



Moods

by Louisa May Alcott

DESCRIPTION

Moods, Louisa May Alcott's first novel was published in 1864, four years before the best-selling *Little Women*. The novel unconventionally presents a "little woman," a true-hearted abolitionist spinster, and a fallen Cuban beauty, their lives intersecting in Alcott's first major depiction of the "woman problem."

Paperback

9780813516707, \$39.95

Date: January 1991

Pages: 538



Sylvia Yule, the heroine of *Moods*, is a passionate tomboy who yearns for adventure. The novel opens as she embarks on a river camping trip with her brother and his two friends, both of whom fall in love with her. These rival suitors, close friends, are modeled on Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Daniel Thoreau. Aroused, but still "moody" and inexperienced, Sylvia marries the wrong man. In the rest of the novel, Alcott attempts to resolve the dilemma she has created and leave her readers asking whether, in fact, there is a place for a woman such as Sylvia in a man's world.

In 1882, eighteen years after the original publication, Alcott revised and republished the novel. Her own literary success and the changes she helped forge in women's lives now allowed her heroine to meet, as Alcott said, "a wiser if less romantic fate than in the former edition." This new volume contains the complete text of the 1864 *Moods* and Alcott's revisions for the 1882 version, along with explanatory notes by the editor. A critical introduction places *Moods* in the context of Alcott's own literary history and in the larger historical setting of nineteenth-century society and culture.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Louisa May Alcott was an American novelist, short story writer, and poet best known as the author of the novel *Little Women* and its sequels *Little Men* and *Jo's Boys*.

Sarah Elbert is a professor of history at the State University of New York, Binghamton. She is the author of *A Hunger for Home: Louisa May Alcott's Place in American Culture* (Rutgers University Press, 1987).

Get 30% OFF • Use code RUP30

Free Shipping in the USA • USA & Latin American: rutgersuniversitypress.org • 1-800-621-2736

Canada: <https://www.ubcpres.ca/rutgers-university-press> • Rest of the World: <https://mngbookshop.co.uk/publisher/rutgers-university-press/>

Booksellers / bulk sales: sales@rutgersuniversitypress.org • Examination and desk copies:
rutgersuniversitypress.org/educator