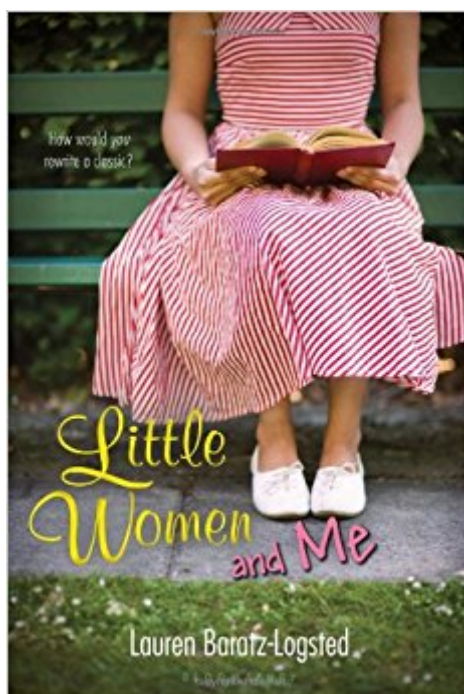


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Little Women And Me



Synopsis

Emily is sick and tired of being a middle sister. So when she gets an assignment to describe what she'd change about a classic novel, Emily pounces on *Little Women*. After all, if she can't change things in her own family, maybe she can bring a little justice to the March sisters. (Kill off Beth? Have cute Laurie wind up with Amy instead of Jo? What was Louisa May Alcott thinking?!) But when Emily gets mysteriously transported into the 1860s world of the book, she discovers that righting fictional wrongs won't be easy. And after being immersed in a time and place so different from her own, it may be Emily--not the four March sisters--who undergoes the most surprising change of all.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Fourteen-year-old Emily March is fed up with being the middle sister. The love of her life, Jackson, only has eyes for Emily's older sister, Charlotte, and, to make matters worse, her weird English teacher assigned an essay over the weekend. The assignment is to take a novel and select one thing to change in the plot. Emily immediately reaches for Louisa May Alcott's classic *Little Women*, one of her favorite books, and mulls over whether to write about preventing Beth from passing away or ensuring that Laurie ends up with Jo instead of Amy. As she's thinking, Emily is suddenly transported back in time and finds herself living in the world of *Little Women*. Emily doesn't know how or why she has arrived not only in 1860s New England but as a member of the March family.

As the events of the original story continue around her, Emily learns to adapt to her new life with older sisters Meg and Jo and younger sisters Beth and Amy. Being a 21st century teen in 1860s Massachusetts, however, has its downsides. Not only is Emily plagued with Victorian sensibilities, a war, and, hairy legs, she is also engaged in a battle of wills with Jo over the attentions of Laurie, the March's teenage next-door neighbor. Will Emily be able to accomplish both of the changes she had in mind for Little Women? Amongst the recent bevy of modern adaptations of classic novels, *Little Women and Me* stands out as a must-read for anyone with even the slightest hint of liking for the original story. The novel immediately takes the reader into Louisa May Alcott's creation. Those who have read *Little Women* will recognize characters, events and even quotes from the classic. The addition of Emily, a clever and sarcastic 21st-century fourteen-year-old, makes for a delightful and laugh-out-loud take on the original novel. Emily pokes fun at some of the oddities in the story: Beth's affinity for kittens, limbless dolls and all things pathetic, Jo's irritatingly evident penchant for independence, and Amy's obsession with her nose. Fans of *Little Women* will find many moments of hilarity in Baratz-Logsted's creative adaptation. The story also takes several twists and turns that will keep the reader guessing, particularly as to the exact nature of Emily's presence in the March house. Overall, *Little Women and Me* is a funny, entertaining and thoroughly enjoyable update of a classic novel. Those who have not read Louisa May Alcott's version will need to brush up on the basics, but *Little Women and Me* can also be enjoyed by people who are not as familiar with the original. The 1994 film version of *Little Women* is one of my all-time favorite movies and is what prompted me to read Louisa May Alcott's classic novel when I was younger. As an essential lifelong fan of the story, I was intrigued to read this adaptation. The result was far beyond my expectations! I'm not sure if I have ever laughed as much while reading a novel. The clever things that Emily says about the March sisters (basically a vehicle for the author to comment on the original story herself) are, in a word, hilarious. I also really liked the more heartwarming aspects of Emily's life in *Little Women*, and was especially pleased with the outcome of the story. I would highly recommend this novel to any fans of the original, or as a means of generating interest in reading the classic. Like my reviews? Check out my profile for a link to my blog for more recommendations!

I went into this book with great expectations. *Little Women* is the one book I reread every single year, never quite getting tired of the adventures of the four March sisters. The synopsis, about a modern-day girl falling into the story sounded like a dream come true. How many times had I wished I could be in the story as well? Unfortunately, Baratz-Logsted wrote a heroine I couldn't root for. Emily was incredibly self-centered, and not in the funny way Amy March is self-centered,

mean-spirited, judgmental (calling Meg "prim," Marmee "pompous", etc.) and all around nasty. The writing was good at points but the decision to show pretty much every single thing that happened in the original *Little Women* meant that we got paragraphs and paragraphs of Emily just recounting events that if you have read *Little Women*, as I suspect most people who read this book will have done, make for a very boring read. Then, of course there's the plot twist that, really, wasn't as surprising since Baratz-Logsted had been committing character murder from the beginning, forcing the relationships portrayed in the book into something that wasn't there in the beginning to fit what she, the author, would have liked Louisa May Alcott to write. According to Emily, Jo likes Laurie, as a guy not as a friend, from the start. This is just character assassination. Jo is oblivious of Laurie's feelings for her much of the book because her character, the way she is, just never let her think of romance, it's simply not who she is to vie for his attention in the way she does in this book. It isn't until much later in the original story, that she realizes and starts avoiding him/pushing him away. She never, ever, returns his feelings. But clearly, Baratz-Logsted was one of those readers that read signs where there weren't any and were convinced Laurie and Jo, a romantic match made in hell, belonged together. So, of course, that part of the twist was quite terrible. Laurie and Jo, as Jo says in the original, would kill each other if they got married. Even worse than that was the part of the twist that made Amy an interloper. Amy March may be a difficult character due to her many flaws, her vanity and selfishness chiefly. However, she is an integral part of the story. She is based on one of Alcott's real life siblings. I can't imagine the book without Amy and Alcott would have never written the book without Amy so Baratz-Logsted's choice of making Amy another time traveler, not an original part of the story, rubbed me the wrong way. Not to mention that she also screws up her character by making her calculating and vindictive. If there's one thing that saves Amy's character in the original is that, despite the airs she puts on and the opportunities life throws her way just because she's pretty and good mannered, she is, deep down, a genuinely caring person. I wish I could un-read this book. I should have read the reviews before buying it but I didn't want to spoil it for myself. Wish I had.

This has to be one of the most unique ideas I've seen before, especially in the whole classic-retelling arena. This did not seem to me, strictly speaking, a retelling of a classic tale, because the author did something so different with it. Yes, the majority of the scenes in the book come straight from *Little Women*, but they are all from Emily's point of view and therefore told in a different way, so that it gave the story such a unique new spin. I loved Emily as a character. She was sweet, smart, and so very funny. Her narrative was engaging and so easy to read. I literally flew

through this book unexpectedly. I think the summary is a little misleading, because not only does Emily find herself inside the story of Little Women, but she's also one of the sisters... one that wasn't in the original book. Fans of romance should be warned, as this story doesn't really have much romance in it at all. This would normally disappoint me greatly, but I found myself not really missing it because the interactions among Emily and the sisters was so engrossing and fascinating, I had my mind on other things. This was a fabulous story that had such a great message in it. Fans of retellings will love it. This is definitely not a book you'd want to miss.

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