



Little Women Review

Title: Little Women

Year: 1994

Film director: Gillian Armstrong

Genre: Dramatic

Characters:

- **Josephine “Jo” March**, an ambitious young woman, who longs to become a successful author.
- **Theodore “Laurie” Laurence**, the young neighbor who becomes Jo's best friend in their youth. Later, he tries, but fails, to convince her to marry him. He eventually falls in love with and marries Amy.
- **Amy March**, the youngest March child. She later marries Laurie and becomes a successful painter.
- **Margaret “Meg” March**, the oldest March sister. She marries Laurie's tutor, John Brooke, and gives birth to fraternal twins. She is the responsible one.
- **Elizabeth “Beth” March**, the third March daughter. At the young age of fourteen, she contracted scarlet fever, which weakened her heart and resulted in her death four years later.
- **Friedrich Bhaer**, an older professor who falls in love with Jo while he works as a tutor in New York and eventually marries her.
- **John Brooke**, Laurie's tutor and Meg's eventual husband.

Plot: In 1861 the March family was shaken by the sudden call to arms of the father of the family. Ms. March, a strong and magnanimous woman, has to look after her four daughters alone: Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy.

Due to the departure of their father, the women of the March household don't enjoy a favorable economic situation.

Despite this, their great altruism and contemplation of the social injustice that governs America lead them to help needy people.

Among the well-heeled of the neighborhood is young Laurie who adores all four March girls. After the convalescent father's return from the war in Concord, the family gradually dissolves. A child is born from the wedding between Meg and a good young man; Amy leaves with old Aunt March for Europe; Beth dies. Jo bears a little difficulty in the quiet local life, made up of small events, of some dance that excites female youth. Jo rejects Laurie's marriage proposal in love with her. Jo loves him very much, but as a friend. She intends to find her place in a society in turmoil and therefore leaves Concord and goes to New York as a tutor where she meets a charming and cultured teacher, Friedrich Baher, very open to social problems like her. After a long time, back home, Jo is finally rewarded by the publication of her first novel, which Friedrich had appreciated and praised.

The sisters are now grown up: Amy in Europe married Laurie, and Mom March plans to found a school, which will be freely open to whites and blacks.

Review: The film focuses mainly on the life of the four sisters to highlight the condition of women in the 19th century. The society of that time was full of prejudices about women, prejudices that haven't disappeared even in our society, although we are in the 21st century. So these four sisters, inspired by the morals of the mother, fight for their rights to be equal to those of men. They try to establish themselves as a woman by showing their talents and, since they come from a family with poor economic conditions, they know that everything must be conquered. However, not everyone has the determination to become someone through their intelligence because they see a society that is too dull, which only gives delusions.

Points for the debate:

- **Jo March dreamed of becoming a writer that will be remembered, Amy wondered to be a famous painter and Beth a pianist, but as women they weren't respected in the world of men. What did they do to make their dreams come true?**

Jo wanted to become a writer, so she decided to leave her country and go to New York to become a writer. She also turned down various marriage requests precisely because she didn't want to depend on any man. Unfortunately Beth died of an illness and was unable to make any of her dreams come true.

Amy went with her aunt to France to learn how to play better.

- **Jo March was a strong representation of women fighting for their rights. She managed to publish a story about the lives of little women. How were women seen in the 19th century?**

Women in the 19th century did not have the right to vote and could not attend schools to broaden their cultural prospects, such as colleges or universities. They were seen as people who didn't need to be educated.

- **Women of the 19th century often agreed to marry for financial reasons. At the beginning of the movie, in a marriage with a rich man Amy saw a chance for a better future. Jo wanted to be an independent woman. Meg dreamed of getting married for love. So what was more important money or true love?**

I think a marriage that is born of love is more important. In my opinion, getting married for money is not appropriate, also because you would risk depending only and exclusively on your husband, therefore the woman would not be completely free and independent and this would be a contradiction because in this way she would not fight for her rights.