

Little Women

1933, RKO Radio Pictures Inc., Directed by George Cukor, Writing credits: Louisa May Alcott (novel: as Louisa M. Alcott), Sarah Y. Mason & Vicor Heerman

(00:02:30)

MRS. MARCH

So you're going to Washington?

MAN

Yes, Ma'am. My son is sick in a hospital there.

MRS. MARCH

Oh. This will be an anxious Christmas for you. I think this one will do. Let's try this. Is it your only son?

MAN

No, Ma'am. I had four, two were killed. One is a prisoner.

MRS. MARCH

You've done a great deal for your country, sir.

MAN

Oh, not a might more than I ought to, Ma'am. I'd go myself if I was any use. Thank you for the overcoat.

MRS. MARCH

Wait a minute. I hope you find him better.

MAN

Thank you, Ma'am. God bless you. Merry Christmas. Merry Christmas.

MRS. MARCH

Merry Christmas.

(00:03:22)\*\*

SHOP ASSISTANT

Oh, Mrs. March. Will you sign this so I can get it off? Why, what's the matter?

MRS. MARCH

When I see things like that poor old man it makes me ashamed to think how little I do.

SHOP ASSISTANT

But, my dear, you're doing all you can here. And your husband is there.

MRS. MARCH

Yes, I know. His last son is lying ill miles away waiting to say goodbye to him, forever perhaps, while I have my four girls to comfort me.

SHOP ASSISTANT

And a real comfort they are too, aren't they?

MRS. MARCH

I couldn't bear it without them. Meg and Joe are working, you know?

SHOP ASSISTANT

Yes?

MRS. MARCH

Meg is a nursery governess.

SHOP ASSISTANT

Oh.

(at the Nursery)\*\*

CHILD ONE

Merry Christmas.

CHILD TWO

Merry Christmas.

CHILD TWO

Merry Christmas.

(00:04:15)\*\*

MEG

Remember Lilly, Santa Claus is watching you.

CHILD FOUR

Come on Tony, let's go over to the blackboard.

(at Aunt March's)\*\*

JO

We know as well what are the baneful fruits of selfishness and self-indulgence. Bad habits take root with fearful rapidity even in the richest natures. They grow and ripen and bear their fruit like southern vines and weeds. Al\_c Almost in a single day and night. Crush them. Pluck them out pitterlously from their very first appearance and do not weary of the labor of plucking them out again and again.

(00:05:06)\*\*

(Bird talks)\*\*

(00:05:15)\*\*

AUNT MARCH

Hold your tongue! Disrespectful old bird. Go on, Josephine\_c.  
Josephine? Uh! Where you off to, Miss?

JO

Oh, I didn't think you'd mind. It was nearly time to leave and the girls all said they'd be home early so we could rehearse my play for Christmas.

AUNT MARCH

Never a thought about my Christmas. Flying off without a word of cheer or greeting to your poor old aunt.

JO

Oh, I'm sorry, Aunt March. Merry Christmas.

AUNT MARCH

Merry Christmas. Here! It's a dollar for each. Well, take 'em.

JO

Thank you, Auntie.

AUNT MARCH

Never mind thanking me. Just spend it wisely. That's all I ask. Although it's more than I can expect when you're so much like your father, waltzing off to war and lettin' other folks look after his family.

JO

There's nobody looking after us, and we don't ask favors from anybody. And I'm very proud of Father. And you should be too.

AUNT MARCH

Hoity Toity. Don't you be impertinent, miss!

JO

Oh, I'm sorry, Auntie.

AUNT MARCH

It isn't preachers that's going to win this war. It's fighters.

JO

Yes, Auntie. Can I go now?

AUNT MARCH

Oh, go on. Did you clean Polly's cage today?

JO

Yes, Auntie.

AUNT MARCH

Did you wash those tea cups and put them away, carefully?

JO

Yes, Auntie.

AUNT MARCH

You didn't break any?

JO  
No, Auntie.

AUNT MARCH  
What about the teaspoons?

JO  
I polished them.

AUNT MARCH  
Oh, very well then. Just a minute. Come back here. Look at this. You haven't dusted properly. I want this stair rail dusted and polished before you leave here.

JO  
Yes, Auntie.

(00:07:30)\*\*

(Children singing in the classroom)\*\*

(00:08:03)\*\*

MR. DAVIS  
Thank you very much Ladies. And now I wish you all a very merry Christmas.

CHILDREN  
Merry Christmas. Good-bye.

MR. DAVIS  
School is dismissed.

GIRL  
Margaret.

MR. DAVIS  
Amy March, you may close the door.

CIKLD 1/B  
That'll teach her not to cut up Didoes.

CIKLD 2/B  
Just serves that stuck up Amy March right.

CIKLD 3/B  
What's he gonna do to her?

MR. DAVIS  
I can see there's nothing for me to do but stop by and show you mother how, instead of doing your sums, you cover your slate with sketches\_c and most uncomplimentary sketches.

AMY  
Oh, please Mr. Davis. I'll never do it again, sir. And she'd be so disappointed in me. Please, please.

MR. DAVIS

Well, I should hate to spoil her Christmas. And for that reason alone, young lady, I shall overlook it.

AMY

Oh, thank you, Mr. Davis.

MR. DAVIS

You may go.

AMY

Oh, thank you, Mr. Davis. Thank you very much indeed. Thank you, sir.0:9:30

CHILDREN

Here she is. What did he do? What did you say? O, come on. Tell us. What happened?

AMY

I just said that if I ever told my mother the way he treated me she'd take me out of his old school. She's never been reconciliated any way, since my father lost his money. And she's had to suffer the degradation of me being with a lot of ill-mannered girls who stick their noses into refined people's business.

(Beth singing at the piano at home)\*\*

(00:10:33)\*\*

BETH

Oh, Hello. Little tiny little thing. I'll tell you a long story\_c  
Oh, Hannah, is it tea time? I'll set the table.

HANNAH

Thank you, Beth. It will be a help to me 'cause my bread's raised. Girls're getting home early.

BETH

Are they coming?

HANNAH

Just passed the Laurence house.

JO

Christopher Columbus.

MEG

Joe! Don't use such dreadful expressions. Here comes old Mr. Laurence. What if he should hear you?

JO

I don't care. I like good strong words that mean something. Oh, bother. Now we're gonna have to speak to him.

MR. LAURENCE

How do you do?

AMY

Makes my knees chatter just to look at him.

JO

I feel sorry for that poor boy shut up all alone with such an old ogre for a grandfather. Oh, look. There he is.

AMY

Where?

MEG

Don't point, Joe. He'll think you're waving at him.

JO

He's gone anyway. Well, what if he does? Hey! Hey!

MEG

Jo!

LAURIE

Hey! Hey! Hey!

(Jo runs indoors. The girls all chatter at once)\*\*

(00:11:43)\*\*

BETH

Jo.

JO

Merry Christmas from Aunt March.

BETH

For me?

JO

Yes, darling. For you.

AMY

We got one, too.

MEG

What are you going to do with it, dear?

BETH

I don't know. Marmee said we oughtn't spend money for pleasure, when our men are suffering so in the army.

JO

A dollar couldn't do the army much good, so I'm going to buy Undine and Sintram. I've wanted it long enough.

MEG

I'm sure Marmee would approve if I got some new gloves. I've darned my old ones until I can hardly get them on. And she always

says that a real lady is known by her neat gloves and boots.

AMY

I should get a nice box of Faber's drawing pencils. I really need them.

BETH

Then \_c Then I'd like to spend mine for some new music. That is, if you don't think Marmee would mind.

JO

Let's each buy what we want and have a little fun. I'm sure we work hard enough.

MEG

Well, I know I do. It's not the work I mind so much. It's having to tell Flo King how pretty she looks in things I know would look as well on me.

JO

Well, what would you do if you were shut up all day with a fussy old crosspatch who flies off the handle every move you make.

AMY

Joe, don't use slang. Besides, don't forget she gave us the dollar. I'm sure neither of you suffer as I do. You don't have to go to that nasty old Davis' school, with impertinent girls who laugh at your dresses and label your father because he is not rich.

JO

"Liable", "liable". Don't say "label" as if Papa were a pickle bottle.

AMY

I know what I mean and you needn't be "statirical" about it. It's proper to use good words and improve your "vocabilary".

JO

Aren't we elegant?

AMY

You'd never be thought so with your slang and manners.

JO

I hope not. I don't want to be elegant.

AMY

Well, you needn't whistle like a boy.

JO

That's why I do it.

AMY

Oh, I detest rude unladylike girls.

JO

I hate affected, niminy-piminy chits.

BETH

Birds in their little nests agree.

MEG

Really, you're both to blame. You're old enough now to leave off boys tricks and behave better, Josephine. Now you're so tall and turn up your hair, you must remember you're almost a young lady.

JO

No, I'm not. And if turning up my hair makes me so, I'll wear it down until I'm a hundred.

MEG

Jo! As you for you, Amy, your absurd words are as bad as Joe's slang. Your airs are funny now, but you'll grow into an affected little goose unless you take care.

BETH

Look. If Jo's a tomboy and Amy's a goose, what am I, please?

MEG

You're a dear, and nothing else.

JO

We're\_cWe're three ungrateful wretches, who don't deserve you. Oh, wait until I become a famous author and make my fortune. Then we'll all ride in fine carriages, dressed like Flo King, snubbing Amy's friends, and \_c and telling Aunt March to go to the dickens. Come on. Let's rehearse. We'll start with the \_c um\_c oh, the fainting scene. You're as stiff as a poker on that Amy.

AMY

Well, I can't help it. I've never seen anyone faint, and I don't intend to make myself all black and blue tumbling flat as you do.

JO

Oh, it's easy, if you'll only watch me. Come on.

AMY

If I can drop gracefully, I'll...

JO

Now, now. When I come in you'll see the horrible look in my eyes, and you shrink back trembling. Go ahead, go ahead. Well, get into the mood Amy. Get into the mood. Now\_c now\_c when I start towards you\_c with wicked intentions\_c Oh Amy! \_c.you\_c you draw back in horror, covering your eyes with your hands. Roderigo! Roderigo! Ahh\_c Save me! Save me!

(Jo screams and faints.)\*\*

(Clapping of hands.)There you are now. See? Now, it's easy. Now, here I come! Haahaa\_c...\*\*

AMY

Roderigo! Roderigo! Oh\_c.. Save me! Save me! Oh!\_c Oh!\_c

(Amy screams and faints on the sofa)\*\*

(Laughing and chatter)\*\*

(00:16:30)\*\*

MRS. MARCH

Glad to find you so merry, my girls. AMY Darling.

GIRLS

Marmee.

MRS. MARCH

How's your cold, Meg?

MEG

Much better.

MRS. MARCH

Beth deary. Kiss me baby. Thank you, Jo. Thank you, dear! You look tired to death, Jo.

JO

No, Marmee. I'm not tired.

BETH

Mmm. Warm. Your slippers are all ready.

MRS. MARCH

Oh. That's my Bethy. Deary.

BETH

Did you have a hard day, Marmee?

MRS. MARCH

No. Very pleasant, dear. But it's good to be home. I have a treat for you.

BETH

A letter from father!

(All chatter together)\*\*

MRS. MARCH

"Give them all my dear love and a kiss. Tell them I know they will remember all I said to them, that they will be loving children to you, will do their duty faithfully, fight their bosom enemies bravely, and conquer themselves so beautifully, that when I come back to them I may be fonder and prouder than ever of my little women."

AMY

I\_c.I am a selfish girl, but I'll truly try to be better and not waste my time in school, so that father mayn't be disappointed in me.

JO

I'll try and be what he loves to call me, 'a little woman', and not be rough and wild; and do my duty here at home instead of always wanting to go to war to help father.

MEG

I'm\_c I'm not going to be envious anymore, if I can help it.

MRS. MARCH

Now we'll save the rest till after tea, for it's such a lovely long letter. I know everybody must be hungry.

BETH

Let's\_c. Let's get something for Marmee with our dollar instead of for ourselves, shall we?

GIRLS

Oh\_c

JO

That's like you, Beth. What shall we get?

MEG

I shall get her a nice pair of gloves.

JO

New slippers! Best to be had!

BETH

Some new handkerchiefs, all hemmed.

AMY

A beautiful little bottle of cologne. She'll like that and it won't cost much and then I'll have some left over for my pencils.

(00:19:05)\*\*

(Everyone sewing)\*\*

JO

I'm finished with Asia.

BETH

And here's Europe.

AMY

Three more stitches and you can have Africa.

MRS. MARCH

Not too long stitches, dear.

MEG

If you pass me the scissors, I'll give you America.

MRS. MARCH

There, you see, you did finish it after all. You wanted to put it

off until tomorrow.

BETH

Oh, but we never should have if Joe hadn't made a game of it, and thought of talking of the different countries as we worked.

MRS. MARCH

It was a nice idea, Jo. Do you remember how you used to play Pilgrim's Progress when you were little things.

JO

I can see us all now. With your rag bags tied over our backs for burdens.

MRS. MARCH

You have real burdens now, instead of rag bags, according to what I heard before tea. Except Beth\_c she didn't say. Maybe she hasn't any?

BETH

Yes, I have. Mine are dishes and dusters, and being afraid of people, and envying girls with nice pianos.

JO

A piano is a burden.

(00:20:00)\*\*

(Everybody sings "Abide with Me")\*\*

(00:20:46)\*\*

MRS. MARCH

Good night, my precious.

MEG

Good night, Marmee.

MRS. MARCH

Good night, Joe, my girl.

JO

Good night, Marmee.

AMY

Good night, darling.

MRS. MARCH

Good night, my baby.

BETH

Good night, Marmee.

MRS. MARCH

Good night, Bethy.

(00:21:10)\*\*

(Church bells ring out Christmas.)\*\*

(00:21:23)\*\*

JO  
Merry Christmas, Hannah.

HANNAH  
Oh, Merry Christmas.

JO  
Where's Marmee?

HANNAH  
She just went down the street. But she'll be right back. She wanted you to have your breakfast when I can get it dished up.

JO  
Come round here. Get behind. Hide them. Get close. Get close. Where have you been, Amy?

MEG  
Amy, what have you been doing?

AMY  
Don't laugh, Jo. I only changed the little bottle of cologne for a big one. I gave all of my money to get it.

BETH  
Amy!

MEG  
Darling! That was unselfish of you.

JO  
You're some pumpkins, Amy.

AMY  
I felt ashamed thinking only of myself.

BETH  
Amy, my prettiest rose.

AMY  
And I'm so glad, because mine's the handsomest now. Where's Marmee.

JO  
She'll be back any minute. Breakfast!

AMY  
Oh, Hannah. I'm so hungry.

JO  
Oh, Hannah, what is it? Sausages!

MEG  
Sausages. (Chatter over all the delicacies.)

BETH  
Popovers.

AMY  
They're my favorite!

JO  
Coffee! Oh! Hannah, you've beaten the Dutch?

HANNAH  
You needn't make such a fuss about it. I can remember when I used to serve it on your father's table everyday.

JO  
No!

AMY  
Oh, Hannah. Were we really that rich? How was I dressed? I'd like to tell that Jenny Snow all the pretty clothes I used to wear.

JO  
I could tell her! Diapers!

MEG  
Jo!

AMY  
Jo!

JO  
Two each. Look at all the pop-overs!

MEG  
She's coming!

JO  
Hurry up! Beth, strike up. Amy, open the door. Come here, Meg. We'll cover these up and then it'll be a surprise.

(Piano playing)\*\*

(00:23:14)\*\*

AMY  
Enter Marmee.

GIRLS  
Merry Christmas, Marmee.

MRS. MARCH  
Merry Christmas, my \_c. Oh darlings! Oh, Meg, dear! Oh, thank you. Oh, and handkerchiefs from Bethy. Thank you dar\_c. Oh, Hannah, did you see? Oh, Amy, my precious. Thank you.

JO

These are from me.

MRS. MARCH

Oh, Jo. Jo, my girl! Oh, thank you, darlings. Thank you. Oh, my girls. I can't tell you how happy I am.

JO

Well, I can tell you how hungry I am. Come on, everyone. Pass me those plates. Marmee, look! Sausages.

MRS. MARCH

Wait a minute, girls. I want to say one word before we begin. I've just come from a poor woman with a little new-born baby and six children huddled into one bed to keep from freezing for they have no fire. They're suffering cold and hunger. Oh, my girls, will you give them your breakfast as a Christmas present?

JO

I'm so glad you came back before we started.

MRS. MARCH

I knew you would.

AMY

May I carry some things, Marmee?

MRS. MARCH

We should all go. Take the coffee, Hannah.

JO

I'll get some firewood.

MEG

I'll take the greens.

BETH

I'll take the bread.

AMY

I'll take the pop-overs. (In the room of Mrs. Hummel)

MRS. MARCH

Here we are, Mrs. Hummel.

MRS. HUMMEL

Ach, Gott in himmel. Good angels come to us.

JO

Funny angels in hoods and mittens.

GIRLS

You want some bread to eat? Here, I'll give you some\_c. Look here.

(Lots of chatter)\*\*

(00:25:35)\*\*

(The play. Clapping of hands)\*\*

(00:26:03)\*\*

AMY

Strange. Roderigo is not here. His note says "promptly on the hour".

Voice backstage

And why?

AMY

And why? That's Hugo's castle for the tryst. Oh I am afraid. Who comes here?

BETH

Ah, your highness. 'Tis Mona, the hag. MARGARET: Hugo hath betrayed me.

VOICE

I must fly.

JO

Haha. Zara will be waiting. Haha. My proud beauty. Haha. She will be mine. Black Hugo approaches. Haha. With ere I be flown. Be gone. Haha\_c. Ah-hah!

AMY

Roderigo! Roderigo! Save me! Save me! Ah\_c.

JO

And now to carry out my fell design. What a fake!

AMY

Well, I told you I wasn't going to make myself\_c.

JO

Sh\_c

MEG

Come on. Get on the window sill.

AMY

Have pity! Oh, have pity! Bring not upon me the worst of shame.

JO

Turn, else you ruin the day you spurn Black Hugo's love. Make thyself ready for a wedding. I shall return within the quarter.

AMY

Oh me. Oh, heaven. Protect the helpless.

JO

Zara! My beloved!

AMY

Roderigo! D'ost I believe my eyes?

JO

(Roderigo sings and plays guitar. Audience applauds.) Hurry, my fair. The good padre waits at yonder gate with the horses. See, the ladder. All is arranged. Liberty! Fly with me. Fly with me, my love. I will assist you. I will \_c oh\_c.

VOICE

Everything's alright.

JO

It's alright, everyone. Stay where you are.

(Great confusion)\*\*

(00:29:23)\*\*

HANNAH

Young ladies, will you all please come in to supper.

(Everyone talking joyously together.)\*\*

JO

Christopher Columbus! What's this?

AMY

Is it fairies?

BETH

It's Santa Claus.

MEG

Mother did it.

JO

Aunt March had a good fit and sent it.

MRS. MARCH

All wrong. Mr. Laurence sent it.

AMY

Oh, no.LITTLE

GIRL

Who's Mr. Laurence?

JO

The Laurence boy's grandfather. He lives next door.

MRS. MARCH

He heard what you did about your breakfast and sent me a nice note this afternoon saying he hoped I would allow him to express his friendly feelings toward my children and send them a few trifles in honor of the day.

JO

The boy put it into his head. I know he did. He looks like a capital fellow, and I'm dying to get acquainted. I'm going to, too.

BETH

Oh, I wish father were here. I'm afraid he isn't having such a merry Christmas as we are.

(Jo throws snowball on Laurie Laurence's window.)\*\*

(00:30:58)\*\*

LAURIE

Hello.

JO

How do you do? I wanted to thank you. We did have such a good time over your nice Christmas present. What's the matter? Are you sick?

LAURIE

Just a little cold, but Grandfather's made me stop indoors for a week.

JO

Oh, that's too bad. Can anybody come to see you?

LAURIE

If they would.

JO

Wait. I'll ask Marmee. Close the window though.

(Jo rings door bell)\*\*

LAURIE

How do you do, Miss March?

JO

How do you do, Mr. Laurence? Mother was so sorry to hear that you'd been ill. My sister, Meg, sent you some of her "blanc-mange". It is soft and will slide down easily without hurting your throat.

LAURIE

Thank you.

JO

And \_c um \_c Beth lent you these until you're will. I \_c I know boys don't like kittens but she was so anxious I\_c. I couldn't refuse.

LAURIE

Well, maybe they'll help to liven things up. It's as dull as tombs over here.

JO  
Huh?!

LAURIE  
Won't you come in?

JO  
Oh, no. No, I'm not to stay.

LAURIE  
Oh, please. Just for a few minutes. I've ordered tea.

JO  
Oh? \_c Christopher Columbus! What richness. Oh! Just like summer.  
Oh! This is marvelous. Oh, it's so roomy. Oh\_c.

LAURIE  
How many, please?

JO  
Two, please. Three. And how do you like it here, after living in Europe so long, Mr. Laurence?

LAURIE  
Oh\_c.

JO  
I'm going to Europe.

LAURIE  
Really? When?

JO  
I don't know. You see, my Aunt March has rheumatism, and her doctor thought that the baths\_c. Oh, not that she hasn't a bath\_c. She has a very nice one. Did you take any baths while you were there? I mean, for rheumatism.

LAURIE  
No. No, I'm not troubled with rheumatism.

JO  
Nope. Neither am I. But she thought that the baths wouldn't do me any harm. I mean, that is to say, while I was there. You see, I've always wanted to go to Europe. Not for the baths, of course. But for my writing. You see, my Aunt March \_c\_c. Oh, but you don't know Aunt March, do you? Ah well, never mind. Now, what were you saying, Mr. Laurence?

LAURIE  
I'm not Mr. Laurence. I'm only Laurie.

JO  
Well, Laurie. Well, how do you like it here after Europe?

LAURIE  
Well, it's strange after living in schools all my life. Oh, it'll

be alright\_c when I get used to grandfather. You know, he's \_c

JO

Oh, yes! You should have seen him before you came.

LAURIE

Isn't he a holy terror?

JO

Oh, you oughta see my Aunt March!

LAURIE

Oh, it's too pretty to eat. I wish we had things like this over here.

JO

And I wish \_c. It is nice, isn't it? My little sister put on the geranium leaves. She's very artist.

LAURIE

Amy?

JO

Yes. How do you know?

LAURIE

Why, I often hear you calling to one another. And\_c when I'm alone over here, I \_c I beg you pardon for being so rude, but \_c sometimes you forget to put down the curtain. When the lamps are lighted, its like looking at a picture to see you all around the table with your Mother. You always seem to be having such good times.

JO

We'll never draw that curtain anymore. And I give you leave to look as much as you like. I wish, though, instead of just peeping, you'd come over and see us. We'd have jolly times together.

LAURIE

And would you let me be in a play? I saw some of it the other night.

JO

Oh, that was terrible. I want to put on "Hamlet" though, and do the fencing scene.

LAURIE

I could do Laertes. I took fencing lessons at the academy.

JO

Really?

LAURIE

Yes! Look! Look! On guard!

(00:35:05)\*\*

JO  
Splendid!

LAURIE  
Here.

JO  
Oh! "Come, for the third, Laertes: you but dally."

LAURIE  
"Say you so. Come on."

JO  
"A hit; what say you?"

LAURIE  
"A touch. A touch. I do confess."

MR. LAURENCE  
What is this? What on earth? What's going on?

MR. BROOKE:  
Don't know, sir?

LAURIE  
"Have at you, now."

JO  
Oh?

LAURIE  
Oh, I say. Oh, I say. You hurt?

JO  
Oh, no. Nothing ever hurts me.

LAURIE  
I'm sorry. I forgot you're a girl, and I'm afraid I got a bit too rough.

JO  
Oh, what are you talking about? Oh, I had you bettered, if I hadn't slipped. Oh, that's c that's a good picture of your grandfather. He looks pretty grim, but I shouldn't be afraid of him. Though I can see how his face might frighten some people.

(00:36:02)\*\*

MR. BROOKE:  
I'll wait upstairs, sir.

JO  
His eyes are kind and I like him, though he does bark at you so.

MR. LAURENCE  
Thank you, ma'am. So you're not afraid of me, eh?

JO  
No, sir. Not much.

MR. LAURENCE  
But my face will frighten some people.

JO  
Oh, I\_c. I only said "might", sir.

MR. LAURENCE  
And I bark, do I?

JO  
Oh, no, sir. Perhaps not all the time.

MR. LAURENCE  
But with all that you like me, eh?

JO  
Oh, yes, sir. I do. I do. I do.

MR. LAURENCE  
And I like you.

JO  
Oh, sir.

LAURIE  
Grandfather, you should see her fence. Come on, let's show him.

JO  
Oh, no. I've been here too long now.

LAURIE  
Well, I'll see you home.

MR. LAURENCE  
Oh, no, no, no. You stay indoors, young man. I shall see Miss March home. I want to pay my respects to your mother and thank her for the medicine she sent my boy. I can see it's done him lots of good. You get upstairs and do your sums. Brooke is waiting for you, and see you behave yourself like a gentleman, sir.

LAURIE  
Good bye, Jo.

(00:37:25)\*\*

(Inside the March house)\*\*

(00:37:27)\*\*

HANNAH  
Here they come. Here they come. All dressed up and looking as pretty as pictures.

MRS. MARCH

Oh, Amy. How dainty! You look lovely.

BETH

Oh, Marmee, I wish Laurie hadn't asked me to his party. I know I shall be frightened.

MRS. MARCH

You wouldn't want to hurt his feelings when he's been so kind. Oh, Meg, the dress is lovely. Meg: Thank you, Marmee.

MRS. MARCH

Jo, you look splendid.

JO

Well, I feel perfectly miserable with 19 hairpins all sticking straight into my head. But, dear me. Let us be elegant or die.

MRS. MARCH

Does the patch show much?

MEG

It does a little, Marmee. But she's going to sit down or stand with her back against the wall. Jo, where are your gloves?

JO

Oh, well, I've stained them so I'm gonna go without.

MEG

You wear gloves, or I don't go.

HANNAH

I tried to clean them bit it only made them look worse.

JO

Oh, here. I'll carry them. I'll hold them crumpled up in one hand. Nobody'll see them.

MEG

Oh, Jo.

JO

Well I'll tell you. We'll each wear one of your nice ones and carry one of my bad ones. Then the effect will be fine and easy.

MEG

All right. Only be careful of it. And don't stretch it. And Jo dear, do behave nicely and don't put your hands behind your back. Good night, Marmee.

MARMEE

Have a nice time, dear.

AMY

And above everything, don't say "Christopher Columbus" and disgrace us all.

JO

Oh, hold you tongue, Miss Baby. I'll be as prim as I can be, and not get into any scrapes\_c if I can help it.

(00:38:53)\*\*

(Dancing)\*\*

(00:39:39)\*\*

MAN

May I engage you for this dance, Miss March?

JO

No, thank you. I'm not dancing.

AMY

There's that Kitty Ford.

BETH

Where?

AMY

There, with the pink dress and the blue sash. I don't see why she's allowed with the grow-ups and I have to stay up here.

BETH

Oh, that beautiful piano. It's as big as our kitchen.

MR. LAURENCE

Um\_c What's this? Why aren't you two young ladies downstairs dancing?

AMY

Mother said we weren't to go down with the grown-ups.

MR. LAURENCE

But can you see anything from here? How about you?

AMY

She just likes to listen to the music.

MR. LAURENCE

You just come down with me where it's playing.

BETH

Oh, no. No, sir. Please.

MR. LAURENCE

Why not? Well, my dear child, what's the matter?

AMY

She has an infirmity.

MR. LAURENCE

Mmm?

AMY  
She's shy.

MR. LAURENCE  
Oh, I see.

AMY  
If it weren't for that, she'd be simply fastidious because she plays beautifully.

MR. LAURENCE  
Oh, she must come and play for me sometime.

AMY  
No. She never would.

MR. LAURENCE  
Oh, it wasn't that I wanted to hear her, but that piano down there is simply going to ruin for want of use. I was hoping one you young ladies would come and practice on it. Just\_c. Just to keep it in tune, you know. Well, if you don't care to come, never mind.

BETH  
Oh, sir. We do care, very, very much.

MR. LAURENCE  
So. So you're the musical one.

BETH  
I'm Beth. I love it dearly and I'll come if you're quite sure no-one will hear me and be disturbed.

MR. LAURENCE  
Not a soul, my child. Not a soul. You come too, young lady. And tell your mother I think all her daughters are simply "fastidious".

AMY  
Beth, isn't he elegant?

(00:41:47)\*\*

LAURIE  
This is the German, and I'll be hanged if I let you refuse me all of them.

JO  
Oh, no. No.

LAURIE  
Don't you like to dance?

JO  
Oh, yes. I love to dance, but I can't. I\_c I mean, I promised I wouldn't.

LAURIE  
Why?

JO  
Oh, well, I may as well tell you. You won't tell?

LAURIE  
Silence to the death.

JO  
Well, you see, I have a bad trick of standing in front of the fire and I scorch my frocks, and I burned this one.

LAURIE  
Where?

JO  
Oh, you can laugh if you want to. It is funny.

LAURIE  
Look! I'll tell you how we can manage. There's no one in the hall. We can dance out there without being seen.

JO  
You're a Champ.

LAURIE  
This is regularly splendid. Oh. Thank you.

(Dancing)\*\*

(00:42:55)\*\*

JO  
Oh, hello.

LAURIE  
What are you two doing up there? Come on down.

AMY  
No.

LAURIE  
Well, have you had refreshments?

BETH  
No, thank you. We really don't care for \_c. Ouh!

LAURIE  
We'll bring some right up. Come on.

(In the garden)\*\*

MEG  
And then when Laurie goes to college, what becomes of you?

MR. BROOKE:

I shall turn soldier as soon as he is off. I'm needed.

MEG

Oh. Oh, I'm so sorry. I mean, I'm so sorry for all the mothers and sisters who have to stay home and worry.

MR. BROOKE:

I have neither. And very few friends to care whether I live or die.

MEG

Laurie and his grandfather would care a great deal. And we\_c we all would be very sorry if any harm came to you.

MR. BROOKE:

Would you?

(By the stairs)\*\*

JO

Here we go!

(Chatter)\*\*

LAURIE

Oh, Jo. Jo.

AMY

Now you've done it!

(Exclamations)\*\*

JO

Meg's gloves! Oh, look at me!

LAURIE

What\_cIt's a shame.

JO

What a blunder bus I am!

AMY

What are you going to do?(In the garden)

MEG

I'll ask Marmee.

LAURIE

Oh? Have you two been hiding. I've been looking all over the house for you. Hannah's here.

MEG

Oh? Is it that late?

LAURIE

Well, time slips away, you know?

MEG

Good night, Mr. Brooke.

MR. BROOKE:

Good night, Miss Margaret. (Picking up a glove.) Miss Margaret!

(In the foyer)\*\*

(00:44:46)\*\*

BETH

Good night.

LAURIE

Good night, Beth. I'm glad you came.

AMY

We had an elegant time.

LAURIE

Good night, Amy. Good night, Jo.

MEG

Good night, Laurie.

LAURIE

Good night, Miss Margaret.

MEG

Laurie \_c..

LAURIE

Good night, everybody. Jo: Don't forget to bring your ice-skates tomorrow.

LAURIE

I won't. Good night.

Everybody

Good night.

(Jo writing)\*\*

(00:45:16)\*\*

JO

There. I've done my best. If that won't do, I shall have to wait until I can do better. (Jo climbs down the outside of the house.) Why? What are you up to?

BETH

It's a pair of slippers I worked for Mr. Laurence. He's been so kind about letting me play on his beautiful piano. I didn't know any other way to thank him, Jo. Do you think they're alright?

JO

They are beautiful, and I think you are sweet. Hey, isn't that Amy's hair ribbon?

BETH

Yes. Yes, but I think she was going to throw it away.

JO

You think! You better vamoos before she catches you.

(In front of Newspaper Office)\*\*

(00:46:55)\*\*

LAURIE

Now I'll find out why you come down to this hole every day. Just have to tell me why you never have time for me any more.

JO

Laurie Laurence. Give that back to me, or I'll never speak to you again.

LAURIE

Alright. Hm! Take it. You're a fine one! I thought we weren't to have any secrets from each other.

JO

Well, this is all together different.

LAURIE

Ye\_c Oh!

JO

I beg your pardon.

LAURIE

Sorry.

LAURIE

Of course it's different. Just like a girl! Can't keep an agreement.

JO

Oh, bilge.

LAURIE

You'll be sorry. I was gonna tell you something very plummy. A secret. All about people you know, and such fun.

JO

Oh, what?

LAURIE

If I tell you, you must tell me yours.

JO

You won't tell anything at home, will you?

LAURIE  
Not a word.

JO  
And you won't tease me about it in private?

LAURIE  
I'll never tease. Fire away.

JO  
I sold my story to the Spread Eagle.

LAURIE  
Hurrah for Miss March! Hurrah for Miss March! The celebrated American authoress.

JO  
I didn't want anyone to know until it's out.

LAURIE  
Wouldn't it be fun to see it in print?

JO  
Now, what's yours?

LAURIE  
I know where Meg's glove is.

JO  
Oh, is that all?

LAURIE  
Wait till you hear where it is.

JO  
Where? How do you know?

LAURIE  
I saw it.

JO  
Where?

LAURIE  
Pocket!

JO  
All this time?

LAURIE  
Isn't it romantic?

JO  
Romantic? Rubbish! I never heard of anything so horrid. I wish you hadn't told me. Of all the sickly, sentimental\_c Oh why do things always have to change just when they're perfect. Meg always used to tell me everything, and now she keeps everything

to herself, and thinks brown eyes are beautiful. John is a lovely name. He better keep away from me or I'll tell him what I think of him. Trying to break up other people's happiness and spoil all their fun!

LAURIE

It doesn't spoil any fun! Makes it twice as good! You'll find out when someone falls in love with you. Soft summer day. Sun setting through the trees. Your lover's arms steeling around you.

JO

I'd like to see anybody try it.

LAURIE

Would you? Oh!\_c.. I'll get you\_c... (Laurie chases Jo) Now I've got you\_c.. Wait\_c..

(Everyone chatters)\*\*

JO

You should have seen\_c.

MR. BROOKE:

It's been a most enjoyable afternoon, Miss Margaret.

MEG

Thank you. Paying visits has never been quite so much fun before.

MR. BROOKE

I hope we may do it again, very soon.

JO

Good-bye, Mr. Brooke. Come along, Meg.

MEG

Good afternoon, Mr. Brooke.

MR. BROOKE:

Good-bye, Miss Margaret.

MEG

Good afternoon.

LAURIE

Margaret. Good-bye, Jo.

MR. BROOKE:

Coming Laurie?

LAURIE

Right. See you tomorrow, Jo.

MEG

I've never been so embarrassed in my life. When will you stop your childish romping ways.

JO

Not until I'm old and stiff and have to use a crutch.

(00:50:44)\*\*

(Jo wipes the tears from her face as Beth approaches)\*\*

BETH

Jo.

JO

Hello Bethy.

BETH

Hello, Jo.

JO

How's my girl? (Chattering)

GIRLS

It's a surprise. (Chattering)

JO

What is it? Christopher Columbus!

BETH

For\_c For me?

AMY

Look. This came with it. Quick. Read it. See what it says.

JO

I'll read it. "Miss Elizabeth March. Dear Madam."

AMY

Isn't that elegant.

JO

"I've had many pairs of slippers in my life, but none has suited as well as yours. I like to pay my debts, so I know you will allow me to send you something that belonged to the little granddaughter I lost. With hearty thanks and best wishes. I remain your grateful friend and humble servant, James Laurence." Oh, Beth! Isn't he a really sweet old man? (Chatter) Look. It opens. It opens.

AMY

You'll have to thank him.

BETH

Yes. I'll go right now.

HANNAH

Well, I wish I may die. She'd never gone in her right mind.

(Laurence House)\*\*

(00:52:33)\*\*

MR. LAURENCE  
Come in.

BETH  
I\_c I came to thank you, sir.

(Joe reads her story while Amy does a drawing of the scene)\*\*

(00:53:26)\*\*

HANNAH  
Miss March. Miss March. It's one of them telegraph things, ma'am.

MRS. MARCH  
It's father.

AMY  
Mother.

MRS. MARCH  
He's in the hospital. I must go to Washington at once.

(Packing) \*\*

MRS. MARCH  
Put those in the corner, dear.

BETH  
Alright, Marmee.

MRS. MARCH  
What on earth is keeping Joe?

MEG  
This is all packed, Marmee. I don't believe I've forgotten a thing.

MRS. MARCH  
Thank you, dear. Now, girls, while I'm away, don't forget the Hummels.

GIRLS  
We won't. We'll do our best, Marmee.

MR. LAURENCE  
Here we are. We're here to take some port to your husband.

MRS. MARCH  
Oh. Thank you. How generous!

MR. LAURENCE  
And I hope he finds this dressing gown useful.

MRS. MARCH  
Thank you.

MR. LAURENCE

Well, everything's arranged, and Brooke will go with you.

MRS. MARCH

There's no need. I'll be allr\_c.

MR. LAURENCE

Oh, he's all prepared. He has commissions for me in Washington. He'll be of help to you on the journey.

MRS. MARCH

How thoughtful of you!

MEG

It's such a relief to know that Marmee will have someone to take care of her. Thank you very, very much.

MR. BROOKE:

Not at all, Miss Margaret.

MRS. MARCH

My kind friend. I can't thank you.

MR. LAURENCE

Laurie's outside with the carriage. We'll wait for you. The train leaves in about an hour.

HANNAH

Here, ma'am. You'll need this.

MRS. MARCH

Oh, I couldn't.

AMY

Oh, Marmee. It'll quiet your nerves.

MRS. MARCH

Where is Jo? Jo! What kept you?

AMY

What ever took you so long?

JO

Here's the money from Aunt March. And\_c um\_c there's my contribution.

MRS. MARCH

\$25. Where did you get it? My dear?

JO

Oh, it's mine, honestly. I only sold what belonged to me.

MRS. MARCH

Your hair! Jo, you shouldn't have!

JO

Oh well, Aunt March croaked as she always does when asked for

ninepence. And Marmee, she only sent you just money enough for the ticket. And I knew you'd need more, and so, well I\_c happened to be going past a barber shop, and I saw some tails on hair hanging in the window with the prices marked on them, so I thought it'd do my brain good to have my mop cut off. And so I did.

MRS. MARCH  
Thank you, deary.

(00:55:53)\*\*

LAURIE  
Are you ready, Marmee? We'll just have to hurry to catch\_c.. Christopher Columbus!

JO  
Well. It's boyish, becoming, and easy to keep in order. Marmee, you'll miss your train.

AMY  
Yes, darling.

MRS. MARCH  
Now, girls. Go on with your work as usual.

GIRLS  
We will, Marmee.

MRS. MARCH  
Do everything that Hannah tells you.

BETH  
Oh, can't we go to the train with you, Marmee?

MRS. MARCH  
No. No. I want you all to stay here and comfort each other. Meg, dear, watch over your sisters. Be patient, Jo. Beth, dear, help all you can. Amy, be obedient. No, no. I want you to stay here. I want to carry away a picture in my mind of my brave little women to take to Father. Good bye, my darlings.

GIRLS  
Good-bye, Marmee.

MRS. MARCH  
God bless us and keep us all.

(Girls wave)\*\*

(Lying in bed)\*\*

(00:57:28)\*\*

MEG  
Jo, are you awake. Jo, you're crying.

JO  
No, I'm not.

MEG  
Don't cry, dear. Father'll be alright, and Mr. Brooke will take care of Marmee.

JO  
I'm not crying because of that.

MEG  
What is it then?

JO  
My hair.

(Jo reads her story) \*\*

JO  
\_c. "The End"

(00:58:18) \*\*

AMY  
Oh, it gives me the shivers. I'm pins and needles all over.

MEG  
It's so exciting and so sad. Who wrote it?

LAURIE  
Your sister.

GIRLS  
Really? Jo? Oh, no! You did? Let me see.

LAURIE  
And I knew it all the time.

MEG  
Isn't that wonderful.

AMY  
Here it is. "By Miss Josephine March." Oh, Jo! I can't believe it. Beth! Beth! Jo wrote a story. It's in the papers. Isn't that marvelous. Look.

BETH  
Don't come near me.

AMY  
Meg. Jo. Something's wrong with Beth.

MEG  
What is it?

AMY  
I don't know.

MEG

Where is she?

AMY

In Marmee's cupboard.

LAURIE

What's wrong? Why'd she go in there?

JO

Darling, what is it? Bethy, what is it?

MEG

What's wrong, Bethy?

JO

What is it?

BETH

Oh, Jo. The baby's dead.

JO

What baby?

BETH

Mrs. Hummel's. It died in my lap before she \_c. before she got back with the doctor. Jo!

JO

Oh my poor Beth.

BETH

The doctor said it was \_c.. it was scarlet fever.

MEG

Scarlet Fever?

AMY

Hannah! Hannah!

BETH

You don't think I'll get it, do you, Jo?

JO

Oh, no, Bethy. Of course you won't.

BETH

But\_c. But Amy must keep away, cause\_c\_c cause she's never had it. How does it start, Jo? With a sort of a\_c a headache? and sore throat? and \_c and queer feelings all over?

JO

I don't remember. Laurie, give me that doctor's book, will you?

MEG

Jo, I think we'd better get her to bed. Come along, Bethy.

JO  
I'll find out what to do.

BETH  
I'll be alright, Meg.

MEG  
Come on Bethy.

LAURIE  
Of course you'll be alright.

JO  
Oh, here it is.

HANNAH  
For land's sakes! Go get Doctor Bangs, will you, Mr. Laurence?

LAURIE  
Alright.

HANNAH  
Have him come over as soon as he can.

LAURIE  
Yes.

HANNAH  
You stay down here Amy. You're to go over to Aunt Mrch's for a spell, just in case.

AMY  
No, I won't. I won't. I'm going to stay right here with Beth.

JO  
Oh, be quiet for once, Amy.

AMY  
I'm not going to be sent away as though I were in the way.

LAURIE  
Well, I advise you to go. Scarlet Fever's no joke, miss.

AMY  
Well, I don't care.

LAURIE  
Oh.

AMY  
I'd rather get Scarlet Fever and die, than go to Aunt March's.

LAURIE  
Now, Amy. Be a good girl. I'll pop around every day and tell you how Beth is. And I'll tell you what! Every day I'll come and take you out driving. Mm?

AMY  
Well \_c.. Yes.

LAURIE  
That's our girl!

JO  
Oh, Bethy. If you should really be ill, I'll never forgive myself. I let you go to the Hummels every day when I should have gone.

MEG  
No, it's my fault. I'm the oldest, and I should have gone. I promised Marmee I'd look after you. Don't you think we ought to telegraph her.

HANNAH  
No. We mustn't. The poor lady can't leave you father. And it would only make her all the more anxious.

BETH  
Oh, please don't telegraph, Jo. Hannah knows just what to do. I \_c. I feel better already.

(Doctor by Beth's side) \*\*

(01:01:48) \*\*

DR. BANGS  
If Mrs. March can leave her husband, we'd better send for her.

HANNAH  
The girls had the telegram all ready, but I wouldn't let them send it, and now the poor lady \_c.

JO  
Oh, Mother! Mother! What if she shouldn't get here in time?

(Jo runs up to the attic) \*\*

(01:03:00) \*\*

LAURIE  
Oh, Jo, is it that bad?

JO  
She doesn't know me. She doesn't look like my Beth. How am I gonna bear it? Marmee and Father being so far away.

LAURIE  
I'm here. Hold on to me. Jo, dearest. Oh, poor Jo. You're all worn out. What does the doctor say?

JO  
We're sending for Marmee. If she were only here.

LAURIE

She will be. Grandfather and I got fidgety and thought your mother ought to know. She'd just never forgive us if Beth \_c well, if anything happened, so I telegraphed yesterday.

JO

You?

LAURIE

She'll be here on the two o'clock train tonight, and I'm going to meet her.

JO

Oh, Laurie. Oh, Mother. Oh. Oh, I beg your pardon, but you're such a dear. I couldn't help flying at you.

LAURIE

Fly at me again. I rather like it.

JO

Laurie, you're so silly.

LAURIE

I better go. Well. To the railroad station! And \_c And I shan't spare the horses.

JO

Oh, bless you, Laurie. Bless you.

(Jo kneels to pray) \*\*

JO

If you really want Bethy, please wait until Marmee comes home. But, oh God, please don't \_c because she's so \_c well, please don't \_c

(Jo paces the room) \*\*

(01:06:06) \*\*

MEG

If God spares Bethy, I'll love him, and serve him all my life.

JO

If life is as hard as this, I don't see how we ever should get through it.

MEG

Hannah! Hannah!

HANNAH

What is it? What is it?

JO

Good-bye, my Bethy. Good-bye.

DR. BANGS

The fever's turned. She's sleeping naturally.

HANNAH

Lord be praised.

JO

Marmee's here. She's come.

(Downstairs) \*\*

(01:07:56) \*\*

AMY

Isn't it wonderful to have Bethy downstairs at last. Come on. Everything's all ready. Be careful.

(Jubilant chatter) \*\*

JO

And see the lovely flowers that Mr. Laurence sent you.

BETH

Oh. And my bird\_c I've never been so happy.

LAURIE

Begging you pardon. Do the Marches live here?

GIRLS

Hello.

LAURIE

Wait'll she sees what I brought for her.

GIRLS

Oh, Father.

(Jubilant chatter) \*\*

MEG

Bethy.

HANNAH

Land sakes! She's walking.

MRS. MARCH

Oh, my dear.

MR. MARCH

My Bethy.

BETH

Father.

MRS. MARCH

Oh, my darling.

AMY

She hasn't walked since she was sick. She ? downstairs.

(Meg humming a tune) \*\*

(01:09:50) \*\*

JO

Are you expecting someone?

MEG

Why\_c Why, no. What do you mean?

JO

Meg. Meg. Why can't we stay as we are? Do you have to go and fall in love, and spoil all our peace, and fun and happy times together. You're not like your old self a bit. And you\_c. you're getting so far away from me, I \_c Oh, Meg. Don't. Don't go and marry that man.

MEG

I don't intend to go and marry any man. And if you mean Mr. Brooke, he hasn't asked me. But if he should, I shall merely say, quite calmly and decidedly, "I'm sorry, but I agree with Mother that it's too soon."

JO

Oh, Meg. Hoorah for you.

MEG

Jo. My hair.

JO

And then things'll be as they used to be. And now that Father's home, well \_c

(Door bell rings) \*\*

(01:11:02) \*\*

JO

I'll go. I'll get out of the way. Now don't forget. Oh! If I could only see his face when you tell him.

(01:11:17) \*\*

MEG

Why, Mr. Brooke.

MR. BROOKE:

Good day, Miss Margaret.

MEG

Won't you come in?

MR. BROOKE:

I \_c I came to get my umbrella. .. er\_c. that is \_c.. that is, to see how your father finds himself today.

MEG

Why\_c he's here in the rack. I mean, it's very well. I mean \_c..  
I'll tell him you're here.

MR. BROOKE:

Oh, please. Are you afraid of me, Margaret?

MEG

Why \_c. How could I be, when you've been so kind to father. I  
only wish I could thank you for it.

MR. BROOKE:

You can. Shall I tell you how?

MEG

Oh, no. Oh, please don't.

MR. BROOKE:

I only want to know if you care for me a little, Meg. I love you  
so much, dear.

MEG

Oh, thank you, John. But \_c. I agree with Mother. It's \_c. It's  
too soon.

MR. BROOKE:

I'll wait. I don't mind how long or how hard I have to work, if I  
can only know I'm to have my reward in the end. Please. Give me a  
little hope.

MEG

I'm afraid I can't.

MR. BROOKE:

Do you really mean that?

(01:12:30) \*\*

AUNT MARCH

Huh? What's this? Footsy, wootsy. Get along. Get along. Shi! Shi!  
What's going on here? Who's that?

MEG

Mr. Brooke.

AUNT MARCH

The Laurence's boy's tutor. Then it's true.

MEG

Shh. Please, Aunt March. He might hear you. And he's been very  
kind to father.

AUNT MARCH

Oh? He has? Well, he'd be much kinder if he'd go about his own  
business and leaves you alone.

MEG  
Shh.

AUNT MARCH

I won't stop! I'm only thinking of your own good, Margaret. You should take a rich man so you can help you family. This person has no money, no position in life.

MEG

Oh. But that doesn't mean he never will have

AUNT MARCH

Oh? So he's counting on my money? He knows you've got rich relatives!

MEG

Aunt March! How dare you say such a thing! My John wouldn't marry for money any more that I would. I'm not afraid of being poor. And I know we shall be happy, because John loves me, and\_c and I love him.

(01:13:17) \*\*

AUNT MARCH

Hoity, toity! You remember this, young lady. If you marry this rook, a hawk, a crook, you take care of you. Not one penny of my money will he get.

MR. BROOKE:

My darling! Did you mean it?

MEG

John?

\*\*

MR. BROOKE:

I came back for my umbrella, and I couldn't help hearing. Then you will give me leave to work for you, and love you.

MEG

Yes, John.

(Wedding ceremony) \*\*

(01:14:03) \*\*

MINISTER

And there to have given and pledged their troth each to the other. And have declared the same by giving and receiving a ring, and by joining hands. I pronounce that they are Man and Wife. In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. God, the Father. God, the Son. God, the Holy Ghost. Bless, preserve, and keep you. That ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come, ye may have life everlasting. Amen.

MEG

The first kiss for Marmee.

AUNT MARCH

Well, John. You've got a treasure. I hope you you'll take good care of her.

LAURIE

Good-bye, Amy. Bethy, good-bye. Oh. Don't mind, Jo. You've still go me. Oh. I'm not good for much, I know. But, I'll stand by you, all the days of my life.1:16:16

JO

I know you will. You don't know what a comfort you are to me, Laurie.

LAURIE

Jo.

JO

Oh, no. Laurie. Don't say anything.

LAURIE

I will. And you must hear me. It's no use, Jo. You've kept away from me, ever since I got back from College. And I studied so hard. And I got graduated with Honors. It was all for you.

JO

I know. And I'm so proud of you.

LAURIE

Then won't you listen. Please. Oh. I've loved you ever since I've known you. I couldn't help it. I tried to show it, but you wouldn't let me. But now I'm going to make you hear and give me an answer for I just can't go on so any longer. I know I'm not half good enough for you. But, if you love me, you could make me anything you like.

JO

As though I'd change you, Laurie. Darling, you should marry \_c. You should marry some lovely accomplished girl who adores you. Someone who would grace your beautiful house. I shouldn't. I loathe elegant society, and you like it. And you hate my scribbling, and I can't get on without it. And we should quarrel.

LAURIE

Oh, no, we shouldn't.

JO

Oh, yes. We always have. And everything would be so horrid if we were ever foolish enough to \_c.

LAURIE

Marry? Oh, no. It wouldn't be, Jo. It'd be heaven. Oh, don't disappoint us, dear. Don't. Everyone expects it. Grandfather's set his heart on it, and I just can't go on without you. Please, say you will.

(01:18:02) \*\*

JO

I can't. Oh, Laurie. I'm sorry. So desperately sorry. I'm so grateful to you, and so proud, and fond of you. I don't know why I can't love you the way you want me to. I've tried. But I can't change the feeling. And it'll be a lie to say I do if I don't.

LAURIE

Really truly, Jo?

JO

Really truly, dear. I don't think I'll ever marry.

LAURIE

Oh, yes. You will. Yes, you will. You'll meet some good-for-nothing, no-account idiot, and you'll fall in love with him, and work and live and die for him. I know you will. It's your way. And I'll have to stand by and see it. Well, I'll be hanged if I do!

JO

Laurie, where are you going?

LAURIE

To the devil, and I hope you'll be sorry.

JO

Laurie, please \_c.

(Jo at window sill) \*\*

(01:19:42) \*\*

MRS. MARCH

Jo, why aren't you in bed? It's late.

JO

Mother. Mother, I \_c I want to go away. I mean, just for a little while. I don't know. I \_c I feel restless, and anxious to be doing something. I'd like to hop a little way, and try my wings.

MRS. MARCH

Where would you hop?

JO

To New York. Oh, I've thought about it a lot lately. You can spare me now, and I can go to Mrs. Kirke's and help her with the children for part of my board. It wouldn't cost much and I'd \_c. I'd see and hear new things and get \_c. get a lot of new ideas for my stories.

MRS. MARCH

I don't doubt it. Jo, nothing's happened between you and Laurie? Don't be surprised, dear. Mother's have to have sharp eyes, especially when their daughters keep their troubles to

themselves.

JO

Oh, Marmee. I would have told you. Only I thought it would blow over. And \_c it seemed kind of wrong to tell Laurie's poor little secret. Oh. It's only that he's got a foolish romantic notion in his head, and I think \_c. I think that if I go away for a time, he may get over it.

MRS. MARCH

I see. And how do you feel about this foolish romantic notion?

JO

I love him dearly, as I always have. And I feel as though I've \_c as though I've stabbed my dearest friend. And yet, I \_c I don't want to make a mistake.

MRS. MARCH

You're right, Jo. I think it would be a good idea for both your sakes. Now come to bed dear. I'll talk to father about it. If he agrees, we'll write to Mrs. Kirke. Good night.

JO

Good night, Marmee.

(01:21:52) \*\*

(in New York) \*\*

(01:21:58) \*\*

MRS. KIRKE

Now, my dear, I think I've told you everything. And it shall be a great load off my mind knowing the children are safe with you. I'm very busy, so I'll have Mamie show you to your room. Mamie! I've given you a little inside room. It's all I have. But it has a table, and you can use it for your writing.

JO

That's good.

MRS. KIRKE

Mamie! You must come down here some after dinner and be sociable. I promised your mother I wouldn't let you get homesick. And I've only the most refined people in my house. Mamie!

MAMIE

Here I am, Mrs. Kirke.

MRS. KIRKE

Oh, Mamie. This is Miss Josephine. Will you take her up to her room and find the children.

MAMIE

Yes. Ma'am.

MRS. KIRKE

I'll see you later, my dear.

MAMIE

Ah, right this way, please. Children, children. They ain't a bad lot, but all my stars, they take a deal o' handling. Minnie. Kitty. You heard me. Come on out. I know where you are.

(01:23:08) \*\*

CHILDREN

(Scream)

TINA

He's gonna get me. He's gonna get me. Eat Mamie, don't eat my baby.

(01:23:25) \*\*

MAMIE

Professor. Professor.

PROFESSOR

Oh. Oh, I beg your pardon, please. I'm so sorry.

MAMIE

This is Miss. Josephine. What's got you in charge now. And this is Professor Bhaer.

PROFESSOR

How do you do?

JO

How do you do?

TINA

I want to play some more.

PROFESSOR

Oh, that is for Miss Josephine to say. But I'm afraid we frightened her already.

JO

Oh, no. But I didn't expect to meet a grizzly bear in the upper hall.

PROFESSOR

Ha, ha, ha, yes. Oh, no, no, Mamie, wait, wait. The back is too young to carry such a heavy load. Come on, children, let's play soldiers. Tina, you're the general. You are the captain, and here lieutenant. Forward, march. So we sing the chorus, from Atlanta to the sea, while we are marching to the linen closet.

MAMIE

Oh, he's such a lovely man. I know he must have been a gentleman sometime or other. But he's as poor as a church mouse now.

JO

What does he do?

MAMIE

Oh, he's\_che's a professor, see. You know, learns 'em how they talk in foreign countries. I don't know what good it does 'em when they're livin' right here.

(01:23:25) \*\*

(01:23:25) 1:26:24 \*\*

PROFESSOR

Oh, oh, good evening, my little friend. Good evening.

JO

Please don't stop. It was beautiful. I've heard you play it often and wanted to ask you what it was. I'd so like to send it to my little sister.

PROFESSOR

"Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt." The words are by Goethe. Do you speak German? Oh, well, then I better give it to you in English. Let me see now. Ah, "Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt" Yah, yah, yah. "Only who knows what longing is can know what I suffer."  
""weiYA\_Awas ich leide"@ "Alone and parted far from joy and gladness. My senses fail. Burning fire devours me".

JO

My senses fail. A burning fire devours me. I know how he felt.

PROFESSOR

Tchaikovsky did also. That's why he wrote this beautiful heart-breaking music.

JO

Oh, if only I could write something like that. Something splendid that would set other hearts on fire.

PROFESSOR

That is genius. Ah, you wish to write, my little friend?

JO

Yes, that's my longing. I've sold two stories already since I've been here.

PROFESSOR

Oh, that's very good. I like to read them. May I?

JO

Oh, would you? I'd so like to know your opinion.

PROFESSOR

Oh, I would be very happy. You have that ardent spirit, right? I like that.

JO

Oh, what shall I ask for at the music shop?

PROFESSOR  
"Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt".

JO  
"Nur wer die\_c"

PROFESSOR  
"Sehnsucht"

JO  
"Sehnsucht"

PROFESSOR  
Haha. I think I better write it down for you. Oh, no. Here is a teacher without pencil?

JO  
Oh, let me sew that button for you, before you lose it.

PROFESSOR  
Oh, no. I sew on buttons. I, I \_c

JO  
Not very well, evidently.

PROFESSOR  
Well,

(in the nursery) \*\*

(01:29:24) \*\*

JO  
Who was Goldilocks? A little girl?

TINA  
Yes.

JO  
And she\_c

TINA  
And she\_c

JO  
\_cwent into their house.

TINA  
\_cwent into their, into their house.

JO  
\_cand saw three chairs.

TINA  
\_cand saw three chairs.

JO  
\_cthree chairs.

TINA  
\_cthree chairs. One was a baby one. One was the Daddy one. And one was the Mommy one.

JO  
Uh huh. So she sat down in the big one.

TINA  
And it was too hard and she\_c

MAMIE  
Miss Josephine, you're to go down to the parlor right away. Someone to see you.

JO  
Who is it?

MAMIE  
I can't tell you. It's a surprise.

JO  
All right, children, that'll be all for today. Now run along and wash your hands and faces for tea.

TINA  
I'll tell you the story tomorrow.

JO  
All right. Who is it, Mamie?

MAMIE  
I can't tell you. It's a surprise. Is these some of your new stories? Oh, they look creepier than Duke Storber. Can I read them?

JO  
Yes, if you want to.

MAMIE  
"The Priest of the Coventries" or "the Secret of a Guilty Heart" by Josephine March.

(Down in the parlor) \*\*

(01:30:43) \*\*

JO  
Then it's true. Amy.

AMY  
Darling.

JO  
Oh, ma\_c

AUNT MARCH  
Now, Josephine.

JO  
Oh, I'm so glad to see you.

AUNT MARCH  
Sit down here.

JO  
Tell me everything.

AUNT MARCH  
We can't stop now. We've got to get to the shipping office 'fore it closes.

JO  
Shipping office, Aunt March? Europe?

AUNT MARCH  
Taking Amy with me. Well, maybe you can go next time.

JO  
Next time? Well, tell me, um, is Meg all right and, and Mummy and father? And how's my Beth?

AMY  
She's better again but she isn't rosy as she used to be.

JO  
Oh, my poor Beth. Why doesn't she get strong? And, and Laurie?

AMY  
Why didn't you see them when they were here? He and his grandfather have been in Europe for weeks.

JO  
Laurie in New York? And didn't come to see me?

AUNT MARCH  
I'm sure you can't blame him. After the way you picked up and trotted off without so much as saying good bye to any of us. I think you've treated everybody shamefully. Come along, Amy.

AMY  
Oh, Jo, dear. I, I wish it were you. I know how you've always longed to go.

JO  
Oh, no, darling. It's your award. You've always done sweet things to please Aunt March, and think of all the wonderful things you're going to see. The 'Turner's, and 'LaFiero's, and 'Leonardo's.

AUNT MARCH  
Amy, you seem to forget waiting cabs cost money. That's the

trouble with folks who never had anything. Easy come, easy go. Be right back, Josephine.

JO  
Good bye, darling.

(01:33:04) \*\*

PROFESSOR  
Miss Josephine, Miss Josephine.

JO  
Yes, Professor Bhaer.

PROFESSOR  
I have read your stories, and I would like to return them to you. Will you please come in?

JO  
Ah, yes. Thank you. Did you like them?

PROFESSOR  
Well, Miss March, I must be honest. I was disappointed. Why do you write such artificial characters, such, such artificial plots, villains, murderers, and, and, and such women? Why don't you write a\_c?

JO  
(cries)

PROFESSOR  
What? Oh, Miss March, please. I'm so sorry now. Oh, I didn't want to hurt you. I, I wanted to help you. What a blundering fool I\_c

JO  
No, it isn't that. Oh, please don't pay any attention to me, please.

PROFESSOR  
Oh. Forgive me. Now. Please come, sit down. What?. Forgive me.

JO  
Oh, no, no. It is just that everything seems to come at once. Oh, the rest doesn't matter so much. I can bear that. But Laurie, I can never get over Laurie.

PROFESSOR  
Oh, herr Laurie. Your friend? Something has happened to him?

JO  
Yes.

PROFESSOR  
Oh.

JO  
Oh, no, no, no. Something's happened to me. He came to New York

and he didn't even come to see me.

PROFESSOR

What a fool he must be!

JO

Oh, no. No, it's my fault. But I thought that\_cOh, why does it matter what I thought? I made a mess of it as I do of everything. But I have tried. And when I think of Aunt March taking Amy to Europe, when she always promised she'd take me. Not that I begrudge Amy the trip, but\_c. Well, I suppose that's just what I'm just doing.

PROFESSOR

Oh, that trip to Europe. That's you so looked forward to. That is too bad. That is a cruel disappointment, I know. And on top of it, that stupid professor comes blundering and makes things worse.

JO

Oh, no, no. No, if I can't stand the truth, I'm worth anything. Oh, I didn't think those stories were so very good. But you see, well, the Duke's Daughter paid the butcher's bill and the Curse of the Coventries was the blessing of the Marches, because it sent Marmee and Beth to the seashore.

PROFESSOR

Yes, that's what I have thought. And then, I had said to myself. I, I maybe have no\_c no right to speak. But then again, I said to myself I maybe have no right to be silent. For Miss March, you have talent.

JO

No. Do you really think so?

PROFESSOR

Otherwise, I could not say it. And you know it. Und I say to you. Sweep mud on the street first before you are false to that talent. Say to yourself, "I will never write one single line which I have not heard in my own heart." Say to yourself, "While I am young, I will write these simple beautiful things that I understand now, and, and maybe later, when I'm a little bit older, and I have, have felt life more, then I will write about these poor wretches, but I will make them live and, and breathe like my Shakespeare did." Will you do that, my little friend?

JO

Oh, yes. I'll try, but I don't think I'll ever be a Shakespeare. Do you?

PROFESSOR

But you can be a Josephine March. And I assure you that is plenty.

JO

Ah.

PROFESSOR

Oh, and now don't be disappointed about that trip. No. Here.

JO

Oh, peppermint. Good.

PROFESSOR

Those of us who have been all over the old world can find many things here in the new that are beautiful and young if\_cMiss March, it would give me a great pleasure if I could show you some of these things while you are here if you would care to have so. And\_c

JO

Oh, thank you.

PROFESSOR

Well, then you are not angry with the blundering professor who takes the wrong times for his lectures.

JO

How could I be?

PROFESSOR

Auf Wiedersehen, my little friend.

(After the Opera) \*\*

(01:37:50) \*\*

PROFESSOR

Did you really like it?

JO

I've never had so much fun.

PROFESSOR

I'm so happy, my little friend.

JO

She was divine. I don't want to be a writer any more. I want to be a wonderful singer. And thrill thousands of people so that they cheer and throw flowers at me. Like that.

PROFESSOR

Oh, Bravo, bravo. But I wouldn't make up my mind so soon. Because at the art museum you wanted to be a sculptor, and at the circus you thought the bareback rider was the most beautiful thing in the world.

JO

I know but to sing like that. (sings) Oh, I forgot. Oh, there's something inside me tonight that makes me want to shout.

PROFESSOR

And what would you shout?

JO

I'd say, "Look at me, world. I'm Jo March, and I'm so happy." Oh.

PROFESSOR

My little friend so happy. Then you haven't missed much lately your home and your old friends?

JO

But you, you're responsible for that. Oh, but maybe they haven't missed me so much, either. They're so busy with Meg and those blessed babies.

PROFESSOR

Yes, yes. How are those remarkable twins.

JO

Wonderful. Meg is so proud of them. La, la, la\_c

PROFESSOR

Have you heard from Europe?

JO

Yes. Nearly every boat brings a letter from Amy. La, la, la\_c

PROFESSOR

And your friend? Her Laurie, have you heard from him?

JO

Only through Amy. They met at Vichy and had a wonderful time together.

PROFESSOR

Miss March, I am going to ask a favor of you. Could you give me the address of your father? I wish to write him and ask him something.

JO

Why, yes. He'd , he'd be so happy to hear from you. They almost know you. I've told them all about you and they always ask after you in their letters.

PROFESSOR

Oh, really?

JO

Yes. Now I'll show you.

PROFESSOR

This is so nice. Not, I hope.

JO

It's Beth. She's\_c Oh, I, I must go at once.

PROFESSOR

Oh, my friend, can I do something for you? I am, I am sure there is something I can do.

JO  
No, there's, there's nothing. Thank you.

(At home) \*\*

(01:41:11) \*\*

BETH  
Oh, Jo, to think you're home. If Amy were here, we'd all be together.

JO  
She'll be home in the spring, darling. And I'm going to have you all well and rosy by then.

BETH  
Oh, poor Jo. You mustn't be afraid. Doesn't that sound funny, me saying that to you, when you've always said it to me. Ah, you've always reminded me of a sea gull, Jo. Strong and wild, and fond of the wind and storm, dreaming of flying far out to sea. And Mother always said that I was like a little cricket, chirping contentedly on the hearth, never able to bear the thought of leaving home. But now, it's different. I, I can't express it very well. I shouldn't try to. Anyone but you. Because I, I can't speak out to anyone but my Jo. But I'm not afraid any more. I'm learning that I don't lose you. That you'll be more to me than ever. And nothing can part us. Though it seems to. Oh, Jo, I think I'll be homesick for you\_ceven in heaven.

(by Beth's bed) \*\*

BETH  
Little love.

(Everyone around Beth's bed.) \*\*

MEG  
I'm afraid they're tiring you.

BETH  
Oh, no.

MEG  
But it's time for my little regiment to take its nap.

BETH  
They're sweet. I think I can sleep now. Oh, look, Jo. My birds. They got back in time.

JO  
Bethy, Bethy. Mother!

MRS. MARCH  
Bethy.

MR. MARCH  
My daughter.

MRS. MARCH  
Bethy, Bethy.

JO  
No, no. Marmee. No. We mustn't cry. We must be glad she's well at last. No, Marmee, don't cry.

(In Europe) \*\*

(01:45:32) \*\*

AMY  
If only there were another boat leaving sooner.

AUNT MARCH  
Now, my dear, you've been so brave. You must be patient. We're going back on the very first boat. I still think you should obey your mother and stay.

AMY  
I know, but I'm sick for home, Aunt March. I hate all this now. If it weren't for this, I'd have been there at least to say good bye. Laurie, Laurie. Oh, I knew you'd come.

MR. LAURENCE  
My child.

AMY  
Mr. Laurence.

LAURIE  
Amy, we were in Germany dear, and Marmee's letter had to be forwarded, but I came the moment I got it, because, well, you must comfort me now, too.

AUNT MARCH  
I'm thankful you're here. I haven't known what to do with the child. Perhaps you can persuade her to stay.

(Jo ironing on the porch) \*\*

JO  
Ah, the elegant young matron.

MEG  
Hello, Jo, dear. I'm setting off in the little carriage and I'm going to make some calls.

JO  
And you want me to mind the little demons for you while you are gone?

MEG  
No. I want you go with me? Oh, do dear. It's a lovely day and I want to talk with you.

JO  
Well, talk to me now. You know I can't bare calls.

MEG  
How's your story coming?

JO  
Sent it off yesterday.

MEG  
Without us reading it?

JO  
Well, you can read it when they send it back.

MEG  
Oh, Jo, I had a letter from Amy.

JO  
So did Marmee.

MEG  
They're in Val Rosa now, she say it's at a paradise. Jo, I want to ask you something. I've been wondering. How would you feel if, if you should hear that your Laurie were learning to care for somebody else?

JO  
Meg, who? Amy?

MEG  
Of course I don't know. I, I can't be sure. I'm only reading between the lines. Then you wouldn't mind?

JO  
Oh, no, Meg. How could I? I think it would be wonderful. Don't you?

MEG  
Yes, but I wasn't quite sure. Oh, forgive me, dear. But, but I have so much and you, you seem so alone. I thought lately that maybe if Laurie came back.

JO  
Oh, no, no, dear. It's better as it is. And I'm glad if he and Amy are learning to love each other. Oh, you're right about one thing, though. I am lonely. And maybe if Laurie had come back, I might have said yes. Not because I love him any differently, but because\_cwell, because it means more to me now, to be loved, than it used to.

(Jo is asleep on the attic sofa) \*\*

(01:49:14) \*\*

JO  
Laurie, oh, my Laurie.

LAURIE

Oh, Jo, dear. Are you glad to see me?

JO

Glad? Oh, my blessed boy. Words can't express my gladness. And where's your wife?

LAURIE

Oh, they all stopped in at Meg's, but I couldn't wait to see you. They'll be along presently.

JO

Oh, let me look at you.

LAURIE

Oh, don't I look like a married man, and the head of a family? Huh?

JO

Not a bit. And you never will. Though you have grown bigger and bonnier.

LAURIE

Ah.

JO

But you're the same scape grace as ever. Despite that very elegant mustache, you can't fool me.

LAURIE

Oh, really, Jo. You ought to treat me with more respect. Really! Ah, Jo, dear, I want to say one thing and then put it back forever. Ah\_c

JO

Oh, no, darling, if you\_c I think it has always meant to be. You and Amy. And it would have come about naturally if only you'd waited.

LAURIE

As you tried to make me understand.

JO

But you never could be patient.

LAURIE

So then we can go back to the happy old times, the way you wanted, when we first knew one another.

JO

No. We, we never can be boy and girl again, Laurie. Those happy old times can't come back. And we shouldn't expect them to. We're man and woman now. We can't be playmates any longer. But we can be brother and sister to love and help one another all the rest of our lives. Can't we, Laurie? Oh, there they are.

(01:51:11) \*\*

MRS. MARCH

You look very well, Aunt March.

AUNT MARCH

After all the money I've spent on my Rheumatism, I come home on a day like this.

HANNAH

Heaven's to Betsy! If she ain't dressed in silk from head to foot.

AMY

Oh, where is she? Where is Jo? Jo.

JO

Amy.

LAURIE

Doesn't she look marvelous, Jo.

(Everyone exchanges greetings) \*\*

AMY

Poor Jo. I'll never forgive myself for staying away so long and leaving you to bare everything.

JO

Darling. To think that only yesterday we were pulling our hair and buttoning our pinafores. And now she is a grown-up married lady with a bustle.

AUNT MARCH

Spent all my money and didn't have anything decent to eat the whole time.

\*\*

MRS. MARCH

You must be famished. I'll help Hanna with tea.

JO

Oh, no, you won't, Marmee. You'll sit right here. I'll help Hanna.

(Jo preying to Beth) \*\*

JO

It's fun, isn't it, Bethy? Now that we're all together again.

HANNA

Oh, dear. Oh, dear. I've got to get some milk. I got nothing for the baby.

JO

I'll go.

HANNA

But it's raining cats and dogs.

JO

I love it.

HANNA

Oh, sakes alive. There's the front door bell.

(At the front door) \*\*

PROFESSOR

How do you do? Is this the residence of Miss March?

HANNA

Oh, yes.

PROFESSOR

Miss Josephine March?

HANNA

Yes, yes.

PROFESSOR

May I speak with her?

HANNA

Well, she's out. But I'm expecting her back any minute. Would you come in?

PROFESSOR

Thank you, thank you. Oh, no, no, no, thank you. She has guests. No. Thank you very much. But uh, will you please give this to her and tell that Professor Bhaer left it. Thank you. Professor Bhaer. Thank you very much. Good bye.

HANNA

Good bye.1:53:35

JO

Oh, Herr Professor.

PROFESSOR

My little friend. I\_c I was just here to leave you a book. I wanted to tell you my friend published it, and, and he has great hope. He thinks it\_c

JO

Oh, never mind what he thinks. Did you like it?

PROFESSOR

Oh, my little friend, it has such truth, such simple beauty. It\_c In English quick, I cannot tell you what it gives my heart.

JO

But you were going without telling me. If I hadn't come back, I

never would have seen you again. Oh, but come. You're getting wet.

PROFESSOR

I couldn't intrude. You have guests.

JO

Oh, no, only my family. My sister's just come home. She's married, you know, with that boy I told you about.

PROFESSOR

Herr Laurie?

JO

Yes.

PROFESSOR

Oh.

JO

It's the first time they've been together for a long time.

PROFESSOR

Oh, please, please. Just, just one moment, before\_c I have a wish to ask you something. Would you\_c oh\_c I\_c I\_c I have no courage to think that\_c but\_c but\_c but\_c could I dare hope that\_c I\_c I\_c I know I shouldn't make so free as to ask. I have nothing to give but my heart so full and\_c and these empty hands.

JO

They're not empty now.

PROFESSOR

Oh, dearest.

JO

Welcome home.

(01:55:55.) \*\*

The End