

## Confidential



Ms. March did not leave Beth's side after returning home that morning. Meg and Jo were able to sleep peacefully now that their mother was home. The next day was bright and cheerful.

Laurie went to see Amy at Aunt March's. Amy had been wishing and wishing that her sister would get better. Even though she almost worried herself sick, she also did her best to be brave. Aunt March had been keeping her busy, but she was still very homesick, and longed to be back in the familiar warmth of her family.

Laurie smiled as told her the good news. She tried hard to conceal her longing to go home and see her mother. But Beth was still sick so she had to settle for writing a note.

Much to her surprise and delight, her mother arrived at Aunt March's just as she was putting pen to paper. Amy sat on Marmee's lap, relating her hardships. Her mother kissed her in return. That day, Aunt March had given Amy a turquoise ring. Amy asked her mother if she could keep it.

Marmee replied, "I think you might be too young."

"But I'd like to wear it, to remind me of something."

"Of Aunt March?"

Amy shook her head. "No, to remind me not to be selfish." She explained, "Being selfish is my worst fault. Beth isn't selfish and that's why everyone loves her. I want to be better, yet I often forget."