
Louisa May Alcott

Les Quatre Filles du docteur March (Little Women #1)



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Description

On est en Amérique, en pleine guerre de Sécession. Le docteur March est au front et sa petite famille doit survivre. Heureusement, les quatre soeurs March et leur mère forment un clan très uni qui affronte l'adversité avec courage et bonne humeur malgré tout.

L'auteur s'est fortement inspirée de sa propre vie pour écrire cette histoire. On la reconnaîtra sous les traits de Jo, le garçon manqué de la famille. Depuis sa publication en 1868, ce roman n'a cessé d'enchanter ses lecteurs, les petites filles surtout, qui se reconnaissent dans l'une ou l'autre des quatre soeurs. Sans jamais sombrer dans le mélo, l'histoire est extrêmement touchante, car la vie des personnages est ponctuée de beaucoup de joies mais aussi de grands moments d'angoisse. On suit avec plaisir les péripéties quotidiennes de leur existence, leur évolution aussi, puisque les quatre jeunes filles ne seront pas tout à fait les mêmes à la fin du roman. Ajoutons que ce livre présente pour le lecteur d'aujourd'hui un nouvel intérêt, celui de découvrir l'intimité de la vie d'une famille américaine au XIXe siècle, qui revêt pour nous nombre d'aspects étonnants et pittoresques. --*Pascale Wester*

Insightful reviews

Rory: I hated this book.

I can't even begin to go into all the reasons I dislike this novel. It's dull and preachy through out most of it--aside from Jo who is a truly inspired character. But everyone else seems one note, most of the chapters come off as morality plays than solid scenes or plots. And just when Miss Alcott has something seemingly interesting she breaks it for no other reason than to do something.

Whether its the pairing of Amy and Laurie (huh?), the point made CONSTANTLY that Beth's life isn't useless because she is an angel and showed them that angels do exist and is a total Mary Sue(Really? Cause I'm glad she died before I died of boredom), the forced pairing of Jo and the Professor (Why? I mean--really... Just keep her single) there is also the message that pursuing art is selfish. (Jo giving up her writing, Laurie gives up his music, Amy gives up her sketching...)

It's not a message I expected--this book is always lauded as one that has inspired countless girls... To do what? Because outside of Jo's spirit I dont really see much to aspire to in this tsory? The overall message seems to be that as a good Christian one should sacrifice being an artist, being in love with who you want and any hope of independence...

It's not because I'm from the modern era that I dislike this book. (Or that I'm an adult reading it.) If you look at other works being done in the same time period you will see that there were stories with less moralizing being done--including by Miss Alcott herself. I was just really disappointed

Susan: Someone I know claimed this no longer has value, that she would never recommend it

because it's saccharine, has a religious agenda, and sends a bad message to girls that they should all be little domestic homebodies. I say she's wrong on all counts. This is high on my reread list along with *Pride and Prejudice*, *Jane Eyre*, and *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*--you could say that I'm pretty familiar with it.

Let's see--there's a heroine who not only writes, but is proud of the fact and makes a profit from it in a time that this was somewhat out-of-the-ordinary. Reading this, and especially knowing later that the main character is (for all practical purposes) Alcott herself, inspired me to write myself, and I haven't forgotten the writing lessons even today: don't let money cloud your vision, write for yourself first, take criticism, write what you know. Still wise even today. Also in this book, we see the perspective of a family coping with the financial and emotional strain of having a loved one away at war, something that is unfortunately all too relatable today. There's also (extraordinary in those times, common in ours) a platonic, though not uncomplicated, friendship between a man and a woman that is sort of a different kind of love story in a way and a powerful one at that. We see people getting married, but marriage is never portrayed as *The Answer to Everything*--many of the matches involve sacrifice and struggling. The girls, though good at heart, aren't a picture-perfect family of saints. They're flawed and human. The paragon Beth would seem the exception, but the message with her is more about how even the quietest among us can make an impact on the world--not parading her isolated life as an example, only her kindness.

I won't lie. Someone dies, there's a war and a father's away--so yes, God is mentioned: I think there's a few *Pilgrim's Progress* references in passing and there's some talk of faith at moments when the characters most need it. To contemporary readers, this may seem like a lot, but heavy-handed it is not. It was probably somewhat unusual for its time. The thought that everyone's relationship and perception of God could greatly vary, and that to be true to your religion was entirely non judgmental and meant being kind to other people and trying to make yourself better, not other people? The thought that each person must be allowed to deal with these feelings in their own time in their own way? Wacky stuff.

I admit it seems like a tough sell to today's kids, packaged in somewhat formal sounding-language, and bearing every indication of being literary broccoli, but this book is a classic for a reason. It might be a tough sell, but I don't think we should give up on trying to think of ways to do it anyway. What's inside still counts. Don't write it off.

Martha: This book is so great. It has character's every girl could ever relate to. (EX. From being a complete girly-girl or such a tomboy you demand being called the boy-ish version of your name) This book represents so many different kinds of love and how they change over time; and how some, will last forever. I admit I cried through the story, but the way it was so raw and real. Simple perfection.

Rikke: "Four little chests all in a row, Dim with dust, and worn by way of time, 4 women, taught through weal and woe to like and hard work of their prime. "I stumbled into the library, as continually looking for a narrative to flee into, an missed ebook to take with me home. whilst my eyes fell on an previous and wornout reproduction of "Little Women" (or, "Pigebørn" because it is named in Danish), I flipped via it and determined to learn it. this present day i ponder even if I

knew it or not. no matter if i used to be conscious of the truth that correct there in my tight grasp, lay the booklet that may effect me for years and years to come. That day, within the dusty library, I sealed my fate. and that i did it with a book. Books carry the facility to remodel us, to persuade us and to lead us. each time i believe of my formative years reading, I see a glimpse of that outdated variation of "Pigebørn", learn and reread 100 times, as I saved lending it from the library in a unending circle. The ebook spoke to me, and that i enjoyed it with all of my heart. I nonetheless do. I so essentially keep in mind interpreting the publication for the 1st time. i used to be approximately twelve years outdated and longed to be an angelic creature like Beth. i did not care a lot for Jo, I resented the sensible Meg, and that i loved Amy for her golden curls (view spoiler)[and the truth that she received the gorgeous boy subsequent door, that the unconventional was once so based about. i've got consistently thought of Amy's process lifestyles as a real fairy-tale. She is the reasonable princess who will get the prince, the riches and finally grows a middle of gold. regardless of her self-importance and her faults, i've got continuously well-known her ultimately (hide spoiler)]. I desperately desired to be Beth, even supposing I by no means was. Her approach of leaving a path of light in the back of her, spreading love and lighting fixtures little hopes within the eyes of her liked viewers in the course of her piano play continuously spoke to me. In developing Beth, Alcott created an angel (view spoiler)[and it used to be constantly evident, she by no means was once destined to stroll the earth for long. A candy experience of tragedy with a deep impression that lingers on perpetually (hide spoiler)]. yet after all i used to be by no means pretty much as good as Beth. nobody is, particularly - or even in the event that they were, they might by no means see it for themselves. Beth is an ideal, now not a residing human being. Instead i've got most likely continuously been Amy, pining for gorgeous silk ribbons and an ideal nose. maybe this is the reason I by no means have had the guts to despise her vanity. most ladies in fact are looking to be Jo; fierce and artistic, the real genius during this story. even though Jo by no means spoke to me. I enjoyed her dearly for her writing skills (especially her attractive poems), yet didn't like her coarse and vicious ways. maybe it is easily simply too easy, too visible to love her the best. i don't know. And then there is Meg. in some way she regularly manages to fall within the background, because the different vigorous women roam approximately and lose themselves in dozy daydreams. Meg's chapters are continuously approximately practicalities or conscience. Meg herself is rarely particularly proven as something yet a homely mom figure. I by no means attached to her and that i by no means will. i might a lot otherwise be a useless Amy than a subdued Meg. Why did this ebook effect me so much? i don't know. might be it was once since it provided me with a number of characters, lives and fates. possibly it used to be since it used to be choked with morality with out ever being too preachy. probably it was once since it is written in a single of my favourite time periods. or maybe it was once easily that I learn it as an impressionable younger thing, and located it on the correct time within the correct place. This booklet possesses such a lot of charms, that it really is very unlikely to account for all of them. The 4 very diversified sisters create impressive contrast, and it really is pleasant to identify their adjustments and keep on with their varied paths, which would lead them faraway from each one other, yet consistently joins them jointly again, as real familybonds regularly do. "Little Women" is a booklet approximately love, ambitions, sorrow, relatives and daily life. it's a booklet approximately turning out to be up, and discovering yourself. And as you learn it you may very well locate yourself; in a smart Meg, a full of life Jo, a delicate Beth or an bold Amy. This e-book shaped me, and possibly encouraged me greater than i'll ever know. i'll continually love this book, and take into account the twelve-year outdated me who cried and laughed with those little

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