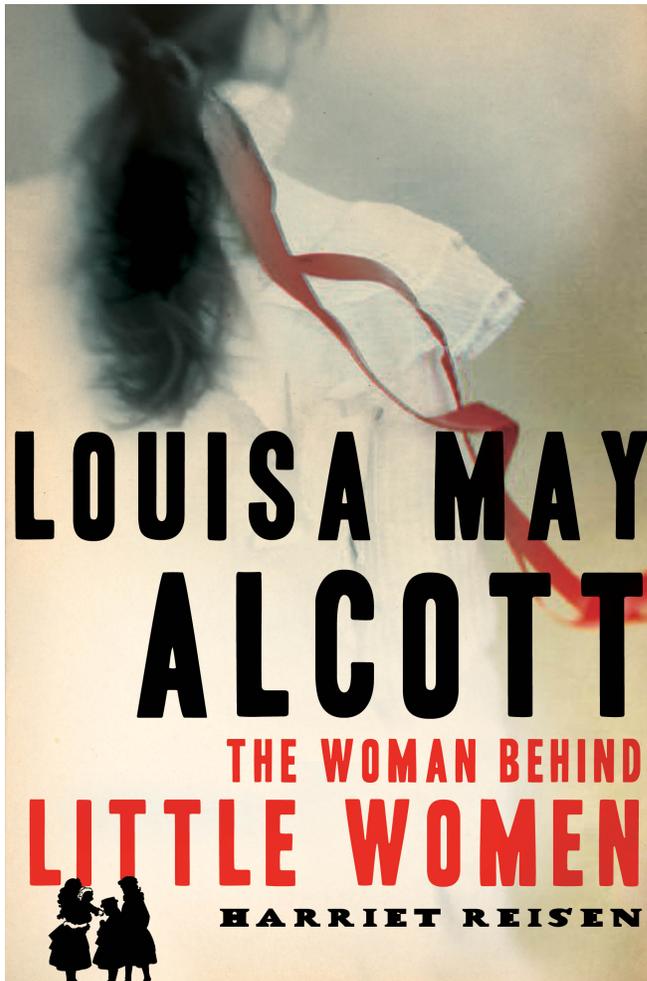


# LOUISA MAY ALCOTT: THE WOMAN BEHIND *LITTLE WOMEN*

by *HARRIET REISEN* \* OCTOBER 27, 2009 \* FROM HOLT



*She was no little woman, and her life was no children's book.*

*Louisa May Alcott* portrays a writer as worthy of interest in her own right as her most famous character, Jo March. A fresh take on this remarkable and prolific writer who secretly wrote pulp fiction, harbored radical abolitionist views, and served heroically as a nurse in the Civil War, *Louisa May Alcott* is in the end also the story of how the beloved and enduring classic *Little Women* came to be.

*From the book:*

“Always conscious of her market, Louisa gave her plain, long-faced older sister a makeover, explaining to Anna that someone had to be beautiful. Someone had to be the heroine too. After years of trying to curb her pride, control her impulses, rein in her wild side (or sublimate it in fiction not meant for young eyes), Louisa finally gave herself approval in the sublime creation of Jo March. In the character of Laurie, she gave herself the brother she had always wanted.

On July 15, Louisa sent the ten remaining chapters of *Little Women* to Niles, along with the corrected page proofs of the first twelve. She had written 404 pages in ten weeks.”

*“If it were not for the blessed fact that everything has its comic as well as tragic side I should have lost my wits long ago.”* Louisa May Alcott

**Harriet Reisen** (Producer/Writer/Author) has been interested in Louisa May Alcott since her childhood marathon reading of Alcott's eight young adult novels. Over the past twenty years, what began as an idea for a film biography of Alcott developed into a passion for the subject herself. A former fellow in screenwriting at the American Film Institute, Reisen has written dramatic and historical documentary scripts for PBS and HBO, and radio commentary for *Morning Edition* and *Marketplace*.

If you are interested in ordering the book or a DVD of the film please send an email to [info@alcottfilm.com](mailto:info@alcottfilm.com). We will notify you when they become available.

Nancy Porter Productions, Inc.  
1387 Massachusetts Ave.  
Lexington, MA 02420-3807  
tel 781.652.8755 (Reisen 781.646.5863)  
[www.louisamayalcott.net](http://www.louisamayalcott.net)  
[nancy@npproductions.net](mailto:nancy@npproductions.net), [hreisen@mac.com](mailto:hreisen@mac.com)

Nancy Porter & Harriet Reisen