



PRESS RELEASE

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Editor of New “March Family Trilogy” to Speak at Louisa May Alcott’s Orchard House

With January’s debut of “Little Women - The Musical” on Broadway, there has never been a better time to re-visit Louisa May Alcott’s March family trilogy and her spirited and determined heroine, “Jo.” *The Library of America* will honor Alcott’s timeless classics with the publication of **LOUISA MAY ALCOTT: *Little Women, Little Men, Jo’s Boys*** (March 1, 2005; \$40.00; hardcover, 1,092 pages), edited by scholar and Cambridge, Massachusetts–born **Elaine Showalter**. This authoritative single-volume edition is complete with original illustrations -- some drawn by Alcott’s sister, May -- that accompanied the books’ first editions.

The *Library of America* volume presents all three *Little Women* books as Alcott wrote them: *Little Women* (1868-69), set in New England during the Civil War, introduces the charming, unforgettable March sisters -- Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy -- as they begin to make their way into the world; *Little Men* (1871) follows the intellectual tomboy Jo, now married, into adulthood; *Jo’s Boys* (1886) is set in Plumfield School, with Jo’s now-grown children re-counting adventures of their own.

Trilogy editor **Elaine Showalter**, a specialist in Victorian literature and renowned feminist critic, is Professor Emeritus of English and Avalon Foundation Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University. She received a B.A. in English for Bryn Mawr College, an M.A. from Brandeis University, and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Davis. Her academic honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship. She is the author of numerous books, including *A Literature of Their Own: British Women Novelists from Brontë to Lessing* and *Hystories: Hysterical Epidemics and Modern Media*, and is editor of *Alternative Alcott*, an anthology of a broad range of Alcott’s works. She has been interviewed for *National Public Radio*, the *BBC*, *CNN*, *Fox News*, *People* and *Mirabella* magazines, and many others. She lives in suburban Maryland, and is currently on a sabbatical year in southern California.

Showalter will discuss her latest work and Alcott’s life, as well as sign copies of her new book on **March 22, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.** in **Louisa May Alcott’s Orchard House, 399 Lexington Road, Concord, MA.** *This event is free and open to the public*, with light refreshments available. For further information, please contact **978.369.4118 x103** or visit **www.louisamayalcott.org**.