

## 1: 10 Little Facts About Louisa May Alcott | Mental Floss

*Little Men, or Life at Plumfield with Jo's Boys*, is a novel by American author Louisa May Alcott, first published in *The Novel* reprises characters from *Little Women* and is considered by some the second book in an unofficial *Little Women* trilogy, which is completed with Alcott's novel *Jo's Boys*, and *How They Turned Out: A Sequel to "Little Men"*.

Development history[ edit ] In , Thomas Niles, the publisher of Louisa May Alcott, recommended that she write a book about girls that would have widespread appeal. Alcott wrote, "they are the best critics, so I should definitely be satisfied. Each of the March sister heroines had a harrowing experience that alerted her and the reader that "childhood innocence" was of the past, and that "the inescapable woman problem" was all that remained. Having lost all his money, their father is acting as a pastor , miles from home, involved in the American Civil War. The women face their first Christmas without him. Meg and Jo March, the elder two, have to work in order to support the family: Meg teaches a nearby family of four children; Jo assists her aged great-aunt March, a wealthy widow living in a mansion , Plumfield. Beth, too timid for school is content to stay at home and help with housework; Amy is still at school. Meg is beautiful and traditional, Jo is a tomboy who writes; Beth is a peacemaker and a pianist; Amy is an artist who longs for elegance and fine society. Jo is impulsive and quick to anger. One of her challenges is trying to control her anger, a challenge that her mother experiences. She advises Jo to speak with forethought before leaving to travel to Washington , where her husband has pneumonia. Their neighbour, Mr Laurence, who is charmed by Beth, gives her a piano. Beth contracts scarlet fever after spending time with a poor family where three children die. Jo tends Beth in her illness. Beth recovers, but never fully. As a precaution, Amy is sent to live with Aunt March, replacing Jo, while Beth was ill and still infectious. Jo has success earning money with her writing. Meg spends two weeks with friends, where there are parties for the girls to dance with boys and improve social skills. Brooke goes to Washington to help Mr. While with the March parents, Brooke confesses his love for Meg. They are pleased but consider Meg too young to be married. Brooke agrees to wait but enlists and serves a year or so in the war. After he is wounded, he returns to find work so he can buy a house ready for when he marries Meg. Laurie goes off to college, having become smitten by Jo. When they have twins, Meg is a devoted mother but John begins to feel left out. He realises that he has fallen in love with Jo. Sensing his feelings, Jo confides in Marmee, telling her that she loves Laurie but as she would love a brother and that she could not love him romantically. Laurie proposes marriage to her and she turns him down. Jo decides she needs a break, and spends six months with a friend of her mother in New York City, serving as governess for her two children. The family runs a boarding house. She takes German lessons with Professor Bhaer, who lives in the house. He has come to America from Berlin to care for the orphaned sons of his sister. For extra money, Jo writes stories without a moral, which disappoints Bhaer. Amy goes on a European tour with her aunt. Laurie and his grandfather also go to Europe. Jo devotes her time to the care of her dying sister. Laurie encounters Amy in Europe. On his last day, he proposes to Jo. Aunt March dies, leaving Plumfield to Jo. She and Bhaer turn the house into a school for boys. They have two sons of their own, and Amy and Laurie have a daughter. At apple-picking time, Marmee celebrates her 60th birthday at Plumfield, with her husband, her three surviving daughters, their husbands, and her six grandchildren. Characters[ edit ] Margaret "Meg" March[ edit ] Meg, the eldest sister, is 16 when the story starts. She is referred to as a beauty, and manages the household when her mother is absent. Meg fulfills expectations for women of the time; from the start, she is already a nearly perfect "little woman" in the eyes of the world. Meg is based in the domestic household; she does not have significant employment or activities outside it. Meg marries John Brooke, the tutor of Laurie. The sequel, *Little Men*, mentions a baby daughter, Josephine "Josy" Brooke, [15] who is 14 at the beginning of the final book. According to Sarah Elbert, "democratic domesticity requires maturity, strength, and above all a secure identity that Meg lacks". Jo has a "hot" temper that often leads her into trouble. With the help of her own misguided sense of humor, her sister Beth, and her mother, she works on controlling it. It has been said that a lot of Louisa May Alcott shows through in these characteristics of Jo. She composes plays for her sisters to perform and writes short stories. She initially rejects the idea of marriage and romance, feeling that it would

break up her family and separate her from the sisters whom she adores. Jo also writes the first part of Little Women during the second portion of the novel. According to Elbert, "her narration signals a successfully completed adolescence". She is the shyest March sister. She is especially close to Jo: Beth recovers from the acute disease but her health is permanently weakened. As she grows, Beth begins to realize that her time with her loved ones is coming to an end. Finally, the family accepts that Beth will not live much longer. They make a special room for her, filled with all the things she loves best: She is never idle; she knits and sews things for the children who pass by on their way to and from school. But eventually she puts down her sewing needle, saying it grew "heavy. The main loss during Little Women is the death of beloved Beth. Her "self-sacrifice" is ultimately the greatest in the novel. She gives up her life knowing that it has had only private, domestic meaning. Interested in art, she is described as a "regular snow-maiden" with curly golden hair and blue eyes, "pale and slender" and "always carrying herself" like a proper young lady. She is the artist of the family. She encounters "Laurie" Laurence and his grandfather during the extended visit. Amy is the least inclined of the sisters to sacrifice and self-denial. She behaves well in good society, at ease with herself. Ultimately, Amy is shown to work very hard to gain what she wants in life, and to make the most of her success while she has it.: A scholar and a minister, he serves as a chaplain in the Union Army during the Civil War and is wounded in December After the war he becomes minister to a small congregation. Professor Friedrich Bhaer "A middle-aged, "philosophically inclined", and penniless German immigrant in New York City who was a noted professor in Berlin, also known as Fritz. He initially lives in Mrs. He encourages her to become a serious writer instead of writing "sensation" stories for weekly tabloids. John Brooke "During his employment as a tutor to Laurie, he falls in love with Meg. March to Washington D. When Laurie leaves for college, Brooke continues his employment with Mr. Laurence as a bookkeeper. Eventually Meg admits her feelings to Brooke, they defy Aunt March who ends up accepting the marriage , and they are engaged. Brooke serves in the Union Army for a year and is sent home as an invalid when he is wounded. Brooke marries Meg a few years later when the war has ended and she has turned twenty. She develops a passion for acting as she grows up. Uncle and Aunt Carrol "Sister and brother-in-law of Mr. They take Amy to Europe with them, where Uncle Carrol frequently tries to be like an English gentleman. Chester "A well-to-do family with whom the Marches are acquainted. Miss Crocker "An old and poor spinster who likes to gossip and who has few friends. Dashwood "Publisher and editor of the Weekly Volcano. He punishes Amy for bringing pickled limes to school by striking her palm and making her stand on a platform in front of the class. She is withdrawn from the school by her mother. The Hummels "A poor German family consisting of a widowed mother and six children. Marmee and the girls help them by bringing food, firewood, blankets and other comforts. They help with minor repairs to their small dwelling. Three of the children die of scarlet fever and Beth contracts the disease while caring for them. The Kirkes "Mrs.

## 2: Little Men by Louisa May Alcott

*Watch Farmhouse Rules Teaching Little Men to Cook Highlights from Food Network.*

Besides enchanting millions of readers with her novel *Little Women*, she worked as a Civil War nurse, fought against slavery, and registered women to vote. In honor of her birthday, here are 10 facts about Alcott. Although her family was always poor, Alcott had access to valuable learning experiences. As a teenager, Alcott worked a variety of teaching and servant jobs to earn money for her family. For reasons that are unclear, Alcott used a pen name "Flora Fairfield" rather than her real name, perhaps because she felt that she was still developing as a writer. But in at age 22, Alcott used her own name for the first time. Alcott wrote about cross-dressers, spies, revenge, and hashish. Getty Images In , at the beginning of the U. Civil War, Alcott sewed Union uniforms in Concord and, the next year, enlisted as an army nurse. In a Washington, D. During this time, she wrote about her experiences in her journal and in letters to her family. In , she published *Hospital Sketches*, a fictionalized account, based on her letters, of her stressful yet meaningful experiences as a wartime nurse. The book became massively popular and was reprinted in with more material. After a month and a half of nursing in D. She received the standard treatment at the time—a toxic mercury compound called calomel. Calomel was used in medicines through the 19th century. Because of this exposure to mercury, Alcott suffered from symptoms of mercury poisoning for the rest of her life. She had a weakened immune system, vertigo, and had episodes of hallucinations. To combat the pain caused by the mercury poisoning as well as a possible autoimmune disorder, such as lupus, that could have been triggered by it, she took opium. Alcott died of a stroke in , at 55 years old. He told Niles that his daughter could write a book of fairy stories, but Niles still wanted a novel about girls. So to make her father happy and help his writing career, Alcott wrote about her adolescence growing up with her three sisters. Published in September, the first part of *Little Women* was a huge success. In , the state passed a law that would allow women to vote in local elections on anything involving education and children—Alcott registered immediately, becoming the first woman registered in Concord to vote. Although met with resistance, she, along with 19 other women, cast ballots in a town meeting. The Nineteenth Amendment was finally ratified in , decades after Alcott died. Orchard House, the Alcott family home. Although Alcott never married or had biological children, she took care of her orphaned niece. As she was dying, May told her husband to send the baby, whom she named Louisa in honor of Alcott, to her older sister. Nicknamed Lulu, the girl spent her childhood with Alcott, who wrote her stories and seemed a good fit for her high-spiritedness. Lulu was just 8 when Alcott died, at which point she went to live with her father in Switzerland. Orchard House is a designated National Historic Landmark, and visitors can take a guided tour to see where Alcott wrote and set *Little Women*.

## 3: Little Women / Good Wives / Little Men by Louisa May Alcott

*Little Women is a novel by American author Louisa May Alcott (), which was originally published in two volumes in and Alcott wrote the books over several months at the request of her publisher.*

Plot[ edit ] The book recounts six months in the life of the students at Plumfield, a school run by German Professor Friedrich and Mrs. The idea of the school is first suggested at the very end of Little Women, Part Two when adult Jo inherited the estate from her late Aunt March. The story begins with the arrival of Nat Blake, a shy young orphan who used to earn a living playing the violin. We are introduced to the majority of the characters through his eyes. There are ten boys at the school already; Nat, and later his friend Dan, join them, and soon after Nan arrives as companion for Daisy, the only girl. The school is not run on conventional lines. All the children have their own gardens and their own pets, and are encouraged to experiment with running businesses. Pillow fights are permitted on Saturdays, subject to a time limit. Children are treated as individuals, with a strong emphasis on gently molding their characters. The other new student, Dan, is introduced by Nat. Dan originally decides the other boys are "molly-coddles" and leads them in experiments with fighting , drinking , smoking , swearing and playing cards , which results in his being temporarily removed from the school. He returns eventually with an injured foot, and redeems himself by standing up for Nat when Nat is falsely accused of theft by the other boys. Personal relationships are central to the school, and diversity is celebrated. Daisy is deeply attached to her twin brother, to shy Nat, and to tomboy Nan. Nan and Tommy are also close and intend to marry when they grow up. Dan, already friends with Nat, is unexpectedly drawn to the pious Demi and the toddler Teddy. While Franz, Emil, Daisy and John are all related to the Bhaers, they are not treated with favoritism and are encouraged to overcome their faults just the same as the other pupils. A twelve-year-old orphan, who lived as a street musician. He was discovered in a cellar by Mr. Laurence and brought to Plumfield. Although he has a habit of lying and is far behind the others in school at first, he is thoughtful, caring, and talented with a fiddle, quickly becoming one of the "favorites". A neglected fourteen-year-old orphan, who is brought to Plumfield by Nat. After breaking nearly all the rules of the school, he is sent away, although later he finds his way back to Plumfield, where Mr. Bhaer take him in again, helping him become a kind and responsible person. Demi is scholarly, and would much rather read a book than play sports with the other children. He loves to spend time with his twin sister, Daisy, and his Grandpa March. He has been nicknamed "the deacon" and is very innocent and sweet, and is another one of the "favorites". She loves her twin brother Demi very much. She is described as "sunshiny and charming" and delights in housework such as cooking, cleaning, washing, and sewing. She is named after her mother. An eleven-year-old boy who means well, but manages to get himself into some kind of trouble constantly. However, he is very well-tempered and friendly, and in spite of his many pranks and carelessness, he gets along well and is another "favorite". A ten-year-old girl who is determined to prove that girls can do anything boys can. When her mother died, she ran wild, so her father readily agreed to send her to Plumfield when Mrs. Jo proposed the idea. He is attached to his mother and is very loyal to her. A fourteen-year-old boy who is raised by his uncle, Mr. He has an intense love for the sea, and wants to be a sailor when he grows up. He is very determined, refusing to give up in a fistfight with Dan. Although he is guilty of having a bad temper, he is outgoing and friendly. He goes on errands into town for the school until Dan takes the job. He is the oldest boy at Plumfield and helps Mr. A fourteen-year-old boy, called "Blunderbuss" because he regularly runs into, trips across, or knocks things over by accident. A twelve-year-old boy who was sent to Plumfield because it was cheap. After this uproar, he runs away, leaving a letter confessing that he was the thief. A twelve-year-old boy, spoiled by his mother and her many sweetmeats. He is overweight, constantly talks about food and hates exercise. An eight-year-old boy with a crooked back. At first, some of the boys make fun of him, but then they learn to accept him. He is an amiable boy, so much that Demi solemnly asks if having a crooked back makes a person good. A mentally challenged thirteen-year-old boy. When younger he was remarkably intelligent, but his father pushed him so hard in his studies that it nearly killed him, leaving him with the intellect of a six-year-old. Although the Bhaers struggle to teach him things as simple as the alphabet, they continue to

patiently and tirelessly work with him. Billy is especially fond of Nat and loves listening to him play the violin. An eight-year-old boy with a stutter. Bhaer tries to cure him of it by making him talk slowly. Main Characters[ edit ] Josephine "Jo" Bhaer: The owner of the school and the "mother" to all of the children. She lives a very busy life, taking care of her husband, sons, and students at Plumfield, and visiting her mother and sisters. Originally from Germany, he is a kind-hearted, wise and caring man, taking the time to talk and spend time with each child as well as directing their education. He is a fun-loving, wealthy young man, and is very generous when it comes to the needs of the school and its students. He makes frequent visits to the school, usually taking his daughter Bess with him. She often visits Plumfield, where she is almost worshiped by the pupils. She lives a very sheltered life and is horrified by cruelty or dirtiness. The cook employed at Plumfield. She is sometimes irritable but loves the children. The farmhand at Plumfield. Supporting Characters[ edit ] Mary Ann: A pretty maid employed at Plumfield school. She loves her family dearly, and quietly cares for each of them. A feisty character in "Little Women", she lacks any distinctive personality in "Little Men". She receives many hand-made clothing articles from Daisy. He secretly stashes away money for his family in case anything should ever happen to him, therefore living a simple life. He dies suddenly towards the end of the book. Television A Canadian television series aired in , with two seasons based on this novel, Little Men. The plot is somewhat altered from the novel.

#### 4: Little Women II: Jo's Boys - Wikipedia

*Online shopping from a great selection at Grocery & Gourmet Food Store.*

#### 5: Little Men () - IMDb

*Cooking For Little Men. likes. Actress and creator Vinessa Antoine chronicles her humorous adventures of raising her two magnificent boys as a single.*

#### 6: TVâ€™s â€™Little Womenâ€™: â€™A very current story about things that havenâ€™t changedâ€™ - w

*This edition, containing Little Women, Good Wives, Little Men and Jo's Boys, is complete and unabridged. Also included are Frank T. Merrill's forty-three black and white illustrations to the first two books.*

#### 7: Little Women - Wikipedia

*Jo of "Little Women" turned out to do better than you ever dreamed she would. This is the best. I don't know why I never heard of this back when it was new, but so glad to have found it.*

#### 8: Food Network UK | TV Channel | Easy Recipes, TV Shows and Videos | Food Network UK

*The success of Little Women â€™ and subsequently Little Men and Jo's Boys â€™ allowed Alcott to continue making a living with writing for the rest of her life. Alcott died in , but each book of the Little Women trilogy is still in print today, and numerous film and television mini-series adaptations have been made from each.*

#### 9: Little Men - Wikipedia

*Little Women, of course, is a pre-requisite to Little Men. However, my 10 year old boy read Little Men first and still absolutely fell in love with the book and all the characters. Now, he is inspired to read Little Women (something he felt sure boys would not read).*

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