



## Good Wives

*Louisa May Alcott*

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*NOTE: Little Women is sometimes published in two volumes, entitled Little Women and Good Wives.*

Amy looked relieved, but naughty Jo took her at her word, for during the first call she sat with every limb gracefully composed, every fold correctly draped, calm as a summer sea, cool as a snowbank, and as silent as the sphinx. In vain Mrs. Chester alluded to her 'charming novel', and the Misses Chester introduced parties, picnics, the opera, and the fashions. Each and all were answered by a smile, a bow, and a demure "Yes" or "No" with the chill on.

## Good Wives Details

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Author : Louisa May Alcott

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Genre : Classics, Fiction, Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction

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## From Reader Review Good Wives for online ebook

### **Maria João (A Biblioteca da João) says**

9,5 de 10\*

Ao contrário de “Mulherzinhas”, pouco me lembava da história de “Boas Esposas” o que tornou esta leitura quase como uma estreia para mim. E foi uma excelente “quase estreia”. Depois do sucesso de “Mulherzinhas”, Louisa May Alcott decidiu dar continuidade à família March e ainda bem que o fez!

Comentário completo em:

<http://abibliotecadajoao.blogspot.pt/...>

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### **Reem Ghabbany says**

While the progression of the story might not be the best and I hated that Amy was the one who ended up with Laurie, these characters are just precious to me ?♥?

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### **Mina kh says**

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### **Sara Jesus says**

Se não estou em erro faz 5 ou 6 anos que li "Mulherzinhas". O li numa altura fundamental da minha vida, naquela fase que deixamos de ser meninas para nos tornarmos mulheres. Gostaria de naquela altura também ter lido este livro... Pois o acho ainda melhor que o primeiro!

Adoro a família March. Mrs March é uma mulher encantadora que dá sempre bons conselhos às suas filhas. Beth, a mais nova das irmãs, é a mais adorável mas infelizmente não tem um final feliz... Jo é a mais inteligente e independente das quatro (e de todas a minha favorita). Amy é a mais certinha e a artista, tenho de admitir que ela me irritou no início (principalmente as suas cartas) só gostei mais dela quando se apaixonou por Laurie. E Meg com o seu casamento adorável com John.

Não gostei do final de Jo. Acho que ela merecia casar-se com um jovem galante, e não com um professor de literatura frio. Sempre gostei das histórias e dos poemas de Jo, por isso fiquei um pouco desiludida por ela não ter ficado com um marido parecido com o Laurie.

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### **Uniquesy says**

The truly benefiting and deserving sequel to Little Women, I fell in love with this book!

Discovering it's prequel was the most wonderful thing that ever happened to me and when I found out that Good Wives existed, my excitement was unparalleled to unlike anything else. The inspiration I felt was of the highest form and the morality of the book rather suited me, for I like being preached to (Don't think me weird). The moral epiphany continues, the fates of the little women gets revealed, gentle fortunes and a great sorrow falls their way and this book leaves you with a sense of shame of not discovering this book earlier. Kindly keep a handkerchief while reading near so as to not spoil the pages of the wondrous book you are holding in your palms.

But dear, please do not bombard your mind with thoughts such as, 'This gal seems to have lost her mind to have produced such a judgmental review.' Pray, do not kill me, for this mental gal was in highest of spirits when she wrote this review, as from her point of view, there wasn't a finer book ever produced or lay down in history. Forgive me, but I know the happiness one feels when he or she talks about her favorite book.

To add to the charm that's encircling me, this book was supposedly the sequel to a children's book. Ah, the essence of innocence!

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### **Aoibhínn says**

Good Wives is the sequel to the book Little Women by Louisa May Alcott. The book begins three years after the end of Little Women and continues the stories of the March sisters; Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy. It is beautifully written, however, there were several things I didn't like about this book. In Little Women, the girls all had dreams and ambitions about what they wanted to become; such as Amy becoming an artist and Jo becoming a famous best selling author. I was slightly nauseated by the way these girls all had to eschew all the ambitions they harboured in order to devote their lives and attention to serving their husbands. The girls are either air-brained or addled by disease and the only one with some spunk is whipped into submission for being too "headstrong". Is it too much to expect that Amy could continue with her "dabbling" and Jo with her "little stories" as well as cooking dinner and arranging flowers and working in jobs they were overqualified for? I mean, could Jo not teach English instead of having to be the Matron? I know this is what women were expected to do in those times, but having read that Alcott was an advocate for women's suffrage, I was expecting better!

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### **Bunny says**

Una degna continuazione del primo in cui si ritrovano le sorelle March cresciute e alle prese con la vita adulta, i loro sogni, i loro dispiaceri e la stessa fiducia nell'amore e nella famiglia.

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## **Melindam says**

Well, strictly speaking this book is part of Little Women, so I should not treat this as a different book.

What I would add to my review of Little Women is that as the girls are growing up, the horizon is broadening (or in some of their cases, shrinking) so we see more of the outside world and are offered a bigger chunk of society around them, if not by much. This and also the character development makes it more interesting and while still occasionally didactic, it advocates valid, true values nevertheless that are very relatable.

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## **Yukino says**

Ho appena finito di leggere piccole donne crescono. Meraviglioso! A parte i due episodi di Meg moglie e mamma, che mi hanno fatto all'inizio storcere il naso, ma poi fortunatamente si sono ripresi, ho adorato questo libro. L'ho trovato meno moralista del precedente. Le sorelle che affrontano i primi tormenti amorosi e non, mi hanno tenuto incollata alle pagine. Ho pianto (davvero non me lo aspettavo) e ho riso di gusto e soprattutto il mio cuore si è riempito di amore. Bellissimo davvero. Alcune frasi e alcuni momenti sembravano scritti per me. Libro giusto al momento giusto. Rimarrà sempre nel mio cuore. Sono davvero contenta di averlo letto. Purtroppo l'ho preso dalla biblioteca. Credo proprio che lo comprerò, anche perché ho il primo e non posso non avere questo.

Mi sta vendendo anche una mezza idea di leggermi gli altri. Vedremo, adesso mi godo la gioia e l'amore che mi ha lasciato.

Chissà perché non l'ho mai letto. Forse dovevo solo aspettare il momento giusto. ?

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## **Rachel says**

Oh, the treasure trove of lessons there are to be gained by old books! It's been years since I last read either Little Women (or it's unknown-to-me-sequel), and I'm much ashamed for it. Oh what I have been missing all this time! But still, sometimes it's nicer to wait and discover so many more treasures for the waiting in the meantime.

Now that I'm all grown up – but as yet still unmarried – I enjoyed reading how the Little Women grew up and seeing Meg's daily struggles as a young wife and mother, Jo trying to fulfill and work on her big writing dreams, and Amy pursuing dreams, romance, and building of her character.

As an older girl I feared perhaps I'd outgrown the little women and this author too, but in this book I discovered old friends grown dearer for their absence and still a host of lessons I can take with me and put to good use in the future.

I have a feeling Good Wives will be pulled off the shelf and dusted off quite more frequently the older I get,

and if I ever have the pleasure to court, marry, and have children someday, then the dear little women will be there to comfort, laugh and cry with, and teach all over again through every season of my own life. :)

I actually found I loved this sequel story all the more now in my older years, then I did when I was a young girl of 15 or so... and perhaps if you felt the same way in reading this book the first time as I did, then maybe you'd like to give it a second try now or when you are a bit older too! :)

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## Faye says

*Little Women* is an amazing book. It is about four sisters: Margaret, Josephine, Elizabeth and Amy. One pretty, one a tomboy, one quiet and shy and one romantic, they make brilliant sisters. Though they are all different and unique, they are the best of friends, relying on one another.

The March sisters experience a lot in their lifetime, which is thoroughly explained and detailed, and makes you feel, think and read on. They experience growing up, falling in love, and dealing with the fact that their father is in war.

This book is a legendary classic that I recommend everyone to read. It gives you experience, and has a number of morals. It teaches you lessons, and everything seems so real.

What I loved about the book is how detailed and descriptive it is-- it feels like you are living one of the sister's lives. What I also love about the book is that each of the sisters have a bit of something in common with me: Meg is kind, Jo loves to write and sometimes loses her temper, Beth is shy at times, and Amy is fun and energetic. It's so realistic, and I can't help feeling that the author has a special and unique talent, that only a number of people have.

What I *didn't* like about this book is that sometimes, it can go on a bit, because sometimes, the author describes what is happening, but you feel that you want to move on to another subject and stop reading the particular part when you 'get the hint'. Other than that, the book is amazing!

One of my favourite parts in the book is when they are all going to Camp Laurence, and they are playing Rig-marole and the descriptions... they were amazing, but I think that Meg made the best description out of everyone. I also loved that when Teddy and Amy got together and had a child that they called her Beth... I thought that was very sweet. Saving the best favourite part till last, I loved the chapter where Beth got the scarlet fever. It's like I was there, watching her get more and more ill, getting closer and closer to death, but she still kept cheerful, even though she knew that one day soon it would be time for her to die-- I got tears in my eyes when I read it!

What I found quite funny about the book was how Amy went on about her nose... I am sure that it was fine, really, but it was quite a laugh how she went on about it!

I wanted to add in this review my favourite couple... and that is Professor Bhaer and Jo. They get on perfectly together, and make the perfect couple, like they were meant to be together. I was actually quite shocked at myself how I was 'urging' them to get together nearer the end of the book! They just seemed like they would get on well, and not only did they love each other, but they liked each other as friends at the same time! I was so happy when they got together.

*Little Women* is sometimes funny, sometimes serious, teaches you lessons, and makes you see in another's eyes. As my family has always been quite wealthy for some years, I never realised what it would be like to be poor until I read this book! A definite good-read, I recommend it to everyone: grown men and women, and children 8+.

Note: This book is good, but very complicated at times.

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### **Raafia says**

OMG! How could Louisa May Alcott do this? How could she ruin Jo like this?

Okay, so Good Wives is a lot like Little Women. We find out how the girls change as they grow up unfortunately the change is not for the best. Beth dies, Meg becomes a mom, Amy grows up to be the beloved of everyone and Jo, the wild, lively Jo is turned into a model of domestication and marries a freaking forty year old man!!!!This is unfair. Why did the author do this to Jo? I always thought Jo should marry Laurie and it would've all worked out if the selfish, stupid, annoying Amy hadn't gotten in the way. Honestly, Amy gets everthing. She grows up to be pretty, charmming, and graceful. She gets to go to Europe then marries- sorry steals Laurie and becomes rich as well. Okay so if Miss Alcott made Amy marry Laurie- Fine why couldn't she let Jo remain an independent woman? That would have worked pretty well

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### **Komal says**

The March girls are all grown up and ready to throw away all their individuality and aspirations so that they can please their penniless but Christian husbands <:'D Isn't that exactly what all girls dream of? Servitude to a man!

Fair warning, spoilers ahead:

Remember Meg? She was the self-satisfied smarmy brunette who all the men liked for her looks, and not much else. She makes a match to a tear-jerkingly boring and terrifically poor tutor, and lives with him to do his bidding and fret about how little money they have.

Beth dies, thank god. Had my fingers crossed for this since Little Women.

Jo, the most interesting and overrated of the lot, falls in love with a man whose only attribute I can recall is "Fat". Then she becomes a pious saint trying to throw away everything that made her Jo, including her temper, her best friend Laurie, and her headstrong personality.

Oh and there was the brat Amy. She was like Meg, but with a meaner nature and sillier character. She grows up to become really really hot. And Laurie, who Jo rejects, gets neatly packaged off with Amy, because IDONTEVENKNOWHWY!! He thinks she's pretty, and she thinks he's handsome, and I think that's it. They ride around in a boat one time, thinking about how hot the other person is and decide to marry.

All in all THIS BOOK SUCKED.

LAURIE DOESN'T GET TOGETHER WITH JO

MEG BECOMES STUPIDER

EVERYONE BECOMES BORING  
HUSBANDS MUST BE OBEYED  
STAHP LOUISA. WHAT YOU DOING?? STAHP!

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### **Cristina says**

It's sad but I didn't entirely enjoy this. I missed everyone, even while I read them. The evolution was too rapid, too un-thought. Characters lost their essence because they were apart. It was silly how much joy it brought to have Laurie and Jo reunited, the first sentence they uttered to one another felt like home immediately. I don't know if Alcott did this on purpose, to explore on the bittersweetness of young adulthood, but if she did not do it on purpose, it's simply fascinating, powerful monsters she had created. And I'm not merely referring to Jo and Laurie but everyone. I hated anyone was apart, I hated the non-contact, I hated the distributed chapters. I don't know. All in all I suppose I loved Little Women so much because of the togetherness and the family ties and family lessons to be learned. Reading Good Wives was sometimes too moralist, sometimes too individualistic for my taste (in relation to Little Women and to Alcott's writing).

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### **Rumi says**

If Little Women created my heart, Good Wives tore it apart.

This book stole away a whole lot of the beautiful charm that Little Women had for me. I simply couldn't bear with Jo's refusal to marry Teddy, because that's what I expected from them and a part of what I adored them for. I've always believed that love is friendship, and I hoped their heart-warming story from when they were children would have the future of a beautiful love. I'd be happier if Teddy hadn't ever fallen in love with Jo, and if he hadn't married Amy. I never really liked Amy!!

I'm trying to be happy for Jo, but I never imagined she would marry an old guy, or give up her writing. I just can't forgive her, she broke my heart!

Little Women taught me that life is beautiful. Good Wives taught me that dreams don't come true. I don't care that the March sisters supposedly have a happy ending. They proved something I don't want to believe in - wonderful children became dull adults.

I wish I hadn't read it in the first place!

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### **Shima says**

**[Spoilers up ahead! Though I advice you to read them so maybe they can convince you to never read good wives]**

I'm so happy this book is over, because this little book gave me so much heartaches, headaches and agony I couldn't bear to read it more than a chapter at a time and it took ages to finish.

Though it wasn't my first time reading this book, It still struck me as much as the first time.

I remember when I was 11-12, I loved little women with all my heart -though not a favorite book- It still had a especial place in my bookcase.

I remember finishing it and dreaming of Joe's future as a successful writer and her happy home with Laurie, full of music and writing.

Then I read this book and well you can not begin to imagine how disappointed and depressed I was. and now after about 4-5 years, I read it again -this time in English- and if not more, i'm still as disappointed as I was then.

My brain can understand that a lot of concepts in this book are related to the society of the time, but my heart certainly can't. It is truly hard to see sweet Meg and strong Jo give up their castles and dreams to go and be good little wives to poor , old men.

The entire talks about how women should apologize first in fights, take care of children and husband and never complain is just terrible and no matter how much you tell yourself - hello this book wasn't published yesterday!- you can't help but be angry and upset.

Then as childish as it seems - and probably is- Jo and Laurie not ending up together is like a big bucket of cold water dumped right on your head! Even worse, Laurie marrying Amy after Jo rejected him was so forced and terrible I wanted to smash my ipad!

These were actually Laurie's thoughts:

*"If you can't have one sister you should get the other and live happily!"*

*"Amy Is like a part of Jo, She is the nearest thing i have to her"*

*"After Jo she is the only women who can make me happy"*

Yeah, that's really romantic. Imagine this proposal

*"Your sister rejected me but between all the other women in the word I chose you, because you remind me of her and I'm sure you can make me happy, just not as happy. so let's spend the rest of our lives together? "*

WOW isn't that just dreamy?!

So I really really beg of you, If you loved little woman DO NOT read this because it will forever ruin the happy image of four strong sisters you probably have in mind. It will be one of those dreams gone with the wind.

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### **kenzimone says**

This book took all that was good about *Little Women* and crushed it, grinding the sharp pieces of my despair right in my face. It's so bad I can't pick up *Little Women* without remembering this book and knowing that everything I read is a filthy lie and that all happiness shall soon cease to exist.

I want to purge my memory of *Good Wives*, but I *can't*. I wish I'd never read it. If I had a time machine I'd go back in time and slap this book out of my own twelve year old hands. And once that was done I'd go even further back in time, just to be absolutely sure, and make sure Louisa May Alcott never even had the chance to write it in the first place.

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## The Book Queen says

I love this book. I mean, the fact that I've read it five times now does say something about how I much I love it...

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## Leonor (Ner) says

Also published in "A Cup of Coffee and a Book"

Where to start? This book was beautiful I couldn't help myself finishing it the way I did. Knowing the movie, I already knew the end, but the end of the book (being slightly different from the movie - I love the movie version though) was so overwhelmed for me I was grinning like a child at the outburst of romance that came out of the pages.

Contrary to "**Little Women**", "**Good Wives**" pace was easier to follow. Despite having a few chapters that you can skip without really missing anything that important, the story develops in a way which glues you to the characters and you don't want to leave them. It's like you can pat them in the back and tell them all will be alright.

Each sister grew in a different way, becoming more mature and more independent in their own way. Meg soon became a wife and a mother, learning her duties and how not to fear being herself around her husband. Their romance was mature and solid in contrast to those around her such as Sally Moffat. Beth was the character that made me cry the most. Her death left a small hole in the story but her speech to her sister Jo about not leaving them and always being there made me realise that each character kept her within they're hearts. Her presence after her death was not visible (readable, that's more like it), but you could sense her nevertheless.

Amy's journey through Europe did her good. She was the only sister I couldn't help disliking until she has left America and went abroad. The trip made her grow in a way she couldn't at home. Plus the fact that love also helped her see the world with different eyes.

Jo is, and will always be, my favourite March sister. She is strong and with a loose tongue. I could relate myself with her a lot during the book and when she left home to go to New York and met Professor Bhaer, I was in heaven. Their romance was slowly shaping itself throughout the novel, and we knew before Jo that she was in love (not to mention the movie... we already knew it through it but the book was plain about it). Despite her lack of self-conscious when it comes to such matters, we kept praying that she would see what's in front of her and that she deserved some happiness after losing her favourite sister and having a "trifle" with Laurie.

The bond between sisters and mother was still strong. Despite having a different point-of-view towards society and life itself, they kept together and fought together. In the end, even Beth was present at the end with small memories and small unconscious things from each character.

It was a romance I couldn't stop myself from reading. Not only does it shows us love, it also shows us the depths of a sisterly and motherly relation. It taught me to love my sister the way she is and to learn and see her flaws.

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### **Liisa says**

I finally read this childhood favorite of mine in its original language and though some of the magic had disappeared due to getting older and knowing the plot, I enjoyed stepping into the lives of the lovely March sisters again. I noticed quite many things that bothered me, but for most of them I can blame the time Louisa May Alcott lived and wrote during, of course things were different then, peoples' attitudes and expectations. And nothing can tarnish the nostalgia I feel for this story -it had such an impact on me as a young girl.

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