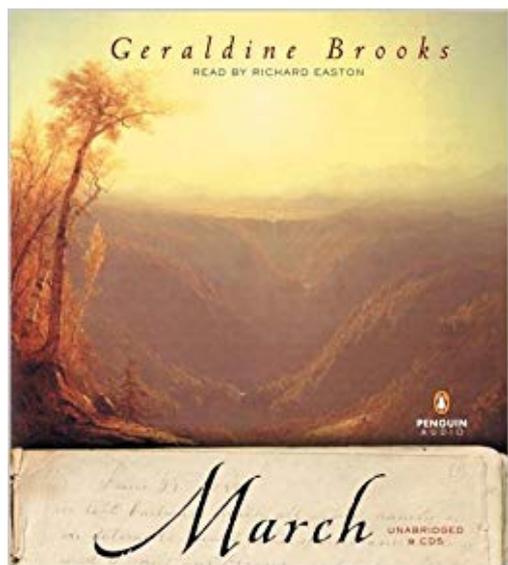


March by Geraldine Brooks



DOWNLOAD LINKS (Clickable)



ISBN: 0142800929

ISBN13: 978-0142800928

Author: Geraldine Brooks

Book title: March

Publisher: Penguin Audio; Unabridged edition (March 3, 2005)

Language: English

Category: Genre Fiction

Size PDF version: 1736 kb

Size ePUB version: 1166 kb

Size FB2 version: 1559 kb

Other formats: lrf lrf doc mbr

As the North reels under a series of unexpected defeats during the dark first year of the war, one man leaves behind his family to aid the Union cause. His experiences will utterly change his marriage and challenge his most ardently held beliefs. Riveting and elegant as it is meticulously researched, **March** is an extraordinary novel woven out of the lore of American history.

From Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic **Little Women**, Geraldine Brooks has taken the character of the absent father, March, who has gone off to war, leaving his wife and daughters to make do in mean times. To evoke him, Brooks turned to the journals and letters of Bronson Alcott, Louisa May's father—a friend and confidant of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. In her telling, March emerges as an idealistic chaplain in the little known backwaters of a war that will test his faith in himself and in the Union cause as he learns that his side, too, is capable of acts of barbarism and racism. As he recovers from a near mortal illness, he must reassemble his shattered mind and body and find a way to reconnect with a wife and daughters who have no idea of the ordeals he has been through.

Spanning the vibrant intellectual world of Concord and the sensuous antebellum South, **March** adds adult resonance to Alcott's optimistic children's tale to portray the moral complexity of war, and a marriage tested by the demands of extreme idealism—and by a dangerous and illicit attraction. A lushly written, wholly original tale steeped in the details of another time, **March** secures Geraldine Brooks's place as an internationally renowned author of historical fiction.



Reviews of the **March** by Geraldine Brooks

USIC

In *March*, Geraldine Brooks creates a very sympathetic character consistent with the father's off-stage role in *Little Women*. The character is quite credible given that he is based, as the Afterword makes clear, on Louisa May Alcott's father Bronson Alcott. The Afterword makes clear where the author departed from the historical facts of the Civil War, which I appreciated. I enjoyed reading about March's friendship with the Emersons and Thoreaus, who actually were friends of the Alcotts. The author's depictions of abolitionist views, civil war fighting, chaplains' roles, and wartime hospitals are well-researched, the latter based on Louisa May Alcott's own writing. Readers should be aware that the book is not appropriate for the same age readers as *Little Women*--it deals with adult themes of sexual attraction, the brutality of slavery, and the blood and gore of war as well as March's internal struggles of conscience as an abolitionist opposed to the taking of life in war. In addition to March, other characters are well developed, particularly his wife Marmee and a literate slave woman who becomes a nurse when freed. Descriptions of Concord, life on a southern plantation, and Washington, DC during the Civil War are vivid and interesting. I found the book very engaging as well as informative. Highly recommended.

Camper

In this novel, Geraldine Brooks creates a beautifully imagined chapter in the life of Mr. March, the father from the novel "*Little Women*." March was absent for a time from the lives of Jo, Beth, Amy and Meg and their mother, and this is the story of that absence -- his departure from home as an impassioned abolitionist and his sojourn as a Union chaplain during a very dark year of the Civil War.

While I was smitten with the lyrical, historically credible quality of Brooks' writing and her often seamless ability to carry me along in this clever story, there were episodes in which I felt rather directed by her -- directed to look at Thoreau and Emerson and other prominent figures of the day. It felt a little didactic at times (yes, I know that Thoreau liked to fish), and perhaps even pedantic. I also lost a bit of patience with March himself, as I do not care for male protagonists who have bouts of profound wimpiness. His character flaws were all part of Brooks' grand design, showing him as a man with much to learn about himself and the cultural disparities of his day. I finished the book with respect for Brooks as a writer but glad to be done with March and his wearisome vanities.

Whatever

"*March*" by Geraldine Brooks is the story of Mr. March; the husband of Marmee and father of Joe, Meg, and Amy from "*Little Women*." In the "*Little Women*" book, March was away at war and the story focused on the girls and Marmee. Near the end of "*Little Women*", Marmee was indeed summoned to Washington DC because Mr. March was hospitalized there.

The story begins with a young Mr. March, fresh out of seminary and working as a traveling salesman, in the South. Why? He was from Boston and could find a town every few miles in New

England. Why go south and go for miles between plantations? I find the first incredulous tale when he "falls for" a slave and kisses her. While northern sentiments were against slavery, it would have still been taboo for a mixed relationship of any kind. Again, incredulously, Mr. March hooks back up with this slave again when he is serving as a Chaplain in the Northern Army. He, who in "Little Women", was nothing but devoted to his wife and children and a pastor, has "thoughts" about this slave woman.

After Mr. March is injured and taken to the hospital in Washington DC, guess who is his nurse? This very same slave lady! Mrs. March arrives and senses there is some "connection" between these two; she has hateful thoughts, very unlike Marmee of "Little Women." Marmee confronts this former slave/nurse and the nurse rightly denies any untoward type of relationship. Marmee is called home when one of her daughters becomes very ill. Again, Mr. March professes his desire to the slave/nurse to follow her wherever she goes and to aid her in her work with the wounded soldiers. She turns him down.

With all that being said, it is a good picture of the conditions on and behind the front lines. I just have a problem syncing the incongruity of this book with "Little Women" characters.

Related PDF to **March** by Geraldine Brooks

1. [Les Quatre Filles du Docteur March \(French Edition\) by Louisa May Alcott](#)
2. [Louisa May Alcott Library: Eight Cousins by Louisa May Alcott](#)
3. [The Journals of Louisa May Alcott by Louisa Alcott, Joel Myerson, Daniel Shealy, Madeleine Stern](#)
4. [Little Women \(Collins Classics\) by Louisa May Alcott](#)
5. [Little Women \(Vintage Classics\) by Louisa May Alcott](#)
6. [Louisa May: A Modern Biography of Louisa May Alcott by Martha Saxton](#)
7. [Louisa May Alcott: Author Of Little Women \(Great Life Stories\) by Christin Ditchfield](#)
8. [Little Women by Anne Boyd Rioux, Patti Smith, Louisa May Alcott](#)
9. [Louisa May Alcott on CD ROM by Louisa May Alcott](#)
10. [Spirituality of American Transcendentalists: Selected Writings by Catherine L. Albanese, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Amos Bronson Alcott, Theodore Parker, Henry David Thoreau](#)