



# Good Wives

Louisa M. Alcott



MACMILLAN READERS

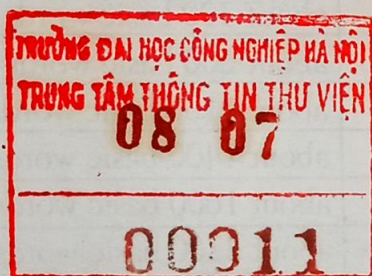
MACMILLAN READERS

BEGINNER LEVEL

LOUISA M. ALCOTT

# Good Wives

Retold by Anne Collins



MACMILLAN



Founding Editor: John Milne

The Macmillan Readers provide a choice of enjoyable reading materials for learners of English. The series is published at six levels – Starter, Beginner, Elementary, Pre-intermediate, Intermediate and Upper.

### Level control

Information, structure and vocabulary are controlled to suit the students' ability at each level.

### The number of words at each level:

Starter	about 300 basic words
Beginner	about 600 basic words
Elementary	about 1100 basic words
Pre-intermediate	about 1400 basic words
Intermediate	about 1600 basic words
Upper	about 2200 basic words

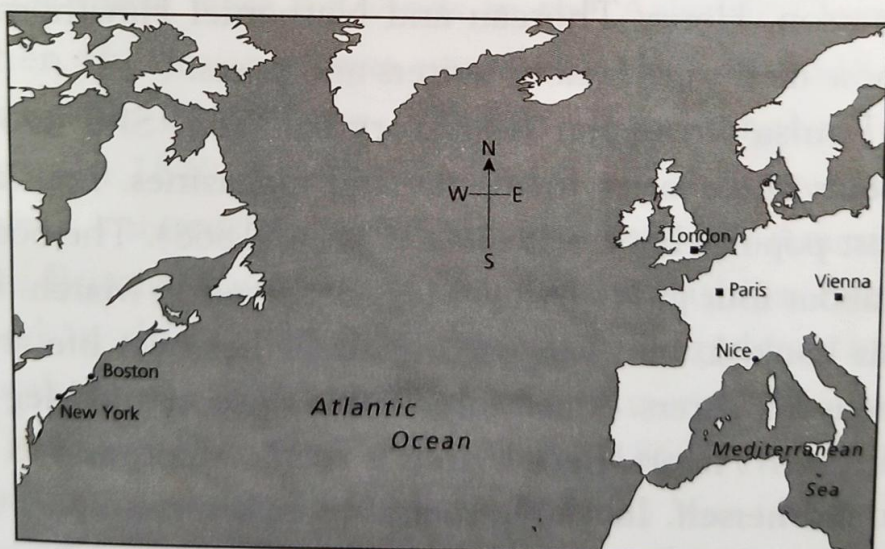
### Vocabulary

Some difficult words and phrases in this book are important for understanding the story. Some of these words are explained in the story and some are shown in the pictures. From Pre-intermediate level upwards, words are marked with a number like this: ...<sup>3</sup>. These words are explained in the Glossary at the end of the book.

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## A Note About the Author

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Louisa May Alcott was American. She was born on 29th November 1832. She lived in the town of Concord, Massachusetts, in the east of North America. Louisa's father was Amos Bronson Alcott. He was a teacher and a philosopher. Louisa had three sisters – May, Elizabeth and Anna.

Louisa did not go to school. She learnt her lessons in her home. She was intelligent. She liked books. Louisa read all the books in her father's library. She also talked with her father's friends, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Thoreau and Nathaniel Hawthorne. These men were famous writers and poets.

Louisa wrote her first story in 1863. She wrote poems and stories for books and magazines. Louisa's most popular book was *Little Women* (1868). The book is about four girls – Amy, Meg, Beth and Jo March. In this book, Louisa was writing about her own life and about her sisters. Amy March is May Alcott and Meg is Elizabeth Alcott. Beth March is Anna Alcott and Jo is Louisa herself. In 1869, Louisa wrote a second part to this story – *Good Wives*.

Some of her other stories are: *An Old-fashioned Girl* (1870), *Little Men* (1871), *Eight Cousins* (1875), *Rose*

in *Bloom* (1876) and *Jo's Boys* (1886).

Louisa Alcott never married. She visited Europe in 1871. After her return to America, she lived in Boston. She worked for women's rights. She often wrote about the lives of independent women. Louisa May Alcott died in Boston on 6th March 1888.

## A Note About This Story

**Time:** 1866 to 1877. **Places:** The United States of America and Europe.

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Several of the people in this story travel from America to Europe by ship. Before 1838, this journey was very difficult. People had to travel in sailing ships. Sometimes there were no winds in the Atlantic Ocean. Then the journey was very long. But in 1838, a steamship crossed the Atlantic Ocean for the first time. In 1840, Samuel Cunard – a Canadian ship-owner – started Atlantic crossings between America and Britain. Cunard had four big steamships. Every week, a ship sailed from America to England, and another ship sailed from England to America. This was a journey of fourteen days. By the 1860s, the ships' engines were better, and the journey was faster. It became a popular journey. Many rich Americans crossed the Atlantic Ocean and visited Europe.



grass, under the trees. The golden sun shone from a clear blue sky.

Mrs March had many lovely birthday presents.

'You've done so many things for us, dear Marmee,' Meg said to her mother.

'Yes, you've helped us all so much,' said Jo.

'Thank you for everything,' said Amy.

'Yes, thank you for everything,' Meg and Jo said.

Soon, it was the end of a wonderful day. All the children ran around the garden. They climbed the trees and they played happily together. Jo watched her husband and her two boys. She was very happy. She put her arms round Meg and Amy, her dear sisters.

'Families are the most beautiful things in the world,' she said.



Published by Macmillan Heinemann ELT  
Between Towns Road, Oxford OX4 3PP  
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Macmillan Publishers Limited  
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ISBN 1-405072-30-X  
EAN 978-1-405072-30-4

This retold version by Anne Collins for Macmillan Readers  
First published 1999  
Text © Anne Collins 1999, 2005  
Design and illustration © Macmillan Publishers Limited 1999, 2005

This edition first published 2005

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Designed by Sue Vaudin  
Illustrated by Barry Wilkinson  
Map on page 3 by Peter Harper  
Typography by Adrian Hodgkins  
Original cover template design by Jackie Hill  
Cover illustration by Getty/Bridgeman Art Library  
Acknowledgements: The publishers would like to thank Popperfoto for  
permission to reproduce the picture on page 4.

Printed in Thailand

2009 2008 2007 2006 2005  
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1