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**LAURIE**

Mr. Brooke, I want you -

**MR. BROOKE**

Your grandfather will be furious. He wants you to meet some important people -  
*(HE starts to pull Laurie away)*

**LAURIE**

I have. These are the March girls I've been telling you about, the ones from across the way.

*(HE pulls apart from Mr. Brooke)*

This is Meg - right?

**MEG**

Yes.

**LAURIE**

And that's Jo. She cuts our firewood on occasion. This is Mr. John Brooke. He's a scholar from Boston.

**MR. BROOKE**

I'm Laurie's tutor. Come, Laurie.

*(HE quickly picks up Laurie's things, including, accidentally, Meg's dance card and starts away)*

**MEG**

*(calls)*

Sir! You've taken my dance card!

**MR. BROOKE**

Your dance card?

*(HE looks at what he is holding)*

Oh? Is this yours? Sorry.

*(HE returns the card. Suddenly notices how striking looking Meg is)*

So - you're Margaret March?

**MEG**

Yes, I am.

**MR. BROOKE**

It's - a splendid party, isn't it?

**MEG**

Yes, it is. Quite - 'lovely.' So you're from Boston?

**MR. BROOKE**

Actually Maine.

**MEG**

I've never been to Maine.

**MR. BROOKE**

You should go. It's beautiful country. Very primitive.

**MEG**

I like primitive.

**MR. BROOKE**

Really?

**LAURIE**

Mr. Brooke is a romantic.

**MEG**

Is that true?

**MR. BROOKE**

Well, no, no. I read Sheats and Kelley. I mean - Keats and Shelley.

**MEG**

So do I.

**#7a – Moffat Underscore**

*If using a chorus, when the MUSIC resumes (SCORE #7a, measure 1) the pairs of dancers begin to exit, and all are off stage by measure 18.*

**MR. BROOKE**

You read Keats and Shelley?

**MEG**

All the time.

**JO**

*(amazed at the exchange)*

Christopher Columbus!

**MR. BROOKE**

*(suddenly inspired)*

Would you like to dance, Miss March?

JO

Meg, we were about to join the ladies in the salon -

MEG

I'd be delighted, Mr. Brooke. Excuse us, Jo.

*(SHE goes off with Mr. Brooke)*

JO

Did you see that? He just -

*(SHE turns and sees Laurie beaming at her)*

What is it with you and that smile?

LAURIE

You make me beam.

JO

Well, you look ridiculous.

LAURIE

You're looking very fetching tonight.

JO

*(Mocking with her fan, as a belle)*

Fetching, really!

LAURIE

So tell me, when you're not attending balls, what do you do?

JO

I write blood and guts stories. I make extraordinary plans. I'm going to Europe. I'm going to meet famous writers and revolutionaries. So what about you? What do you do? Marmee said you're all alone in the world. No mother or father. That must be awful for you.

LAURIE

It's not awful. I've got a cranky old grandfather. And I've got a cat. And I've got -

JO

What?

LAURIE

Well, I was hoping to say you.