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**Louisa May Alcott**

**Work: A Story of Experience**

Title: Work: A Story of Experience

Author: Louisa May Alcott

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## Description

**Alcott's concerns about social justice, women's work, domesticity, and community lie at the heart of this provocative novel.**

In this story of a woman's search for a meaningful life, Alcott moves outside the family setting of her best known works. Originally published in 1872, *Work* is both an exploration of Alcott's personal conflicts and a social critique, examining women's independence, the moral significance of labor, and the goals to which a woman can aspire. Influenced by Transcendentalism and by the women's rights movement, it affirms the possibility of a feminized utopian society.

## Insightful reviews

Duane: Little Women it's not, but it does show the ability of Alcott to tackle serious, important social issues. In this case it's the independence of women in the 19th century and their entry into work outside the home, contributing to their self support and their families. It's the story of a young woman, Christy, who fits the mold of a typical Alcott character, strong willed, smart, Christian values, and determined to succeed in a male dominated world. If you liked Alcott's other novels you will like this one as well.

Reagan Ramsey: This is the last book that L.M.A. penned before she died and it is one of my favorites. It is the story of a young woman named Christie who goes out to make her way in the world by working. The first half of the book is a bit disjointed; not tedious, exactly, but it doesn't feel as cohesive a part of the overall story as the last half. But it does provide context and shows that struggles Christie has as a single woman are what prepares her for the next chapter of her life, where she finds real friendship and love.

I love the way Alcott paints characters who prove that ambition and simple values aren't mutually exclusive; that it's possible to be independent and mix with the world without becoming a callous and selfish member of it. She shows the real obstacles that sometimes stand in the way of love and accomplishment, but that there is always hope in the road ahead.

Hortensia: Eh.... The first half of this is very good to be assigned in pieces (or totality) in a class on women and work in the late nineteenth century. It's about a young woman who goes to the city looking for work, and all the different jobs that she takes, one after another. The second half is more of a love story. She falls in love with an ingenuous guy from the country--not the rich guy from the city that some of us today would expect. I liked (and wondered a lot about) this point. Is Alcott reflecting the more mainstream attitudes of her culture toward the dangerous and acquisitive vices of the city, or is she doing something very unique in deliberately turning away from that trope in her contemporary fiction? I haven't read enough fiction from that time (1880s I think) to know for sure.

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A great discussion piece for a class on women and work. Again, nice that it is in the public domain.

Kelley: This was once my moment time examining this book. It was once inferior to I had remembered it. However, it used to be nonetheless a excitement to read. it is a nice tale that meanders throughout the lifetime of a wanderlust woman. It ends with an attack of "we can do it" style fury that left me desirous to swap with world.... I ate dinner in its place though.

Donnagarnet: IMO, this e-book is much prior to it really is time. In a time while so much younger ladies are content material to attend for Mr. correct to come back along, Christie makes a decision to take regulate of her destiny. This tale covers the 2 a long time previous & through the American Civil War, & is a window to Victorian perspectives on operating women, insanity, & "fallen" women. this is often my favourite Alcott book.

rr: Given my fond thoughts of Little Women, i used to be to learn a few of Alcott's writing for an grownup audience. paintings is a extra accomplished piece than an extended deadly Love Chase, which I additionally learn recently. paintings is usually extra of a thought-piece, and there are occasions whilst I felt that the narrative of Christie's diverse occupation as an self sufficient girl was once a comparatively flimsy but handy constitution (or permitting excuse?) for Alcott's articulation of her principles approximately women, slavery, and society. The narrative profits momentum of its personal while the unconventional reaches the part approximately David, and a romance emerges out of Christie's sequence of jobs. I felt bad/guilty that my curiosity was once higher engaged as soon as there has been a love interest, yet i believe that the plot ultimately turned a plot, instead of a row of episodes, at that point. The romance/marriage component to the unconventional suits uneasily with the remainder in different ways, too. lots of the radical matters women's relationships with different women, and the booklet ends with a beautiful, if slightly artificial, circle of lady associates devoted to doing several types of paintings within the world. Christie herself is poised to turn into a spokesperson for women's suffrage, and there is a recommendation that that is the trajectory she's been on all along, unwittingly. but when David hadn't died, Christie might not really have entered the general public discussion approximately women's rights. From this perspective, it really is atypical for participation within the women's rights stream to be either a end result of Christie's occupation and a "second best" option. So maybe it is a challenging characteristic of the novel's construction. but it is also a fair-enough mirrored image of the contradictions contained in women's wants for independence and for romance within the nineteenth century (and the 21st).

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