

LW AS

Scene 3: Jo, Meg, and Laurie

MEG: *(offstage)* Jo! Jo!

JO: Here!

MEG: *(running in)* Such fun! Only see! *(waving the precious paper)* A regular note of invitation for tomorrow night! *(proceeding to read it with girlish delight)* "Mrs. Gardiner would be happy to see Miss March and Miss Josephine at a little dance on New Year's Eve!" Marmee is willing we should go, now what'll we wear?

JO: *(with her mouth full)* What's the use of asking that, when you know we'll wear our poplins, because we haven't got anything else?

MEG: *(they start toward the Gardiner house)* Now don't put your hands behind you, or stare, or say "Christopher Columbus!" will you?

JO: Don't worry about me. I'll be as prim as I can.

The LIGHTS CROSSFADE as they enter the Gardiner house.

MEG: Now don't forget to keep the burnt part out of sight, Jo. Is my sash right? And does my hair look very bad?

JO: How do you learn all the proper ways? I never can. Isn't that music gay?

The SOUND of a waltz begins. Meg steps out into the next room at once, but Jo proceeds slowly, hesitates, then thinks better of it and returns to the entry room. Unfortunately, another bashful person - LAURIE - had chosen the same refuge.

JO: *(stammering, preparing to back out as speedily as she had bounced in)* Dear me, I didn't know anyone was here!

LAURIE: *(laughs, then pleasantly, though he looks a little startled)* Don't mind me, stay if you like.

JO: Won't I disturb you?

LAURIE: Not a bit. I only came here because I don't know many people and felt rather strange at first, you know.

JO: So did I. *(he starts out)* Don't go away, please, unless you'd rather. *(he stops; Jo starts toward him, trying to be polite and*

easy) I think I've had the pleasure of seeing you before. You live near us, don't you?

LAURIE: *(smiling wistfully)* Next door... How do you do, "Miss March"?

JO: Nicely, thank you, "Mr. Laurence." But I'm not "Miss March." I'm only Jo.

LAURIE: I'm not "Mr. Laurence," I'm only Laurie.

JO: Laurie Laurence, what an odd name.

LAURIE: My first name is Theodore, but I don't like it, for the fellows called me Dora, so I made them say Laurie instead.

JO: I hate my name, too, so sentimental! I wish you would say Jo instead of Josephine. How did you make the boys stop calling you Dora?

LAURIE: I thrashed 'em.

JO: I can't thrash Aunt March, so I suppose I'll have to bear it *(she resigns herself with a sigh)*

LAURIE: Don't you like to dance - *(in an afterthought, looking as if he thinks the name suits her)* "Miss Jo"?

JO: I like it well enough if there's plenty of room, and everyone is lively. In a place like this I'm sure to upset something, so keep out of mischief and let Meg sail about. Don't you dance?

LAURIE: Sometimes. You see I've been abroad a good many years, and haven't been into company enough yet to know how you do things here.

JO: Abroad! Oh, tell me about it! Did you go to Paris?

LAURIE: We spent last winter there.