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Appendix I

Synopsis of *Little Women*

The novel begins with an exposition, with the four March girls, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy sitting in their living room, lamenting their poverty. Jo March and her sister work hard to keep their family together despite poverty, war, illness, and everyday troubles in their life. In the beginning of chapter one, the girls decide that they will buy themselves a present in order to brighten their Christmas. Soon, however, they change their minds and decide that instead of buying presents for themselves, they will buy present for their mother, Marmee. Marmee come home with a letter from Mr. March, who is serving as a Union chaplain in the Civil War. The letter inspires the girls to bear their burdens more cheerfully and not to complain about their poverty. In the morning, Jo was the first to wake up on Christmas morning and feel disappointed because there is no stocking hang at the fireplace. Soon, her disappointment was swept away when she remembers her mother's promise to give guidebooks. After sharing the Christmas happiness, the girls prepare the meal for breakfast, then Marmee comes and tells them about the Hummel family. The Hammel is a poor immigrant German family. The family is in hunger with a lot of children to be taken care.

Jo meets Laurie at a party, and that is where their friendship. Then, Jo visit Laurie and his grandfather, Mr. Laurence. She inadvertently insults a painting of Mr.

Laurence in front of the man himself. Luckily, Laurie's grandfather admires Jo's spunk, and they become friends after that. Mr. Laurence is happy and like the girl because of her brave and her honesty. Then, Mr. Laurence meets all the sisters, and give Beth his deceased granddaughter's piano because he knows that Beth likes playing the piano very much. Mr. Laurence is very kind to Beth. In return, Beth makes a slipper for Mr. Laurence. After getting the materials to make that slippers, Beth then stitches them deftly, and when finished, she also keeps that slippers on Mr. Laurence's desk with the help of Laurie.

Mr. Brook, Laurie's tutor fall in love with Meg, but Meg does not want to think about marriage. Meg does not want to think about love, because she thought that she was still very young. But in the end, Meg speaks honestly that she also loves Mr. Brooke, and will marry Mr. Brooke. Although, Brooke is a poor man because she does not want to marry wealthy man as her mother's advice.

Beth has scarlet fever from the Hummel's baby after one of her visits. Beth disease is very severe and makes all her family and her neighbor Mr. Laurence and Laurie are very worried. Then, Beth againts the disease until Marmee returns. Meanwhile, Amy spends time at Aunt March's house to escape the disease.

Jo turns down Laurie's marriage proposal. Laurie confesses his feeling that he loves Jo more than a friend. But, Jo refused and was not sure that she would get

married. Jo rejects Laurie because she only considers Laurie as a friend and nothing more.

Beth recovers, though not completely, and Marmee has returned to her family as described at the beginning of chapter twenty below. Beth, who is not yet fully recovered, was so happy to see her mother when she first conscious. Meg, Jo, and Amy also were very happy, because their mother had returned and Beth also been recovered.

Meg and Mr. Brooke marry and learn how to live together. When they have twins, Meg is a devoted mother but Brook begins to feel neglected and left out. Meg seeks advice from Marmee, who helps her find balance in her married by making more wifely duties and encouraging John to become more involved with child rearing.

Beth who had not fully yet recovered after contracting scarlet fever. became much sicker and too weak to help doing housework and in the end, Beth died.

Amy married Laurie, Laurie realized that he had begun to love Amy after trying to get over his feeling for Jo. Likewise, Amy, who felt comfortable with Laurie's caring attitude towards her. Amy and Laurie could not lie about their feeling that they loved each other until they finally decided to get married.

Jo is married to Professor Bhaer. Although Jo once said that she did not want to get married when Laurie confessed her feelings to him. But in the end, she found

someone suitable for her. Jo finds a school for boys. After Aunt March died and left his property to Jo. A house left by aunt March was turned into a school for children.

Jo's school is a simple school as she wants it to be, but has a comfortable and fun atmosphere for children to learn and play. Meg became the wife and mother of two children, fulfilling her role happily despite living a simple life. While Amy becomes Laurie's wife and assists Laurie in running the business.