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## APPENDIX I Biography of Louisa May Alcott



Louisa May Alcott was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania on November 29, 1832. She was the second daughter born to Abigail May Alcott and Amos Bronson Alcott. Similar with Alcott's character on her phenomenal novel, *Little Women*, she also had three sisters named Anna, Lizzie and May. During the Civil War, she worked as nurse in Washington D.C. Then, she supported her family by working as a domestic servant and as a teacher in Boston, Concord, Massachusetts.

Alcott's massive success novel, *Little Women* is an autobiographical fiction which pretty much immortalized her and her three sisters, the novel also provided her with financial independence as well as a lifetime writing career. In the late 1800s, Alcott was a best-selling novelist, with the fact that Alcott's writing was always done for the purpose of making money. Early in her career, she used A. M. Bernard as her pen name when she wrote novels for young adults.

Little Women is her masterpiece work and considered as the most well-known classics which was published in 1868, following the Civil War. She finished part one entitled Little Women in six weeks and did not revise it as she

usually did with her adult fiction. She worked on it day and night, becoming so consumed with it that she sometimes forgot to eat or sleep. It was released as a complete novel, Alcott sent all 402 pages to her editor. But her readers demanded more information about the Marches, so she wrote part two in the following year which entitled *Good Wives. Little Women* itself was in fact the one book that she did not want to write ever, it was not even really her idea. But, it was come from her publisher, Thomas Niles, and she probably would not have written it ever if it were not for the incessant pushing by her publisher and from the encouragement of her father, Bronson Alcott.

Despite all the behind story of *Little Women*, this book itself is still popular until today even though it has been more than a decade since publication. This story has been adapted into several plays and movies with the same title, such as On stage (1912) and Broadway Play (2005), Neubert Ballet (1969) and Opera (1998), miniseries in 1970, 1978, and 2017, film adaptation in 1918, 1933, 1949, 1994, 2018 and the latest movie in 2019.

Alcott's wrote many books beside Little Women such as Little Men, Jo's Boys, An Old-Fashioned Girl, Eight Cousins, Rose in Bloom, Under the Lilacs, and Jack and Jill. She also created some wonderful works for children's books; Spinning-Wheel Stories, Silver Pitcher, Proverb Stories, Garland for Girls, Aunt Jo's Scrap-Bag, My Boys, Shawl-Straps, and many more. In addition, Alcott wrote five adult novels for example Hospital Sketches, Moods, Work, A Modern Mephistopheles, and The Inheritance.

She had already become extremely private by the time *Little Women* was published. Alcott despised interacting with her readers and preferred to spend her time at home with her family, her condition worsened with age. She never married in her life, she only took her role as caretaker of her family. Alcott died on March 6, 1888 in Boston.

## APPENDIX II

## **Synopsis of Little Women**

Little Women depicts the daily activities that take place in the March family's home. There is Mrs. March and her four daughters named Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy. Meg as the eldest and most beautiful among them, and she intends to be a housewife. The second daughter is very different, Jo is a tomboy who wants to be a famous author. Beth is a sweet young lady who enjoys piano, her dream is to be a great musician. And the last sister Amy is a spoiled child who seeks to be a greater painter.

The story begins with the four daughters gather in a room to discuss what Christmas presents they are going to buy for themselves. The girls have a limited budget and decided to buy gifts for their mother rather than for themselves. Suddenly Marmee arrives at home with their father's letter, the letter encourages the March sisters to fight their burdens more cheerfully and to stop complaining about their poverty.

When the four March sisters wake up on Christmas morning, they discover something under their pillows, Marmee gives each of them a book. Marmee taught the girl to always share with other, so they give their breakfast to a poor Hummel family. There was a sick mother, a newborn baby, and six other children who huddle on a bed to stay warm. Because they did something good, Mr. Laurence, their neighbor, sends over cake, ice cream and flower in the evening as a gift.

Soon, Jo and Meg their chance to meet Mr. Laurence's grandson named Laurie at the Ney Year's Eve Party at Meg's wealthy friend, Sally Gardiner. Sadly, Meg sprains her ankle while dancing, Laurie helps the sisters to go home with his carriage. All the March sisters finally make friend with their neighbor, Laurie. Then, Mr. Laurence invites the daughters to come home and have a good time. He also offers Beth to come if she wants to play the piano in his home.

Laurie has invited Jo and Meg to see *The Seven Castles of Diamond Lake* at the theater. Amy begs to tag along but Jo refuses that idea by saying that Amy was not invited, which makes Amy burns Jo's manuscript which Jo is been working on that for several years. Jo really blinded by anger, Amy begs Jo's forgiveness but Jo refuses to forgive her. Later, Jo and Laurie go skating. Amy is following them behind, when Amy was struggling to her feet and falling through the ice; Jo did not seem to care. Just in time to see Amy falls through an ice river but Jo and Laurie rescue her.

Then story revolves around Meg who attends her rich friend's party, Annie Moffat. All the girls is so fashionable and mock at Meg old-style fashion, she is so ashamed the fact that she is come from a poor family that makes she cannot afford a fancy and luxurious dress like the others girls. At the party, Meg hears that people were talking as March family deliberately making plans to match Laurie with one of the girls. Meg told Mrs. March that rumor, but she said she would rather see her daughter happy as poor men's wives than as queens on throne, without self-respect and peace. Both Amy and Meg suffer because of her family's poverty.

On November morning, Marmee is receiving a telegram telling he husband is ill and she should come at once. Mr. Laurence sends Mr. Brooke to accompany Marmee to Washington DC, and aunt March even lends the necessary money for the trip. Jo wants to contribute money too, so she sells her beautiful chestnut hair for \$25. On that night, Jo cries into her pillow over her lost hair, although she does not regret her act of selflessness.

While Mrs. March on Washington, Hummel's family baby dies of scarlet fever on Beth's lap when she visits them alone. Soon, Beth herself becomes ill and contracts scarlet fever too, but Beth slowly recovers from the illness.

Mr. Brooke falls in love with Meg and decided to engage by the end. Mr. Brooke proposes Meg, though in the beginning Jo did not agree with that. The reason is because Jo thinks Mr. Brooke will carry Meg off and make a hole in the family. Aunt March is also the one who against Meg's marriage with a poor John, but Meg defended him in front of Aunt March. However, Marmee says she'd be satisfied if Mr. Brooke had enough income to be free of debt and make her daughter comfortable since he truly loves her. The March sisters and Marmee celebrate another Christmas with their neighbor Laurie and their servant Hannah. They are surprised because Mr. March returns home. The girls are happy to see him and finally the March family is complete.