

**THE IMPACT OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL CLASS
IN LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S NOVEL
*LITTLE WOMEN***

A THESIS

BY

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM
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The writer

Dinda Dwi Utami

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APPENDIX

THE AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY AND LITERARY WORKS

.Louisa May Alcott was born on November 29, 1832 in Germantown, Pennsylvania. Louisa was born as the second daughter of husband and wife Abigail and Amos Bronson Alcott. Louisa was born as a descendant of royalty who got from her large family, but even so, poverty always haunted her family throughout Louisa's childhood. Abigail, or Abba as Louisa called her, was descended from the Quincy, Sewell, and "Fighting May" families, all of America's leading families since the American Revolution. However, most of the family's previous wealth was reduced by Abigail's father, so although some of their relatives were wealthy, the Alcotts themselves were relatively poor.

Louisa May Alcott was an American poet and novelist highly regarded for her timeless classic *Little Women*. Louisa spent most of her life in Boston and Concord, Massachusetts, where she was raised in the company of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker, and Henry David Thoreau. Louisa was a free-spirited girl in her childhood who wanted to become a successful actress and travel the world, but her responsibilities for her family kept her involved throughout her life. Louisa is determined and vows to "be rich, famous and happy before she dies" so she can escape poverty. Her father was an abolitionist who was unable to provide well-being for his family, which made poverty his worst enemy. Before she started writing, she worked as a housemaid, teacher and nurse to support her family. Her life story has been written into her work entitled, '*Little Women*', which gained her popularity and fame in the society. Thanks to the popularity of the novel '*Little Women*', Louisa was able to change her life and fulfill her determination to become rich and famous.

Literary Works

1. Flower Fables (1854)
2. Hospital Sketches (1863)
3. Moods (1864)
4. Behind a Mask (1866)
5. Little Women (1868)
6. Good Wives (1869)
7. An Old Fashioned Girl (1869)
8. Little Man (1871)
9. Transcendental Wild Oats (1873)
10. Work : A Story Of Experience (1873)
11. Eight Cousins (1875)
12. Rose In Bloom (1875)
13. Under The Lilacs (1878)
14. Jack and Jill (1886)

SUMMARY AND CHARACTERS OF THE NOVEL

Little Women is a coming of age novel written by American novelist Louisa May Alcott. The story of the novel follows the lives of the four March sisters ; Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy, and details their passage from childhood to womanhood. Loosely based on the lives of the author and her three sisters, it is classified as an autobiographical or semi-autobiographical novel.

This story begins with how life rolls on in the March family, after these four girls were left by their father to serve as soldiers who were at war. The March family is of noble descent and is considered a fairly affluent family, but their conditions changed when their parents lost their wealth and chose to live a simple and ordinary life. Her mother or what they usually call marmee works every day, as well as the two oldest girls in the march family. Meg works as a teacher in the King family, while Jo becomes the caretaker of his aunt, Aunt March who has an unpleasant personality. Meanwhile, Beth prefers to stay at home and Amy goes to school every day.

The March girls' lives changed when they ventured to meet their neighbor who was the same age as Jo, named Theodore Laurence, or who often introduced himself to Laurie. Laurie is a young man who initially lives cooped up in his magnificent house, feels lonely because he has no friends, and doesn't dare to be with his grandfather. Jo, the girl who generally has a boyish personality intends to dance Laurie out of her comfort zone and join the March girls. Laurie agreed, and over time became a part of this girl's life and adventures.

In general, this book is very interesting. Using a 19th century setting creates a new paradigm for its readers. How life rolls there, transportation, food, association, how to dress. Everyday life and its conflicts are presented nicely, although not many conflicts are highlighted. Perhaps this was also typical of fiction stories that year, which were not full of complex conflicts. However, in the middle towards the end, the conflict--which incidentally is a story of everyday life--appears sweetly making the reader curious about how this story will end. The plot twist that appears is also quite surprising, making this story not plain but colorful. Like how the story of Meg and her friends, Jo and Laurie, Beth's efforts to open up, Amy and her story are no less interesting.

This novel also tells about the bullying that is done by upper-class people against marching girls because they live in trouble, not like those who live in the glitter of wealth. This novel also tells about the struggles of marching girls in living their lives and achieving their dreams.

CHARACTERS OF THE NOVEL

Margaret "Meg" March

Meg, the oldest sister, is 16 years old when the story begins. She is described as a beautiful girl. As the eldest sister, she always set a good example for her younger sisters to ensure they grow up to be good girls. Meg worked as a teacher in a wealthy family, Meg married John Brooke, Laurie's tutor. They had twins, Margaret "Daisy" Brooke and John Laurence "Demi" Brooke.

Josephine "Jo" March

Jo is the main character in this novel. Jo is described as a 15-year-old girl, a strong and strong-willed young woman, struggling to contain her fiery temper and stubborn personality. Jo is like a boy, the smartest, most creative in the family; his father referred to him as "Jo's son", Jo had a "hot" temper which often got him into trouble. With the help of his misguided sense of humor, his sister Beth, and his mother, he works to control it

Elizabeth "Beth" March Beth,

A 13 year old girl who is described as kind, gentle, sweet, shy, quiet, honest, and musical. She is the shyest of the March sisters and the family's pianist. with quiet wisdom, he is the peacemaker of the family.

Amy Curtis March

Amy is the younger sister and youngest baby in the family; she is 12 years old when the story begins. Interested in the arts, she has been described as an "ordinary snow maiden" with curly golden hair and blue eyes, "pale and thin" and "always carrying herself" like a proper young lady. He is the artist of the family. Often spoiled for being the youngest, Amy can act arrogantly and selfishly, although she still loves her family. She has the middle name Curtis, and is the only March sister who uses her full name instead of her first name.

She is chosen by her aunt to travel to Europe with her, where she grows up and makes decisions about the level of her artistic talent, Amy is the sister least prone to self-sacrifice and self-denial. He behaves well in good society, comfortable with himself.