

**THE LOUISA ALCOTT
READER: A SUPPLEMENTARY
READER FOR THE FOURTH
YEAR OF SCHOOL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649639830

The Louisa Alcott Reader: A Supplementary Reader for the Fourth Year of School by Louisa M. Alcott

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LOUISA M. ALCOTT

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READER: A SUPPLEMENTARY
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YEAR OF SCHOOL**



"Lily rocked and ate till she finished the top of the little tree."
Frontispiece.

THE LOUISA ALCOTT READER

*A Supplementary Reader for the
Fourth Year of School*

BY
LOUISA M. ALCOTT

Author of "Little Women," "An Old-Fashioned Girl,"
"Silver Pitchers," "My Boys," etc.

ILLUSTRATED

BOSTON
LITTLE, BROWN, AND COMPANY
1911

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Jan 2, 1912.

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Printed

A. J. FARRILL & Co., BOSTON, U. S. A.

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She actually stood in "a grove of Christmas trees." — PAGE 30.

I.

A CHRISTMAS DREAM, AND HOW IT CAME TRUE.

"I'M so tired of Christmas I wish there never would be another one!" exclaimed a discontented-looking little girl, as she sat idly watching her mother arrange a pile of gifts two days before they were to be given.

"Why, Effie, what a dreadful thing to say! You are as bad as old Scrooge; and I'm afraid something will happen to you, as it did to him, if you don't care for dear Christmas," answered mamma, almost dropping the silver horn she was filling with delicious candies.

"Who was Scrooge? What happened to him?" asked Effie, with a glimmer of interest in her listless face, as she picked out the sourest lemon-drop she could find; for nothing sweet suited her just then.

"He was one of Dickens's best people, and you can read the charming story some day. He hated Christmas until a strange dream showed him how dear and beautiful it was, and made a better man of him."

"I shall read it; for I like dreams, and have a great many curious ones myself. But they don't keep me from being tired of Christmas," said Effie, poking discontentedly among the sweeties for something worth eating.

"Why are you tired of what should be the happiest time of all the year?" asked mamma, anxiously.

"Perhaps I should n't be if I had something