

Jo & Laurie: A Romantic Retelling

By Authors, Margaret Stohl and Melissa De La Cruz

Reviewed By: Kennealy, 17

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Once Josephine “Jo” March publishes her first novel, *Little Women*, she immediately faces demands for a sequel. Her publisher, Mr. Thomas Niles, urges Jo to compose a book filled with romance and weddings. This proves rather tough in light of the fact that Jo does not see herself as a romantic writer. Nonetheless, she gives it her best effort. An abundance of fan mail and a potential theatrical production of *Little Women* in London’s West End leaves her feeling overwhelmed. To make matters worse, Jo’s sister Amy has an insatiable desire for luxuries of the time such as fresh fruit and ribbons - all funded by Jo. All of this puts additional stress on Jo as she attempts to write her sequel. So, when Theodore “Laurie” Laurence proposes a trip to New York as a change of scenery, Jo has no choice but to go along. The trip is filled with excitement and perhaps even a bit of romance. In the end, Jo is left with two questions: Will she write the proper sequel for her beloved characters and will she make the right decision concerning her unfolding relationship with her dear Laurie.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this alternate ending to the March sisters’ story. It was a fast-paced, delightful book filled with entertaining banter between the characters. I read this novel last summer and loved the spin that both of the authors put on the March sisters’ original story while still keeping many of the external details identical. I also appreciated the fact that the authors showed the reality of writing a novel through Jo’s struggle with writing her sequel, *Good Wives*. It was both realistic and eye-opening. Overall, this book was an exciting read that gave me a different outlook on the well loved novel, *Little Women*.

I would recommend this novel to people who have already fallen in love with the March family: whether it be from the big screen or through the extraordinary words of Louisa May Alcott. This book is perfect for readers who would have preferred a romantic relationship between Josephine March and Theodore Laurence throughout the original storyline of *Little Women*.

I recommend this novel to readers above the age of 12. It will not disappoint!

Recommended Titles:

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Good Wives by Louisa May Alcott