



Louisa May Alcott: An Intimate Anthology

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In this intimate anthology of letters, poems, stories, and other personal and literary writing by Louisa May Alcott, an often surprising portrait emerges of this pioneering writer. The author and her world are brought even more vividly to life with rare photographs and handwritten manuscripts and letters from The New York Public Library's extensive collections.

Louisa May Alcott: An Intimate Anthology Details

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Kate says

It IS an intimate collection, with selections well chosen to illustrate the most significant experiences of Alcott's life. Journal entries and correspondence. Romantic poems written for her neighbor Thoreau. Potboilers she wrote as moneymakers ("Little Women" fans will recall Jo March's "blood and thunder" stories: here, you get to read them!) A description of life on a 19th-century commune-- whose drolleries are just a little strained, belying both her loyalty to her father and the recognition of the hard life his dreams inflicted on his family.

Most moving of all-- her "hospital sketches" about her experiences as a Civil War nurse.

This is an excellent companion to any Alcott bio.

Chrisanne says

Excerpts and short tales... I like her complete books best. That being said-- I had forgotten the wholesome, healthy, charming way Alcott writes. More please. :)

Carmen says

So far i enjoying this. I have had this book since 2000.

What a joy to read about a women who was writing over 100 years ago before i was even born.

What an amazing story so far.

Elise says

Beautiful illustrations. Wonderful for young fans of "Little Women".

Bethany Turner says

I had previously read the letters, poems, stories, and other writings by Louisa May Alcott featured in this anthology. All which are excellent. What I was excited to read was the section Remembering Louisa May Alcott: Essays, Photographs, Drawings, and a Poem. How better to learn about an author than to read about her from the people who actually knew her.

Karen says

I really enjoyed this collection of stories. It gave me a deeper appreciation of Louisa May Alcott as a writer and a person. She was a true pioneer in women's rights and writing. I had this book on my shelf for several years but I felt compelled to read it after I read Kelly O'Connor McNeely's book *The Lost Summer of Louisa May Alcott*. I recommend both books to anyone who wants to get a better understanding of the amazing woman.

Elizabeth says

Great collection of stories, letters, journal entries, and memoirs about the Alcotts. I'm still trying to reconcile the author of *Eight Cousins*, who won't let Rose drink tea or eat white bread, with the author of the story in this collection where everyone takes hashish.

Kettie says

Enjoyed this look at Louisa May Alcott's life. Fun to read some of her less well known writings. Nothing compelling, easy to pick up and read for a bit, then put it away for a while.

Jacqueline West says

A really nice little collection. Funnily, the fiction included is what I found least enjoyable; Alcott's short stories are stuffed with melodrama and morality. The memoirs, however, are wonderful, especially "Transcendental Wild Oats," as are the journal fragments, letters, and poems. A great selection of biographical sketches and essays (contributed by Charles Ives, G.K. Chesterton, and several close friends of the Alcotts) as well.

Michele says

This combination of letters, diary entries, stories, poems, and pieces about Alcott by those who knew her will give you a much expanded view of the author of *Little Woman*. The most notable thing for me was how vividly her sense of humor came through. There are hints of it in *Jo March*, but here -- especially in a hilarious account of the ill-fated Fruitlands experiment, which had me laughing so hard on the train that my seatmates eyed me uneasily -- she gives it free rein and the results are marvelous.

I often wonder what Alcott would have written if she'd been born a hundred years later; I can't decide if it would be convoluted thrillers like Dan Brown or paranormal romance. After reading this I'd say "Both!" -- and a few other things besides, probably.

Julia says

Disappointing given how much I loved most of her novels.

Marsha says

Louisa May Alcott is universally known as the creator of *Little Women*. But modern readers might be surprised to find there was more to her than an authoress of a book that was made to appeal mainly to young girls. Ms. Alcott was a woman of keen unfailing insight, passionate nature, acerbic wit and loving devotion to her family. It is to be wondered that she lived and died an apparent spinster (there is some speculation, swiftly dismissed in the book, that she must have had a secret lover). But the richness of her spirit did not allow her to be bound by the typical female convention. Like a reverse Atalanta, she would tolerate a boy's company only if she could beat him in a footrace and a girl's if the tested party was as hoydenish as herself. The poverty of her youth is well known; the efforts she made to surmount it, not so much.

This book presents a woman of indomitable spirit and winning charm, given to jokes, spot-on imitations of her peers and possessing an amazing gift for poetry, sympathy for the oppressed and burgeoning feminism. Even if Henry James dismissed her as not being a genius, her timeless works prove that she didn't have to be. She was herself and that more than sufficed.

Courtney says

- 1) The Rival Painters: A Tale of Rome
- 2) The Rival Prima Donnas
- 3) The Frost-King: or, The Power of Love
- 4) The Lady and the Woman
- 5) Love and Self-Love
- 6) Hope's Debut
- 7) Thrice Tempted
- 8) Perilous Play
- 9) M.L.
- 10) A Night
- 11) The Blue and the Gray, A Hospital Sketch

Selections from:

- 12) Moods
- 13) Work
- 14) A Modern Mephistopholes

- 15) The Sisters' Trial
- 16) A Modern Cinderella: or, The Little Old Shoe
- 17) Merry's Monthly Chat

Selections from:

- 18) Little Women
 - 19) Little Men
 - 20) Jo's Boys
 - 21) Aunt Jo's Scrap Bag
 - 22) Spinning-Wheel Stories
 - 23) Lulu's Library
 - 24) A Garland for Girls
 - 25) An Old-Fashioned Girl
 - 26) Eight Cousins
 - 27) Rose in Bloom
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- 28) Transcendental Wild Oats: A Chapter from an Unwritten Romance
 - 29) How I Went Out to Service
 - 30) Recollections of My Childhood
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Joan Parker says

Sweet short story about Louisa with wonderful illustrations.

Jill says

This is a really good book if you are interested in LMA. It has historical info., excerpts from her journals, perceptions from her friends, and some short stories. I've always identified strongly with her (and Jo of Little Women), and I found lots of things in the book that support that feeling. I also found a bunch of ways in which she and I differ. She appears to have privately felt that she never really got to live her own life - do the things she really wanted to do - and was sad about it.

This book dovetails nicely with A Chance Meeting. Talks about the influences on her and the ones she had on others. Their family was close friends with the families of Nathaniel Hawthorn and Ralph Waldo Emerson. They were also familiar with Thoreau's Walden pond.
