

BETH

Can I tell you a secret?

JO

Anything.

BETH

I never made plans about what I would do when I grew up. And I'm not afraid to die. The hardest part, Jo, is leaving you.

JO

I won't let it happen. You'll get better. You will.

BETH

SOME THINGS ARE MEANT TO BE.  
THE TIDE TURNING ENDLESSLY,  
THE WAY IT TAKES HOLD OF ME  
NO MATTER WHAT I DO.  
BUT SOME THINGS WILL NEVER DIE:  
THE PROMISE OF WHO YOU ARE,  
YOUR MEMORIES WHEN I AM FAR FROM YOU.

ALL MY LIFE I'VE LIVED FOR LOVING YOU.  
LET ME GO NOW ...

*(SHE lets go of the kite string)*

**SCENE 4**

*Aunt March | Amy, Marmee*

*(THE MARCH PARLOR: #8. Winter 1865.)*

*AMY returns from Europe with AUNT MARCH. SHE rushes in excited, holding an armful of things. SHE looks different, having left Concord a child and returned a young woman)*

AMY

Everybody? I'm home!

AUNT MARCH

Look at this house!

AMY

Marmee! Jo!

AUNT MARCH

We left it in shambles - and it's still in shambles.

AMY

Meg!

(AMY)

*(SHE puts down the things she is holding, removes her bonnet)*

Did you see the look I gave the coachman, Aunt March? His impertinence! He caught every bump in the road.

AUNT MARCH

One should always be civil to a coachman. You must respect those who have the reins - until you wrench the reins from them.

AMY

Yes, Aunt March.

*(SHE shouts)*

Jo! Marmee!

AUNT MARCH

And remember, Amy, you're a lady now.

AMY

Yes.... I'm a lady.

*(SHE shouts in a ladylike way)*

Meg! ... When did this house get so small?

AUNT MARCH

As we grow grand, Amy, the world around us often diminishes in size. I have known people who have almost disappeared before my very eyes.

AMY

*(Running to Aunt March, embraces her, almost in tears)*

You're such a dear, Aunt March! Thank you for everything.

AUNT MARCH

*(Breaking from her).*

I'll go see to that wretched coachman.

AMY

Remember, Aunt March, respect those who have the reins.

AUNT MARCH

Very good.

*(SHE goes)*

MEG

*(Surprised. Entering)*

Amy?!!

*Aunt March to here*

**AMY**

*(Rushing to her)*

Meg! Meg! Meg! It's really you?

**MEG**

*(calls)*

Marmcee!

**MEG**

Let me look at you. You're so beautiful.

**AMY**

Let me look at you.

**AMY**

You're a mother now. Twins. I can't believe it.

**MEG**

Neither can I.

**AMY**

Marmcee! Marmcee! Marmcee!

*(AMY rushes to Marmcee, who has entered)*

**MARMEE**

Amy? My baby is home!

**MEG**

Look at her, Marmcee!

**MARMEE**

*(Stepping back)*

You're all grown up.

**AMY**

*(full of emotion)*

I am, Marmcee. I really am. I feel older. I'm sophisticated. You can't imagine all the experiences I had. And wherever I was, I'd think if only Meg were here, if only Jo, if only Beth-

*(SHE holds back tears)*

**MARMEE**

*(consoling)*

Amy -

**AMY**

I was so sorry I wasn't here to say goodbye to her. I cried for weeks. I couldn't stop. Aunt March said I was being unreasonable. But my heart was breaking not to be here with her

JO

*(Having entered)*

Beth understood.

AMY

*(overwhelmed with emotion)*

Jo! Jo! Jo!

*(SHE rushes to embrace her)*

JO

She said tell Amy not to fret.

AMY

Did she really say that?

JO

She was so brave - to the very end. You'd have been proud of her.

AMY

I'd bought her this metronome. The man said there wasn't another one like it...

*(SHE pulls herself together)*

Where did we get that magnificent piano?

JO

Mr. Laurence gave it to Beth.

AMY

He's a dear, isn't he? It's so good to be home. In our dear house.

*(Taking up some of her things)*

MARMEE

Come, Amy. Show us what you brought back.

AMY

It's a king's ransom. I have so many things to tell you all. I ate frogs, actual frogs. And how is John? Is he still romantic?

MEG

More so.

AMY

I knew it! Men are so amazing.

*(THEY go but JO. LAURIE comes on carrying several pieces of luggage)*

LAURIE

*(calls)*

It's almost everything!