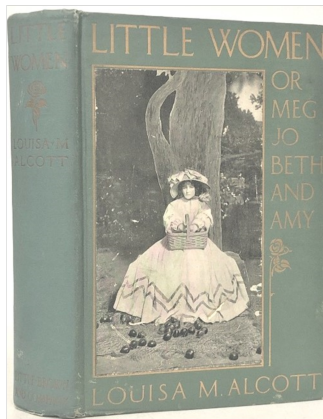


Ripping Reads

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Not on My Bookshelves! by Jilly Day

A few issues ago, Kathleen Porter posed an interesting question by asking which books readers would unquestionably leave off their reading list. I must admit to having quite a long list of 'never again' but have culled it down to six books which are not allowed to grace my bookshelves.

1) *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. To my intense surprise most readers of Girls Own literature seem to adore this book. Personally I can't stand it! As a child I was the unwilling recipient of three copies but happily swapped them for more congenial works. Although I love history, the American Civil War has never held my interest and this, combined with the insipid March sisters and their excruciating Marmee, compels me to put this book at the top of books I choose never to read again.

2) *What Katy Did* by Susan Coolidge. Yet another book which the majority of GO readers appear to enjoy. I didn't warm to Katy prior to her unfortunate accident and found it hard to be properly sympathetic during the prolonged period of disability. Aunt Izzie is a complete horror and Cousin Helen too good to be true, so overall not a book I'll ever revisit.

3) *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. This was a set book in my long distant school days and I greatly resented being compelled to read such a brutal story. Doubtless important social observations are to be made as the boys abandon any semblance towards civilisation and rapidly descend into savage packs of murderers. For me the violence seemed gratuitous and the horrific killings of Simon and Piggy enough to destroy ones faith in human nature at any level. Quite simply a diabolical tale!

