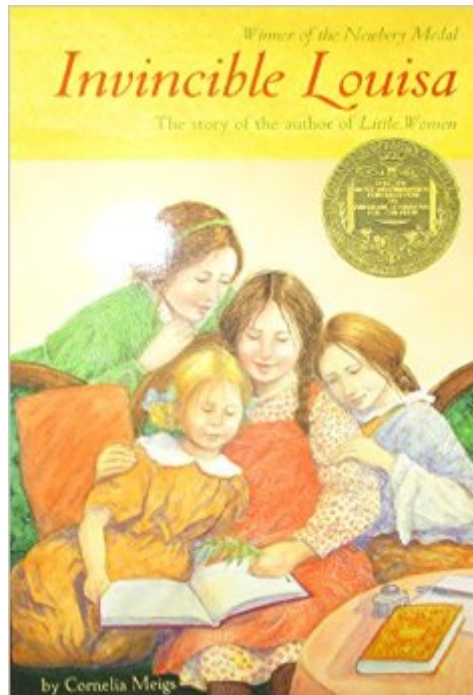


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Invincible Louisa: The Story Of The Author Of Little Women



Synopsis

Biography tracing the fascinating life of Louisa May Alcott from her happy childhood in Pennsylvania and Boston to her success as a writer of such classics as Little women.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I think that *Invincible Louisa* is a wonderful, well written book. No offence meant to the other reviewers of this book, but I think that *Invincible Louisa* did not drag along slowly at all. It is a wonderful book for 11, 12, and 13 year olds, or 10 year olds who are advanced in reading. However, to like this book, you have to like *Little Women*, or any other of Louisa's books. If you like books about American History, around the time of the Civil War, you will also probably like this book. It is a vivid account of Louisa May Alcott and her family's life. It tells how they struggled through poverty and other hardships that would have destroyed any other family's life.

The mark of a superb biography, as is this 1934 Newbery Awardwinner, is that it details the momentous events of the times, along with the tale of the heroine, Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888). The author immerses us in gorgeous poetic language, and plenty of important vocabulary words for the young adult reader. Within these 246 pages we find the origins of the famous characters of Alcott's "*Little Women*" and "*Little Men*," a necessity in a biography, and retrace Alcott's steps through her birth in the Germantown area of Philadelphia, through her family's poverty-stricken years in Boston. Alcott realizes her ne'er do-well brilliant father, Bronson, is a dreamer and not a realist; yet his prophetic ideas on education later took hold. The mid-1800s were a pivotal time in

American history, the era of the Abolitionists, the Underground Railway, The Civil War and of Idealist Philosophies such as the Shaker religion and the Transcendental Movement with contemporaries such as Emily Dickinson, Thoreau and Emerson. The Alcott Family breaks bread with the latter great men, and indeed, her early mentor Emerson tells Louisa, "Your father might have talked with Plato." She is much like her father. Impulsively, she travels at age 30 to Washington, DC, to become a nurse to the wounded Northerners in the Civil War. Hopelessness & disorganization is rife in the make-shift hospital, reminiscent of today's stalled attempts to rebuild New Orleans: "One soldier, with such a bad heart that he should never have been taken into the army... was given heavy trays to carry... When [such injustices] were practiced in her ward, Louisa had a simple remedy. She herself lifted and carried and got down on her knees to scrub the floor." Alcott's tenacity, devotion to family, love of learning and of writing, make her an ideal heroine for today's Little Women. Recommended for curious readers from age 10 to 100.

Before reading this book you need to know that it was written in 1933, for children, and it shows. The language is of course old-fashioned and of its era, and can be enjoyed for that flavour, but if you want a serious and non-hagiographic biography written for adults you will need to look elsewhere. There is so much of interest in Louisa's early life - her dreamer father, her girlhood acquaintance with Emerson and Thoreau, her family's attempt at a commune - but none of it is adequately covered here, of course, as Cornelia Meigs was writing for children. The author also makes the amateur biographer's cardinal mistake of novelizing, painting scenes at which she not present and can have had no knowledge of. I couldn't finish it but at least it made me look around for a serious biography, of which there are several including one by Susan Cheever,

This book brings to life the incredible story of Louisa May Alcott the author of many books the one best known was Little Women, which launched her career as an author. It is beautifully written and gives great insight as to how difficult life was in that era. Well worth your time.

This is an incredible book, and the most incredible thing about it is that it is true. In this book, you can see how Louisa May Alcott's 'Little Woman' is based on the true story of Louisa and her sisters. If you liked 'Little Woman,' you'll like this book.

Quite an old book written in 1930s but this means she's closer to the people in the history, with some family members still living in the houses mentioned. Shows Louisa as a very likeable,

hardworking character. She had a tough time growing up despite being loved by her parents. Almost made me cry a couple of times!

"Invincible Louisa" is a nice little book on the life of Louisa May Alcott. The story is kept simple and is easy to read and in a format that is good for young people. It was interesting to read about the early life of Louisa, growing up in a loving, but poor family, how she got started as a writer and her great success with her famous books "Little Women" and "Little Men". Louisa's famous book "Little Women" is probably her most famous work and the story is based on her own family life with her mother, father and sisters. It is a family oriented, wholesome book, an easy read, and I would recommend it for young folks interested in American Literature. I found it delightful. -- Valerie Lull, Author, Ten Healthy Teas

wonderful biography. i was on the verge of tears often ... alcott my favorite author from my youth -- we would reenact portions of it in the field next to the widow's back yard ... i had dibs on jo ... meigs did a wonderful job on capturing the alcotts ... all four sisters, mother abigail and father bronson -- loved it

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