

Call back

June 1/30

LITTLE WOMEN Act II



LAURIE turns and sees her. Notices Jo's sober countenance. Anxiously crosses to her.) Jo—what is it? Where have you been? Is Beth worse?

Jo: I've sent for Mother, Laurie.

LAURIE: (Obviously surprised) Good for you, Jo! Did you do it on your own responsibility?

Jo: No! Dr. Bangs told us to—this afternoon.

LAURIE: (Alarmed) Oh, Jo—it's not as bad as that?

Jo: (Crosses to easy chair) Yes, it is! (Sinks down into the easy chair and sobs.) She doesn't know us—she doesn't look like my Beth. And there's nobody to help us bear it. Mother and Father both away—and—and God seems so far off I can't find Him. (Breaks down.) Oh—Laurie!

LAURIE: (Sits on right arm of Jo's chair. Tenderly) I'm here! Hold on to me—Jo, dear! (Gently takes Jo's hand.)

Jo: (Sobs softly for a moment—then recovers) Thank you, Teddy—I'm better now. I—I don't feel so forlorn with you here. I—I'll try to bear it if it comes.

LAURIE: Keep hoping for the best—that will help you, Jo. Soon your mother will be here—and then everything will be all right. Grandpa had a letter from Brook to-day saying your father's improving every day.

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Act II LITTLE WOMEN Act II



Jo: I'm so glad Father is better. Marmee won't feel so bad about leaving him. (Sighs heavily.) Oh, me! It does seem as if all the troubles came in a heap—and I've got the heaviest part on my shoulders.

LAURIE: (Surprised) Doesn't Meg pull fair?

Jo: Oh, yes, she tries to—but she can't love Bethy as I do. She won't miss her as I shall. Beth is my conscience—and I can't give her up! I can't! I can't! (Breaks down and sobs again.)

LAURIE: (A bit choky) Now, now—Jo! Don't—please! (Hopefully, as Jo's sobs quiet down.) I don't think she will die. She's so good and we all love her so much—I don't believe God will take her away yet.

Jo: The good and dear people always do die.

LAURIE: Poor Jo—you're worn out. It isn't like you to be forlorn. (Rises.) Stop a bit! (Crosses quickly up to door L.) I'll hearten you up in a jiffy. (He exits L.)

Jo: (Calls) What is it you want, Laurie? What's doing in the dining-room?

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LAURIE: (Offstage L.) I won't be a minute, Jo. I know what you need. (After a moment he reënters L., carrying a small glass of wine.) Here we are now! (Comes down to L. of Jo.)

Jo: What have you got, Laurie?