



A Modern Cinderella

Louisa May Alcott

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A Modern Cinderella is a collection of four short stories by Louisa May Alcott, the author of Little Women. Like her more famous novels, Alcott tells stories of young women interacting with people and events from the late 1800s. A great addition to the Alcott library of stories.

A Modern Cinderella Details

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Author : Louisa May Alcott

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From Reader Review A Modern Cinderella for online ebook

Bonnie says

I have my great grandmother's copy from 1904 - purchased for my grandmother for her 2nd birthday. The copy I have has only the titled story, so this is a review of the one story only.

This 'Modern Cinderella' has no evil step-family in it and the eldest sister is merely a cinderella of circumstance; 3 sisters living with their father. It's a cute story of 3 sisters of differing personalities and how they grow into caring young women because of the self sacrifice of the eldest sister.

It has the storyline of 2 teenage girls who take full advantage of their elder sister, Nan, but without the meanness of the fairytale version. When Nan becomes bedridden from exhaustion the younger sisters are forced to do the required work of the household and come to understand how much their sister has done for them with no thought of herself; they also come to realize what is required of themselves to become the head of a household in the near future.

I love how Miss Alcott brings in a shoe and a pretend prince to round out the Cinderella aspect.

A coming of age story set in the early 1900's - much different from a modern day storyline of the same type.

Camille says

This book includes four short stories:

- The little old shoe
- Debby's debut
- The brothers
- Nelly's hospital

I liked the last three better than the first one. The last two especially I found interesting as they were not about the love story of a young girl. They are both related to the Civil War, hospital and, in "The brothers", racial conflict.

Emily says

This is hard to give an accurate rating as there are 4 separate and unique stories put together into one book. The first story is quite sweet and charming. Rather cliche, but cute. The second story is more interesting, character-wise. I found the almost ending to be a little annoying as the girl nearly ruins her "happily-ever-after." The third story was awful in every way. I had a hard time getting through it and the ending was so sad. The random change in direction from light romance tales to a very dark story dealing with racism, slavery, abuse, and hatred was quite startling. I don't know who thought to put these stories together. The last story was very sweet, though entirely unbelievable.

The third story definitely brought the rating down, but the other 3 stories were not very memorable either. Cute, but not much substance or reality.

Allan67 says

A book that I tried to read to Diana. We can't do much anymore after her stroke, so I read to her to spend time together. Diana has always loved to have someone to read to her - and I like to do just that.

This book is a collection of four short stories by Louisa May Alcott. We enjoyed Little Women, Little Men and other Alcott books, however neither of us could get interested in the stories in this book. Others rate it highly, so the problem is apparently us and our interests.

Prex Ybasco says

It was a good book, don't get me wrong and Alcott still managed to capture my heart with her literary wit. Is it as memorable as *Little Women* , or *Jo's Boys* ? No. The stories in the book reminded me of the characters in the aforementioned texts but that was it. Perhaps it was because there were a number of stories compiled in one book, but those didn't move me nor care about the characters as much as when the kids and the teachers were together. All I realized was to be a Modern Cinderella, one has to be as loyal and hardworking as Nan, as bright and witty as Debbie, and as caring and pure as Nelly.

I also have to admit that Dora's story was cute.

Terry says

sweet. very much alcott

Trudy Pomerantz says

There were four short stories included in this ebook which was available for free on iTunes. They were the title story, A Modern Cinderella, Debby's Debut, The Brothers, and Nelly's Hospital. Louisa May Alcott always wrote very refreshing, moral stories. It always appeared though that reformation was within everybody's grasp as long as they made the right rules and did the right thing. Having said that, she writes charming stories that are thought-provoking and worth reading.

"Di, my father began the world as I begin it, and left it the richer for the useful years he spent here, -- as I hope I may leave it some half-century hence. His memory makes that dingy shop a pleasant palce to me; for there he made an honest name, led an honest life and bequeathed to me his reverence for honest work. That is a sort of hardware, Di, that no rust can corrupt, and which will always prove a better fortune than any your knights can achieve with sword and shield."

"You and Nan have known each other all your lives; yet, till this last visit, you never thought you loved her more than any other childish friend. It is too soon to say the words so often spoken hastily, -- so hard to be

recalled."

"Then remembering that these womanly attributes were a bride's best dowry, Laura gave herself to their attainment, that she might become to another household the blessing Nan had been to her own; and turning from the worship of the goddess Beauty, she gave her hand to that humbler and more human teacher, Duty, -- learning her lessons with a willing heart, for Philip's sake."

Leigha says

Oh, Louisa, you and your unbelievably (yet so believably) perfect characters... I love this book. I love it, I love it, I love it. I highly recommend reading it; it's a short read, great for a cozy afternoon with nothing to do. I don't want to summarize the book. It has a definite point straight from the beginning, you'll learn soon enough. Just start! You can find it free on kindle! Just start reading it!!

Agata Salim says

I love the book. Am currently on the second story, and desperately in love with Louisa May Alcott. I have said these before: that in her stories, she preached, but I like her kind of preaches. It reminds me that to have a pure heart is not an unfashionable thing. And it was more or less the same, since 1910s until today's 2014.

I have so many favorite excerpts that my ebook is filled with highlights!

Lindasttop says

Another Louisa May Alcott book that I don't think I had read when I was growing up.
Love her stories and how she writes.

Stacey says

Alcott could wax moral with the best of them. Unlike the gothic melodramas of her youth or Little Women, reading these short stories felt like I was being preached to. A Modern Cinderella: Be meek and kind and get the guy.

Debby's Debut, I liked, but honestly can't remember most of. Moral: be true to yourself and without pretense and have a rich aunt willing to help you ... and you too can marry a poor man you love instead of the rich fop your aunt wanted you to pick. But you will change rich fop's life!

Brothers: thanks to Mercy Street (dang you PBS for canceling it), I knew what a contraband was. But this story was awkward to read. A tale of a Union nurse caring for an unnamed rebel soldier dying. Helping her is a contraband slave named Bob. The narrator describes Bob and... it feels like it was written by a white, female abolitionist. It was awkward. With a bit of the white savior trope thrown in. But it also references the film Glory!

Nelly's Hospital: cute story about a girl who starts a hospital for birds and bugs to help with the war. Helps cure her brother of PTSD.

Emma says

I coulnd't even finish, I was so boring and nothing ever happened and if something happened you knew it would happen for such long time before it actually happened.

Rida says

Absolutely beautiful book, it showed the innocence many of us no longer see in modern books. Though I am still quite young, the characters' mature appearances were very much to my taste. The stories were simple in a quick read, but one realizes that these shorts had a much greater meaning once pondered upon. There was humor in the right areas and somber moments in others. All in all, a very enjoyable read, I would recommend this to anyone who loves a little bit of history and literature mixed into one.

Carol Spears says

In this version the sisters are not hateful, just selfish.

Maria says

This contains four short stories:

A Modern Cinderella

Wow. So inventive! I loved the idea that the 'wicked stepsisters' are really just two very preoccupied older sisters. That Nan doesn't mind the housework. I love John and the promise he made to his mother. I liked the inventiveness of Cinderella's losing her shoe. Lovely.

Debby's Debut

Poor Debby. Taken out of her element and then falling in love and then going silly. I liked this story, if only because Frank Evan is such a darling. I loved the race. And the apology, for that matter.

Brothers

I can't imagine the hatred here. This is always a hard subject— slavery, half-breeds, racism... but still. I respect Robert for not having done what he wanted to do, but I didn't like the ending.

Nelly's Hospital

Sweet story of a little girl who creates a hospital for animals when her brother comes home from war with a busted leg. Very sweet.

