX - Back to School**

Well, it's back to the Young Adult Group at the Temple. Lucy becomes very popular. She is a sister to the young men and that is just the relationship she wants.

Lucy also gets into Hunter College and goes to school at night. She continues working at the engineering company during the day.

"Somehow I can manage all this," she says to herself. "Probably it's because I rarely date. I study instead. I go to the Young Adult Group but I don't date the guys. But we're all friends.

However, there is one guy, Jay, who wants to date Lucy. He had been married and has a little girl. He has custody of his child, not the mother. It isn't even joint custody. He works and his parents are bringing up the little girl. And he likes Lucy.

"I have to keep away from him," figures Lucy. "I don't know the first thing about bringing up a child."

When Lucy's father sees how well Lucy is doing in college and doing so well in all her courses, especially the studio art courses, he says to her,

"I'll pay your tuition for a BA and MA if you want to study to be a teacher. You can teach art."

"I'd love that," says Lucy. "I'll take you up on it."

Lucy is so happy. She says to herself,

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

"I don't think I'll teach but I would like a bachelor's and master's degree. This is wonderful. I'll leave my job at the engineering company and get a part-time job for extra cash while I'm at school."

Lucy loves school and loves to paint. She does date once in a while, which makes her mother happy. But Lucy does not want to marry. However, her mother sees that Lucy is happy and no longer brings up the subject of marriage.

Lucy is thrilled when she graduates with a BA and even more thrilled when she graduates with an MA. But she doesn't teach and her parents say nothing about this. They are glad to see her painting. Lucy sells some of her paintings and she continues with a part-time job in sales right at the art store where she shops.



**Chapter X - Lucy the Artist**

Then one day Lucy rushes home.

“Guess what?” she says to her mom and dad. “I’m going to be in the art show in the library right near here. They want me to put up three paintings, which will be for sale.”

“That’s wonderful,” says Lucy’s mom. “And you’ve sold paintings before.”

“Yes, four of them. They were being displayed at different times in the window of the art store I go to. Now I have to figure out which three I’m going to hang in the library.

Lucy has no trouble deciding on which paintings to hang up and she soon sells one of them. Is she happy! She is even happier when the man she had sold it to asks her out several times.

The relationship seems to work out. Bill is not demanding and Lucy has plenty of time to paint. Bill says he has family in La Jolla, California, and his family wants him to come and live near them. He asks Lucy if she wants to move there with him and share an apartment.

“The countryside and ocean are absolutely magnificent. You will love to paint the scenery.”

Lucy tells her mother what he had said.

“What! Go live with him and not get married. Absolutely no!

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

"I'll think about it," she tells her mother. "I'll think about it."

"What an opportunity!" Lucy starts thinking. "I'm not going to pass this up. And it's about time I move out of my parents' house,

And so, she does. She couldn't bring all her paintings with her, just a few. The rest she puts into storage. They also send a couple of trunks to the inn where they will be staying. They bring very little with them, just one suitcase each.

They take the train to La Jolla, California, from New York City. Lucy anticipates everything to be wonderful. But as soon as the train pulls out of New York City, there is a change in Bill.

"Get me a drink of water," he says to Lucy.

"I'm very tired right now, Bill."

"So am I," says Bill. "Get me a drink of water."

And so, Lucy does. But there is never a 'thank you.'

A few days later they get to their destination and take a taxi to the inn. The people at the inn tell them they never received the two trunks that were sent to them.

"Well, let's have dinner," says Lucy.

"Well," says Bill. "They serve us breakfast here at the inn but not lunch and dinner. We are on our own for that."

"Shall we rent a car?" says Lucy.

"I'm not doing that," says Bill. "Let's see if we can walk somewhere."

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

Fortunately, they find out there is a restaurant nearby—within walking distance. So, Lucy and Bill go there.

After dinner, Lucy says, “Bill, why don’t you call your relatives and tell them you are here.”

“What relatives?”

“Didn’t you say you have relatives in La Jolla?”

“Yeah, but they moved away a few years ago.”

Lucy gets very quiet. She no longer knows what to say or do. She has in her jeans enough money, plus a little extra, to get back to New York. But she doesn’t know if her parents will take her back. If she can get her job back at the art store, would they let her work full-time? Would they let her sleep in the store? Very unlikely, sleeping in the store.

“Are we going to continue staying at the inn?” asks Lucy.

“Why not? It’s as good a place as any.”

“Can we afford it?” asks Lucy.

“That depends on what kind of job you get,” says Bill.

“Bill, do you love me? You told me you love me and I love you. Maybe we need to go back and go to sleep. Maybe we’re just tired.”

**Chapter XI - At the Inn and After**

Lucy and Bill go to their room and go to sleep. Lucy wises up. A little late, but she wises up. She keeps her bra on day and night, putting almost all her money in her bra.

The next day after breakfast, she asks for work at the inn. She gets a job making beds and cleaning up. But her work just about covers all her expenses. Nothing left over. And Bill doesn't pay for anything. Fortunately, she has enough money to go home and that's just what she does. She goes back to New York on the train.

She arrives at her parents' house, but she can't get in. Nobody is home and they changed the locks.

Lucy then goes to the art store. And Rayna, her former boss, is there. Lucy just breaks down crying. She tells Rayna everything.

Rayna listens and comforts Lucy. "Well, the only smart thing you did, Lucy, is that you didn't stay with Bill and live with him, which he probably would have wanted in order to keep you there and under his thumb. And I've been looking for a full-time worker. If you want it, the job is yours. You can live here for a month. I'll take the rent out of your salary. Lucy is relieved. She takes up Rayna's offer.

It's early evening and they go out to eat dinner, Rayna's treat. Lucy has a salad with mozzarella cheese and a hot chocolate. She then goes back to the shop to sleep.

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

There is a bed in the storage room. Before Rayna leaves, she hands Lucy an envelope, saying,

“I’m advancing you this month’s salary in case you soon find a place.”

Lucy goes to bed and cries herself to sleep. They are tears of joy.

## Chapter XII - A Room

Lucy sleeps and sleeps. When she wakes up, she hears footsteps. The door opens. It's Rayna.

"Good morning, Rayna."

"Good morning, Lucy. Just thought I'd mention, down the block and across the street, there is a sign in a window, 'Room for Rent.' Don't know anything about it but you can check it out. There is a yogurt in the fridge if you want it for breakfast."

Rayna points to a small refrigerator.

"You can put stuff in there also. Just leave some room for me."

One good thing after another. Lucy is ecstatic. And about that room for rent, she'll look into it.

Rayna continues, "Just be back here by 11. That's when the crowds start coming in. Right now, it's 7am."

Lucy washes up, eats the yogurt and gets dressed. She then goes out and looks for that 'Room for Rent' sign.

"There it is," she says to herself.

She knocks on the door of the house. A man opens the door.

"Yes," he says.

"I'm inquiring about your 'Room for Rent.'"

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

"Oh," he says. "Oh yeah, I forgot to take down the sign. The room is already rented."

"Do you know of any other rooms for rent?" asks Lucy.

"No," he says. And Lucy turns to leave.

"Wait!" he says. "There is a Y on 4<sup>th</sup> Street that rents rooms. You could try there. Just go down this block and turn left. Go down 4 more blocks and you'll run right into it."

"Thank you so much," says Lucy. And she walks to the Y.

Lucy goes in and inquiries about a room for rent.

"Just for you or for you and someone else?" the woman asks.

"Just for me," says Lucy.

The woman shows her the room. It's fine although small—a bed, a chest of drawers and a small closet. But the price is right.

"I'll take it," says Lucy. "Where is the bathroom?"

"Down the hall there are showers, sinks and toilets," says the woman. "Take a look before we make any kind of arrangements."

Lucy takes a look. Everything is very plain but also very clean. Perfect.

"I'll take it," says Lucy. She makes the arrangements and then leaves. Close by, she notices a coffee shop and a laundromat. She stops in the coffee shop for something to eat and still gets back by 11, 10:50 to be exact.

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

"How'd everything go?" asks Rayna.

"Perfect," says Lucy.

She is now doing her work with a smile on her face.



**Chapter XIII - Street Smarts**

Lucy makes friends with the people at the Y. When she comes home from work, there are always people to talk with. There is no cafeteria there but there are food vending machines. Lucy takes lunch and/or dinner to work with her and keeps it in the fridge. Breakfast she eats at the Y, coffee and yogurt.

One of the girls has left and a boy, Don, rents her room. This room is bigger than Lucy's room and so is the price. Don and Lucy become friends. Lucy tells Don that she thinks she can manage financially, although everything is so expensive.

"I have an idea," says Don. "Why don't you move in with me. We'll split the cost of the room. It will be a lot cheaper than what you are paying now and you won't have to worry about a thing."

"No thank you," says Lucy.

POETRY

**Bubbles**

I'm a little confused

About this and that

I feel like a soda

That has gone flat

The soda looks good

And tastes good too

But where are the bubbles

That stimulate you

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

### Why?

What am I living for?

Why am I here?

For TV and potato chips?

Pizza and beer?

Is there a Creator

Whom I should adore?

Or do things just happen

With no reason in store?

And when I die

Is that it for me?

Or is there a Heaven

For me to be?

The only answer

To my request

Is to live and to love

And to do my best

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

### I'll Say

I'll say what I mean

And I'll mean what I say

And if you don't like it

Just go away

## Couldn't Be Bothered By Anne

### So Tired

I'm so tired

But not too tired to dream

Not too tired

To believe all I've seen

Never am I

Too tired to love

And always so grateful

For gifts from above

**My Fog**

The fog that clogged

My brain is gone

Like Sandburg's fog

It just moved on

I see and hear now

Bright and clear

With beaming sun

And laughter dear

With moon and stars

That brightly shine

With trauma gone

I'm finally fine

**Enjoy**

Hope you enjoyed

What I've written for you

Short stories and poetry

To read through and through