

**GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS**

**LITTLE  
WOMEN**

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The March Sisters

## Chapter 1

### Four Sisters

The four March sisters sat around the fire knitting while they waited for their mother to come home.

"Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo.

"It's so dreadful to be poor," sighed Meg.

"Some girls have all the pretty things, while others have nothing," sniffed Amy.

"But we've got Mother and Father and each other," said Beth from her corner.

"But we haven't got Father. We shall not have him for a long time," said Jo. Father

## LITTLE WOMEN

was off where the fighting was. Though too old to fight, he had gone as a chaplain.

Each girl had a dollar to spend on something she wanted for Christmas. But there were to be no presents this year. Mother thought they should not spend money on pleasure when the men were suffering in the dreadful American Civil War.

Although they were poor, they were a happy and close family. The room in which they sat was comfortable and warm, though the furniture was plain.

Margaret, or Meg, was the oldest of the four at sixteen. She was pretty, with soft brown hair. Fifteen-year-old Jo was tall and thin, and something of a tomboy. Her one beauty was her long, thick hair. Beth, who was thirteen, was very shy. She had a timid voice, and she seldom left the house. Amy, though the youngest, felt herself to be very important. She had big blue eyes and curly



Father Is a Chaplain.