



## Little Women: Complete and unabridged edition (Immortal Classics)

By Louisa May Alcott

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**Little Women: Complete and unabridged edition (Immortal Classics)** By Louisa May Alcott

Little Women is a novel by American author Louisa May Alcott, which was originally published in two volumes in 1868 and 1869. Alcott wrote the books rapidly over several months at the request of her publisher. The novel follows the lives of four sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March—detailing their passage from childhood to womanhood, and is loosely based on the author and her three sisters. Little Women was an immediate commercial and critical success, and readers demanded to know more about the characters. Alcott quickly completed a second volume, which was also successful. The two volumes were issued in 1880 in a single work entitled Little Women. Little Women has been read as a romance or as a quest, or both. It has been read as a family drama that validates virtue over wealth, but also as a means of escaping that life by women who knew its gender constraints only too well. According to Sarah Elbert, Alcott created a new form of literature, one that took elements from Romantic children's fiction and combined it with others from sentimental novels, resulting in a totally new format. Elbert argued that within Little Women can be found the first vision of the "All-American girl" and that her multiple aspects are embodied in the differing March sisters. This much loved novel has been adapted for the screen and TV several times.

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## **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7. An entry in a series whose aim is to give readers a clearer picture of the time and place in which classic stories take place. This version of *Little Women* is augmented with text and illustrations that explain some of the period social customs, clothes, entertainments, etc. Also included are some bits of information about Louisa May Alcott's life. This approach seems best suited to children already familiar with the story; they may find the historical perspective interesting. First-time readers will most likely be distracted by the margin notes that pull attention from the narrative. While they can be helpful, as when they illustrate an unfamiliar piece of clothing, they are often distracting and can even be confusing in their placement. For instance, a note mentioning the Laurences is placed two pages before those characters are introduced. This format may also discourage readers from independent research—a process that can be rewarding in its own right. One other caveat—as explained in an endnote, *Little Women* was originally written in two parts, and this volume only contains part one, which ends with Mr. March's return. Readers familiar with the more common two-part version may find this title incomplete; children new to this classic will be better off with any one of the unembellished versions available. —Arwen Marshall, New York Public Library  
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From Library Journal

How would one describe this latest recording of the classic story from Alcott (*Little Men*, Audio Reviews, LJ 11/15/96)? The answer must be, clear, competent, and unexciting. Laura Grafton is a precise reader, but her voice lacks expressiveness, and she makes little attempt to vocally differentiate (and/or animate) the characters. The result is an inoffensive and slightly dull rendering. There's nothing wrong; the tapes just won't grab the attention of the casual listener. The producer has made a praiseworthy attempt to reduce costs by having each cassette side carry double text. At \$22.95, this tape set is an excellent value. Unfortunately, this double-track format requires a stereo cassette player with a fully functioning balance control. Most portable cassette players and some car stereo systems do not have this feature. Since, at least anecdotally, a large percentage of recreational audiocassette library borrowers are commuters or exercisers, one should consider whether this format would be used by patrons. Libraries purchasing this format might also consider purchasing (and lending) the associated headphone adaptor plugs. Recommended for libraries with limited audiobook budgets and/or appropriate user populations. —AI. Pour-El, Iowa State Univ., Ames  
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Review

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## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Michael Vu:**

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or even goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They can be reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is definitely reading a book. How about the

person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, individual feel need book when they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you should have this Little Women: Complete and unabridged edition (Immortal Classics).

### **Helen Johnson:**

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### **Allison Lyon:**

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