

LAURIE

(overlapping. HE is reading from her story)

' ... Carlotta the madwoman in the attic, a creature of gall, a spinster rejected by the world . . . hungry for blood, rose from the dark - '

(HE calls)

Jo! Jo March!

(HE continues reading)

' - her eyes were beady red, her hair ghastly white - '

(HE calls)

Jo, it's your best friend - Theodore Laurence the Third!

(HE continues reading)

' - and her fingers clutched with rage, as she went out into the wretched night - '

JO

(SHE bursts through the attic window, where she had been outside sorting out her thoughts, even writing. SHE is delighted to see him)

Laurie! Laurie, Laurie, Laurie! Christopher Columbus, it's so good to see you! You've not been here in weeks.

LAURIE

I was in Boston. I have dreadful news.

JO

What news?

LAURIE

With the war ended, grandfather's insisted I get on with my life. He enrolled me in school.

JO

What?

LAURIE

I'm going off to college in time for the summer session.

JO

That's wonderful news!

LAURIE

What's wonderful about it? Leaving the best friend I've ever had?

JO

Can't imagine life in Concord without you: Not seeing your silly grin every day -

LAURIE

I don't want to go.

JO

But you've got to go. This is an incredible opportunity. College - I'd go in a minute. I'd study everything.

LAURIE

What do you need of schools? You're going to be a famous writer.

JO

(laughs, doubting)

Famous?

LAURIE

I need to tell you something.

JO

Tell me something.

LAURIE

Ever since that first day I saw you - do you remember that day -

JO

Of course.

LAURIE

- the day you chopped down grandfather's cherished tree - I knew then that you and I would be magnificent together.

JO

We are magnificent together.

LAURIE

My sweet Jo - for weeks now - months even - this whole year actually - I've wanted to -

(HE kisses her)

JO

(pulling back)

What was that?

LAURIE

A kiss.

JO

I know it was a kiss.

#15 – Take A Chance Reprise

LAURIE

It was my first kiss. I've thought about it a long time -
WE COULD LIVE A MILLION DREAMS,
BUT ONLY IF WE DARE.
WE COULD GO TO SUCH EXTREMES.
THERE'S SO MUCH WE COULD SHARE.

(HE comes at her again)

JO

(Holding him off)

What's got into you?

LAURIE

Look here I took a part of my inheritance and I bought you this ring.

JO

A ring? What are you talking about?

LAURIE

I want to marry you.

JO

Marry me? Stop this, Laurie – it's not funny.

LAURIE

I practiced saying the words over and over: 'Marry me. Marry me-

JO

Have you gone mad?

LAURIE

...I love you, Jo. And I want you to be my wife.

JO

No. No. No, find someone else! Find – find some accomplished girl!

LAURIE

I don't want an accomplished girl. I want you!

JO

Well, you can't have me!

LAURIE

At least say you'll think about it.

JO

There's nothing to think about. I'll never marry.

LAURIE

You don't mean that?

JO

I do mean it!

LAURIE

You'll marry.

JO

I won't!

LAURIE

You will. Just not me. That's what you're really saying. You'll find someone -

JO

Go away! I thought you understood me.

LAURIE

You knew all along how I felt. Everybody knew!

JO

You knew all along who I am - what I want. I bared my soul to you, Laurie. Go away.

LAURIE

Jo!

JO

Please, just go!

(HE rushes off)

#16 – Astonishing

WHO IS HE, WHO IS HE WITH HIS 'MARRY ME,'
WITH HIS RING AND HIS 'MARRY ME'?
THE NERVE, THE GALL.
THIS IS NOT, NOT WHAT WAS MEANT TO BE.
HOW COULD HE RUIN IT ALL WITH THOSE TWO WORDS?

I THOUGHT I KNEW HIM, THOUGHT THAT HE KNEW ME.
WHEN DID HE CHANGE, WHAT DID I MISS?
A KISS? WHEN I THOUGHT, ALL ALONG,
THAT WE WERE MEANT TO FORGE FRONTIERS.
HOW COULD I BE SO WRONG?