

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS

This novel is started at Christmas, there are four sisters (Meg, Jo, Beth, Amy) who sigh about their conditions that is far away from their father because their father is in the army, they do not have pretty things for Christmas. They also tell each other about their hard times. Meg complains about tiresome children who are taught by her nearly all day. Jo tells her sisters about a fussy old lady who never satisfies and makes her trotting. Beth tells how washing dishes and keeping things tidy is the worst work in the world for her. That makes her cross and her hands get stiff. Amy also tells her suffering, she has to go to school with impertinent girls, who plague her if she does not know her lessons laughs at her dresses and insults her father who is not rich and her nose that is not nice. Although Jo also sighs about her condition, but she does not want her sisters to be carried away in their sufferings. Then, she inspires her sisters' spirit to be strong to continue and struggle to pass their hard times. When Christmas comes at that time, the four sisters do not think about their burden but they want to get something for their mother. Their mother gives each of them a book that is beautiful old story of the life ever lived. They promise to read them every day. Then, Mrs. March asks their willingness to give their breakfast to a poor woman lies far away from their house with six children that one of them is a little baby. The children are huddled into one bed to keep from freezing, for they have no fire and there is nothing to eat. The four girls agree to give their breakfast as a Christmas present for the poor Hummels. According to them, it is good to love neighbor better than themselves.

The family really misses Mr. March, but Mrs. March does not allow her daughters to ask him to back a minute sooner than he can be spared because he must stay and do his work as faithfully as he could. Their father sends sorts of loving wishes for Christmas and a special message to them through a letter. In the letter, Mr. March states that the hard days need not to be wasted because while they wait they may all work. He also believes that they would be loving children to Mrs. March, they will do their duty faithfully, fight their bosom enemies bravely and conquers themselves so beautifully that when he comes back to them he may be fonder and prouder than ever of his Little Women. The touching words make them realize that they have not done the best, always sigh about their work. They decide not to make their father dissapointed to them.

On Christmas night, they play an operated Tragedy play as they play Pilgrim Progress when they are little children. On New Year Eve, Jo and Meg are invited by Mrs. Gardiner to the party. In the party, Jo meets Laurie who is a rich boy who lives only with his grandfather, gets acquainted, dances with him. Jo thinks Laurie's grandpa, Mr. Lawrence, does not allow Laurie to socialize and keeps him shut up all alone so she decides to tell his grandfather that he needs a party boys to play with somebody young and lively. Jo comes to Laurie's house for that reason but she finally fuds out that actually Mr.Laurence is a wise man and he loves his grandson very much. He is happy to have Jo and her sisters to visit Laurie and him. Beth who is very fond of playing piano is invited by Mr. Laurence to come as much as she like because his house is empty half the day. It makes Beth so happy to accept Mr. Laurence's offer and she makes a pair of slipper because of his kindness. Since at that time, Laurie has a close relationship with the Marches. Meg and Jo are invited

that time, Laurie has a close relationship with the Marches. Meg and Jo are invited to go to the theatre to see the Seven Castles. Amy insists to go with them, but Jo does not let her going out with them because she dislikes the trouble of over seeing a fidgety child when she wants to enjoy herself. Amy is angry because Jo is so cross to her. She thinks that she must pay what she is done by destroying Jo's book which is only half dozen little fairy tales but Jo has worked over them patiently, putting her whole heart into her work, hoping to make something good enough to print. Amy's act makes her very angry and although Amy has asked Jo to forgive her, Jo says that she will never forgive her. Then, Jo thinks that everybody is so hateful so she asks Laurie to go skating. Meg advices Amy to go after them, do not say anything till Jo has got good-nature with Laurie then do some kind things to make Jo forgive her. Amy agrees to take Meg's advice. At first Jo does not care when Amy is panting after run, stamping her feet and blowing her fingers as she tries to put her skates on. She thinks that Amy should take care of herself. Then Amy throws up her hands and goes down with sudden crash of rotten ice, the splash of the water, fortunately Laurie helps her quickly and takes her home with Jo. At home, Jo admits to her mother that if Amy should die it would be her fault because Jo does nothing without helping Amy. When Amy opens her eyes, everything is forgiven and forgotten in one hearty kiss.

Next year November, there is a telegram from Blank hospital, Washington tells that Mr. March is very ill and asks Mrs. March to come. Jo cuts her hair to be sold to get twenty-five dollars. She wants to do something to her father. Although at night, she is crying for her hair, she thinks that she is done the best she could even if she have her hair back she would do the same again. Mr. Lawrence promises to

she have her hair back she would do the same again. Mr. Lawrence promises to take care Mrs. March's daughters when she is not at home and let Mr. Brooke (Laurie's tutor) to escort Mrs. March. All of Mrs. March's daughters promise to obey their mother's advice and everything the best.

When Mrs. March is away, only Beth remembers to see the Hummels, she has been there everyday, the baby is sick and she does not know what to do she asks Meg and Jo to see them but Meg feels too tired that afternoon and she promises to go tomorrow while Jo feels that it is too stormy for her cold. Then Beth takes a little rest when she waits for Amy to see Hummels together although she gets headache and tired. After she wakes up, she sees Hummels but it is too late for Hummel's baby when her mother has gone for the doctor. She dies in Beth's lap before her mother gets home. Everything that happen is told by her to Jo. She also tells that the doctor says that Beth should go home and takes belladonna right away or she would have the fever. Jo regrets that she is too selfish and makes Beth sick. To avoid Amy to be infected, Beth asks Jo to take Amy to Aunt March's house. Amy rejects to go there because she knows that her aunt is a fussy old lady and she feels unhappy to stay with her. She feels better to get infected than go to her aunt's house. Finally, Laurie could persuade her that he will visit her everyday and takes her many times to theatre. Jo devotes herself to Beth day and night. To decrease Jo's burden, Laurie telegraphs her mother and Mr. Brooke answers she would come at once and Brooke promises to stay and nurses Mr. March. The coming of Mrs. March is a special event that has been waited by her daughters. Beth would not unclasp her mother's hand which cling to hers even in sleep. After Mrs. March's coming, Jo tells her about Brooke who loves Meg because when Meg

leaves pair of gloves over the Laurences and only one is returned. Brooke keeps it in his waistcoat pocket and Laurie teases him about it. Brooke admits that he likes Meg but does not dare to say so because Meg is young and he is so poor. Mrs. March says that Brooke is a nice guy, perfectly open and honourable about Meg, for he tells Jo's father and her to earn a comfortable home before he asks her to marry him. He is a trully excellent young man, but Jo's mother will not consent to Meg's engaging herself so young. Jo does not like Meg to get married and she wishes that she could marry Meg herself to keep her safe in the family. If Meg gets married, she will not agree that Meg marries Brooke because she has planned her to get married with Laurie so she could sit in the lap of luxury all her days. On the contrary, Mrs. March replies Jo's opinion by saying that Laurie is younger than Meg and although money is a good and usefull thing but she hopes her girls would never feel the need of it too bitterly or be tempted too much.

After Mr. March gets home, one day, Brooke comes to Meg's house to get his umbrella and see how Meg's father finds himself that day. Actually he comes to stable his feeling to Meg that he really loves Meg. Meg replies him by saying that she is too young. Brooke says that he is willing to wait for her and in the mean time she could learn to like him. At first, Meg does not want to learn to like him, but when they are talking Aunt March comes and she feels surprise to both of them. Meg stares as if she has seen a ghost and Brooke vanishes into the study room. Aunt March wants to know what is going on between them and asks whether Meg means to marry that poor man. She warns Meg to be a sensible girl and never accepts him because if Meg accepts his love, she will never give her money although a penny to Meg. Meg immediately makes up her mind that she would accept him because

Meg. Meg immediately makes up her mind that she would accept him because inclination as well as perversity makes the decision easy and being already much excited, Meg opposes the old lady by stating that she shall marry whom she pleased and she does not care to whom her aunt will give her money. She defends Brooke as a good and wise man, he is poor but he is willing to work. At last, her aunt is angry for she can not persuade her niece to make a fine match and she says that she washes her hands of the whole affair. Meg realizes that Brooke could hear what she is said to her aunt. Finally, Meg accepts his love.

BIOGRAPHY

Louisa May Alcott (1832 - 1888), American author, was born in German town, November 29, 1832. Like her mothers, she felt deeply the family trials and privations caused by the impractical father, Amos Bronson Alcott. In later life she defined a philosopher as " a man up in a baloon, with his family and friends holding the ropes which confine him to earth and trying to haul him down." When she was still a young girl her journal reflected her determination to earn money and make her family comfortable. Fortunately, the Alcott's wandering life had allowed her plenty of time out of doors, so that a strong body was built up for the active brain, and, as she herself put it, nature gave her a vital sense of God's presence "never to change through forty years of life's vicissitudes, but to grow stronger for the sharp discipline of poverty and pain, sorrow and success." She started her bread - earning career early as a dolls' dressmaker and in a few years was putting her hand to anything that would bring in money to purchase necessaries and pay off debts for her family - teaching, sewing, even for a short period, domestic service."Pot boilers" at this period brought in five or ten dollars a piece; of a wild, sensational type, they worked off her steam and perhaps gave some facility in writing. Their nature may be judged from "The Baron's Gloves" and "A whisper in the Dark," which have been included in her collected works. In 1860, 50 dollars for an Atlantic story seemed like wealth and fame indeed. Her first book was Flower Fables (1854), tales originally written for R. W Emerson's little daughter Ellen; but she attained widespread celebrity only after the publication of her Hospital Sketches, serially in the commonwealth and in book form in 1863

Hospital Sketches, serially in the commonwealth and in book form in 1863 (republished with addition, 1869). These were a revision of her letters to her family during her period as nurse in the Union Hospital at Georgetown, D. C. Her six weeks there in 1862 - 1863, resulted not only in fame but also unfortunately in shattered health, and this, combined with her incessant overwork, finally caused her death, in Boston, March 6, 1888, two days after her father's death.

Of her life the best record was her own. As the "Jo" of *Little Women* (1868), the most popular girls' book ever written in America, she would always live in the hearts of her readers. Although this was probably the most autobiographical of her books, other of her experiences in Boston, Concord and abroad are reflected in *Jo's Boys* (1886); *An Old-Fashioned Girl* (1870); *Shawl Straps* (1872), one of the series *Aunt Jo's scrap Bag* (6 vol, 1871-1879); *Moods* (1864), a much revised novel, and L. Alcott's favourite; *Work* (1873); and many of her shorter pieces. *Little Women* (1871) described her nephews, children of her older sister, Anna; *Lulu's Library* (3 vol, 1885-1889) is named after the little niece whom the artist sister, May, when dying bequeathed to her; and *Jack and Jill* (1880) makes use of the Concord Young people.

Miss Alcott's most enduring place was due to the cheeriness and wholesomeness of her pictures of boy and girl life. Her novels *Moods*, *Work* and *A Modern Mephistopheles* (1877) in the "No Name" series were experimental in technique and even her juvenile books showed the inequalities attendant upon her haste in production and her ill health. In later life nervous restlessness and perhaps excessive generosity caused her to feel the necessity of supplying all demands upon her. After only one article on Ralph Waldo Emerson, long her journal but "a

upon her. After only one article on Ralph Waldo Emerson, long her journal but “a labour of love.” In any estimate, however, her lavishness in giving not only of her money but also of her personal service to relatives, friends and strangers a like and her ardour in the causes of a bolition and woman’s suffrage must be considered. Through several generations she has held her place among America’s most popular writers for children.

In the novel, Little Women, Alcott wrote about experiences in the life of four sisters and their mother “Marmee”. Louisa May Alcott collected her thoughts from gazing out of window at the whispering pine trees. From her thoughts, the parts of her story began to take shape. The title she made came from her father’s term for his four daughters his “Little Women”.

Their lives were much like the Alcott’s lives. She gave her characters strong identity. Anna could be recognized in the oldest sister “Meg”. She was pretty, domestic, and fond of riches. Louisa was the aspiring writer, “Jo”. She was independent, brash and of passionate temperament. Beth had her own name from Elizabeth. She was a gentle and courageous personality. May appeared as the artist, “Amy”. She was a little spoiled, charmed and loving. Anna’s beloved, John Pratt, was drawn as John Brooke. Additional characters had to be invented. She created them among the familiar circle of friends and relatives. The boy next door in the story came to her as she remembered two boys whom she called “my boy”. All whitman, the dependable friend was “Lawrence”. Therefore, Alcott admitted that she had drawn Laurie and Laurence from these real people, but the other characters that were in the story were made up.