

Little Women Fast Facts

- Louisa May Alcott was born in the Germantown section of Philadelphia on November 29th, 1832.
- *Little Women* was first published in 1868 as a semi-biographical of Louisa May Alcott, personified in the character of Jo March.
- *Little Women* was written in two volumes, Part 1 and 2.
- Why does Jo not get together with Laurie? Well Alcott didn't want Jo to marry, ever! But pressure from publishers required that she marry Jo off. To spit her readers she created the character of the Professor to solve this problem.
- *Little Women* was followed by two other novels, *Little Men* and *Jo's Boys*.
- The novel was very popular in the 1870s, but wasn't considered cherished literature until the mid-20th Century, even though most poles ranked it as one of the most read books in America.
- Many of the other characters in the novel were real people as well. Marmee is Alcott's mother Abby, and the sisters are all based on her real sisters, Meg was based off of Anna who really very happily married to a John. Beth was based off of the real Elizabeth who contracted scarlet fever and died at the age of 22. And Amy was really based off of Abigail who became a well know painter, displaying her work at shows around the world. Laurie interestingly is not based on any real person, although he is inspired by a young Polish boy she met while on Holiday. Mr. Laurence is based off of Alcott's grandfather. Aunt March and the Professor are not based of of any real person.
- Bronson Alcott, Louisa's father was a reforming school teacher who actually got the family into a lot of debt and was absent for much of her life.
- Alcott served as a nurse during the Civil War.
- Alcott never married and held off all suitors until her dying on March 6th, 1888.
- Alcott was one of the first successful American female writers of literature.
- *Little Women* has been adapted for film 6 times, has been made into at least two plays, a musical, a radio show and a mini series. Additionally, it has inspired other novels about the March family by other writers over the past century and a half.

*A Guide to Social Behavior
and
Etiquette*

*For All People Aspiring
To Be Proper
Ladies and Gentlemen*

*By Mr. Sean Connolly, Esq.
With Help from the Geneva Historical Society*

Social Behavior and Etiquette For Men:

DO:

- Wear gloves on the street, in church & other formal occasions, except when eating or drinking
White or cream colored gloves for evening, Gray or other darker colors for day wear
- Stand up when a lady enters a room (or your presence in a large room)
- Stand up when a lady stands
- Offer a lady your seat if no others are available
- Assist a lady with her chair when she sits down or stands, especially when at a table or when the chairs are small and light
- Retrieve dropped items for a lady
- Open doors for a lady
- Help a lady with her coat, cloak, shawl, etc.
- Offer to bring a lady refreshments if they are available
- Offer your arm to escort a lady (with whom you are acquainted) into or out of a building or a room at all social events, and whenever walking on uneven ground
- Remove your hat when entering a building
- Lift your hat to a lady when she greets you in public (Merely touching the brim or a slight "tip" of the hat was very rude)

DON'T:

- Refer to another person by their first name in public
- Curse or discuss "impolite" subjects when ladies are present
- Leave a lady you know unattended, except with permission
- Use tobacco in any form when ladies are present
- Greet a lady in public unless she acknowledges you first
- Eat or drink while wearing gloves.

Social Behavior and Etiquette For Women:

DO

- Graciously accept gentlemanly offers of assistance
- Wear gloves on the street, at church & other formal occasions, except when eating or drinking
- Refer to a gentlemen as —Mr. and not by their first name or surname. While in public these forms of address should even be shown towards her spouse.
- Always walk or dance to her left side of the gentleman. While walking do not link arms, but instead, the lady should rest her left hand on his right hand.

DON'T

- Refer to another adult by his or her first name in public
- Grab your hoops or lift your skirts higher than is absolutely necessary to go up stairs -Lift your skirts up onto a chair or stool, etc.
- Sit with your legs crossed (except at the ankles if necessary for comfort or habit)
- Lift your skirts up onto the seat of your chair when sitting down (Wait for, or if necessary, ask for assistance when sitting down at a table or on a small light chair)
- Speak in a loud, coarse voice


The following list of —errors to be avoided at the table is excerpted from Thomas E. Hill's popular, late 19th-century Manual of Social and Business Forms.

- Never fill the mouth very full.
- Never attempt to talk with the mouth full.
- Never explain at the table why certain foods do not agree with you.
- Never introduce disgusting or unpleasant topics for conversation.
- Never pick your teeth or put your hand in your mouth while eating.
- Never call loudly for the waiter, nor attract attention to yourself by boisterous conduct.
- Never wipe your fingers on the tablecloth, nor clean them in your mouth.
- Never make a display when removing hair, insects or other disagreeable things from your food. Place them quietly on the edge of your plate.
- Never permit yourself to engage in a heated argument at the table. Nor should you use gestures, nor illustrations made with a knife or fork on the tablecloth.
- Never use anything but fork or spoon in feeding yourself.
- Never expectorate at the table; also avoid sneezing or coughing. It is better to arise quietly from the table if you have occasion to do so. A sneeze is prevented by placing the finger firmly on the upper lip.



—On introduction in a room, a married lady generally offers her hand, and a young lady not. In a ballroom, where an introduction is to dancing, not friendship, you never shake hands -- only a bow. It may perhaps be laid down, that the more public the place of introduction, the less handshaking takes place


Glossary for *Little Women*

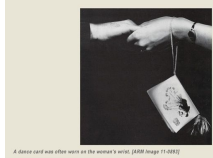



Sean Connolly



Word	Page Number	Context	Definition
Mutton	Pg 1	“The mutton you ordered is on the kitchen table” - Jo	Generally some form of lamb meat that can be served in a stew like meal. Normally served to poorer people because the type of meat was cheap.
Christopher Columbus	Pg 1	“Christopher Columbus!” (Exclamation) - Jo	Half-humorous - way of expressing great surprise, along the lines of: "Jesus Christ!" in today's vernacular. Think a mild curse.
Operatic Tragedy	Pg 2	<i>An Operatic Tragedy</i> song name	A melodramatic opera.
Moors 	Pg 2	“The moors are bleak and bloody” - Jo	A English style grassland, generally found in Southern England, E.g. Exmoor. Think House of the Baskervilles, often associated with something dangerous.
Clarissa	Pg 2	“The fair Clarissa” - Jo	Archetypal character of fair maiden who is often pursued by the villain and needs to be saved by the hero
Braxton Prendergast	Pg 3	“The villainous aristocrat Braxton Prendergast.” - Jo	A typical ridiculous name for a villain in melodramatic writing.
Rodrigo	Pg4	“Rodrigo appears in	The archetypal hero


		magnificent splendor” -Jo	character.
Blood and guts stuff	Pg 4	“Blood and guts stuff.” - Jo	Melodramatic story popular in the 19th Century. Also short stories serial adventure stories focused on violent acts to propel the plot.
Governess	Pg 6	“I hate being a governess” - Meg	A woman employed to teach children the basics of education and etiquette.
St. Valentine’s Day Ball	Pg 10	“Invite me to her St. Valentine's Day Ball” - Meg	Originally started as a festival, but eventually morphed into a party, or ball held in honor of St. Valentines. Didn’t always have a romantic meaning behind it, but by the 1860s was occasionally celebrated as such.
Prison	Pg 11	“You’ll go to prison” - Amy	It would have been extremely unlikely for a middle class women to be sentenced to prison for cutting down a tree. Very free women were sent to prison for nonviolent crimes. But the social ramifications would have been severe.
Soldiers Aid Society	Pg 12	“We knitted socks and blankets for the	Female founded and run organizations that




		Soldiers Aid Society”	helped provide supplies to the Union Army during the Civil War.
Letters	Pg 12	“A letter from father” - Amy	The postal service is one of the oldest organizations in the Federal Government. However, during a time of war and with thousands of soldiers writing home it was extremely burdened during the war. However, it was one of the only really ways of communicating for people. The telegram was still a luxury.
Douglas Fur	Pg 14	“You’ve chopped down my perfect Douglas Fur” - Mr. Laurence	North American Christmas tree, known for its good smell and needles.
Picalow	Pg 15	“I play the piccolo” - Laurie	A instrument that is a mix of a recorder and a flute. Popular in the 19th Century amount both men and women.
Olio curtain 	Pg 17	“And we’ll need and olio curtain for you to paint” - Marmee	The curtain for a theatre, popular in vaudeville theatre in which you could paint scenes onto the front. Generally made out of canvas.
Church bells	Pg 18	“Peeling of the	Church bells


		church bells” - Marmee	normally rung when someone from the town died. Since the the Civil War was so bloody sometimes when news reached a town of a battle and the names were read off the church bells could ring for hours.
Antwerp	Pg 22	“And if I change we’ll stop in Antwerp” - Jo	A port city in Belgium known for the Flemish painter Ruben.
Cannes	Pg 22	“Every city from Dublin to Cannes” - Aunt March	French coastal city.
Elan	Pg 22	“I could learn to use feminine wiles with elan” - Jo	Refined enthusiasm.
Ear trumpet 	Pg 30	“She had this gigantic ear trumpet” - Jo	A early form of a hearing aid, that used a funnel like instrument to channel sound into the ear. Most commonly associated with Sean Connolly’s ears.
Box her ears	Pg 31	“I ought to box her ears” - Jo	Literally to punch or slap someone's ear. Was referenced in an 1891 periodical talking about parenting habits.
Dance Card	Pg 32	“You’ve taken my dance card” - Meg	A list of people one is suppose to dance with at a party. Could be a list that has

			<p>names assigned to each dance, or just a general list of people who could dance with you.</p>
<p>Keats and Shelly</p>	<p>Pg 33</p>	<p>“You read Keats and Shelly” - Mr. Brooke</p>	<p>Two English (R)omantic poets. Both friends with Lord Byron and renowned for their descriptions of love and the English Lake District. Both died young, in typical romantic poet fashion.</p>
<p>Truffle</p>	<p>Pg 38</p>	<p>“Look what I brought for you: A truffle” - Jo</p>	<p>Normally a chocolate based, round sweet.</p>
<p>A petit fours</p> 	<p>Pg 39</p>	<p>“And for you, Miss March - a petit fours” - Jo</p>	<p>A little cake like sweet. French pronunciation: [pə.ti.fur]), meaning "small oven".</p>
<p>Crepe suzettes</p> 	<p>Pg 46</p>	<p>“Then we’ll dine awhile on crepe suzettes” - Beth</p>	<p>A crepe with caramelized sugar and fruit, normally orange or berry.</p>
<p>Beacon Street</p> 	<p>Pg 47</p>	<p>“Boston, Massachusetts, Beacon Street” - Beth and Mr. Laurence</p>	<p>A major road in Boston, forms the northernmost border of Boston Commons.</p>

Musketeers	Pg 51	“We’ll live like Musketeers” - Laurie	Literally, a soldier with a musket. However, they became an important part of the French Army. They were charged with protecting the king and we’re known to have deep loyalty toward one another. Best personified in the tale of The Three Musketeers.
Pneumonia	Pg 53	“Your husband has pneumonia” - Mr. Laurence	A lung infection that was particularly deadly before the invention of modern medicine. Small chance of survival.
Town common 	Pg 54	“So I walked to the town common” - Jo	Rather like a town center, but a square park rather than a square. Common vernacular in Massachusetts.
27 dollars and 25 cents 	Pg 55	“Here: 27 dollars and 25 cents” - Jo	Is worth about \$379.21 based on the average inflation rate: 1.77%.
Telegram	Pg 68	“A telegram, Professor”! - Jo	Invented by Samuel Morse in 1832. One uses Morse code to send messages. By the 1860s it was widely used as a communication device in the Eastern United States

			prompted by the Civil War.
<p>Craggy rock</p> 	Pg 76	“She leaps up on a craggy rock” - Jo	A rugged and uneven rock.
Broadway gardens	Pg 78	“Have you ever been to the Broadway Gardens” - Prof. Bhaer	A restaurant on Broadway Ave.
Scarlet fever	Pg 79	“My sister Beth has contracted scarlet fever” - Jo	<p>Is a bacteria infection that normally spread to people who already have strep throat. Normally fought with antibiotics. Before these medicines it was extremely hard to fight off and could vastly weaken the immune system. Symptoms: Red rash. This was quite fatal, since your body was often so weak that even if you fought off the disease your body couldn't recover. but in Beth's case was not part of a major epidemic, the last being in 1861.</p>
Viel gluck	Pg 80	“And Miss March - viel gluck” - Prof Bhaer	German for Good Luck.
Falmouth,	Pg 87	<i>Falmouth on Cape Cod - Stage</i>	Is a coastal town, directly across from

<p>Cape Cod</p> 		<i>Directions</i>	Martha's Vineyard. Still attached to Massachusetts.
<p>Hegel and Kant</p>	Pg 85	"Reading Hegel and Kant" - Prof Bhaer	<p>Hegel: German idealist (a theory that the essential nature of reality lies in consciousness or reason) philosopher (1770-1831). Kant: German philosopher who developed the idea of rationalism- the view that regards reason as the chief source and test of knowledge. (1724-1804). These ideas greatly influenced the Professor's search for the meaning of life.</p>
<p>Omnibus</p> 	Pg 88	"And ride the omnibus" - Jo	A bus like carriage that is pulled by a horse. Like an early trolley.
<p>Mentronome</p> 	Pg 94	"I brought her this mentronome" - Amy	A device that is used to determine beats per minute for musical instruments and musicians.

Sold a story	Pg 95	“I sold a story” - Jo	To live in the comfortable way that Alcott actually live, she would have had to make about 25-35 dollars a week. At the height of her fame she probably made more. But for a single story starting out, she could have sold it anywhere from 15-50 dollars depending on the publisher.
Bridge of sighs 	Pg 96	“We were under the Bridge of Sighs” - Amy	The Bridge of Sighs was the place that connected the halls of the courts between de Duke Palce and the New Prison. Its curved profile, suspended over the Rio di Palazzo, is one of the most notorious trademarks of Venice. Now its is infamous for being a place of romance among lovers, many believe that if you kiss your lover on the bridge you will be given eternal love. However, the actual history is very different. The bridge was the last place that many prisoners could see sunlight before brought into the prison for execution, hence its name.
Tes beau	Pg 104	“The dress is very	French for Beautiful.

		tres beau” - Meg	
Petite maison	Pg 104	“It was all Laurie’s idea to have the wedding at our very petite maison” - Amy	French for a small house.
Mon amour	Pg 104	“And I can deny mon amour nothing” - Amy	French for my love.