

## “Little Women”

Jo (Saoirse Ronan) lives with her mother (Laura Dern) and her younger sisters. Jo longs to be a writer but her few forays into the publishing world have gone nowhere. It is the 1860's and for women who aspire to a career outside the home the prospects are bleak. So Jo and her sisters will face many obstacles as they seek to find their place in the world.

The flashbacks at the outset of the film can be somewhat confusing but you soon become totally involved with the ups and downs of Jo and her sisters' lives. Each of them ends up on a different path and along the way there is tragedy, sibling love, jealousy and romance. It is a journey you do not want to miss. Some of the highlights for me were:

**The Cast.** - While all the sisters play convincing roles, Jo is the linchpin. In the hands of Ronan she is an indelible presence. Kudos also to Laura Dern who shepherds her brood of high spirited daughters and Meryl Streep as Aunt March, an icy woman who explains that she never had to consider marriage because she's rich.

**The Unexpected.** - The film artfully depicts how contingency can shape your life in unforeseen ways. For years Jo has poured her heart and soul into a manuscript she hoped one day would find a publisher. It is unexpectedly destroyed and she is inconsolable, not realizing that it was a stroke of good luck masquerading as a catastrophe. She is also consumed by regret for rejecting a marriage proposal and later longing for the man after he found another. But once again the seeds of future happiness have been sown.

**The Publication of “Little Women”** - The publisher rejects her novel out of hand but later receives a rapturous review from an unexpected source. He calls Jo back into his office and offers her a deal which he expects she will snap up. But Jo knows her place in a “man's world” and he is soon disabused of the thought that he is dealing with a submissive female. Jo will not be cowed.

**Romance** - Jo's focus is on her career. Marriage is not part of her plan. Then “Mr. Right” appears. Once more she hesitates but this time her sisters step

into the breach. What follows is a sweeping and glorious romantic sequence made all the more so because the emotions of the moment are so honestly earned.

(Amazon Prime)