

## *American Day: Book Reviews*

### *Little Women by Louisa May Alcott*

Little Women is about four sisters who could not be more different. There is the author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg and romantic spoiled Amy, united in their devotion to each other and their struggles to survive in New England during the Civil war. While their father is part of the war, their mother Mrs. March “Marmee”, a strong, kind and moral character, comforts the girls through many challenges in a time where the American society was lead by strong gender roles. The older the four sister become the more they realize which obstacles they have to overcome as women.

Simultaneously, they also recognize how different they are. While the proud Jo wants to become an author and rejects the idea of being a mother and wife, Meg is following her heart and so wants to get married some day. Amy, the youngest of the four sisters, however, wants to pursue her wish studying abroad in France. All of them do not seem to be interested in anyway in men, except the neighbour boy “Laurie” is part of the March family and also falls in love with Jo.

Alcotts depiction of the female characters was unique for its time and implicitly argued for women’s equality. Through their experiences the characters learn to appreciate the enduring importance of family, the happiness derived from being selfless and dutiful, the disconnection between wealth and happiness and the benefits of working hard to improve oneself.

### *The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald*

„The Great Gatsby“ takes place in the 20th Century, after the “Great War”. The narrator of the book is Nick Carraway, a young man from Minnesota moving to New York in the summer of 1922 to learn about the bond business. He rents a house in the West Egg district of Long Island, near his cousine Daisy Buchanan. Nicks next-door neighbour in West Egg is a mysterious man named Jay Gatsby, who lives in a gigantic mansion and throws extravagant parties every Saturday night.

Jay Gatsby is a young man, around thirty years, who rose from a poor to a wealthy man. However, he achieved his goal by participating in crimes, including distributing illegal alcohol and trading in stolen securities. Gatsby despised poverty since his

youth and longed for wealth and sophistication. Though he always wanted to be rich, his main motivation in acquiring his fortune is Daisy Buchanan who. He met as a young military officer in Louisville.

Daisy was extremely popular among the military officers stationed near her home, including Jay Gatsby. Gatsby lied earlier about his background to Daisy, claiming to be from a wealthy family in order to convince her that he was worth of her. Eventually, Gatsby won Daisy's heart and she promised to wait for him, while Jay left to fight in the war. But instead of waiting, she decided in the year 1919, to marry Tom Buchanan, a young man from a solid, aristocratic family who could promise her a wealthy lifestyle and who had the support of her family. After 1919, Gatsby dedicated himself to winning Daisy back, making her the single goal of all of his dreams.