

RS#2 Jo, Beth, Amy, Meg, & Marmee**Start****JO**

Christopher Columbus, I'm bursting with energy! Someone give me a task to do!

BETH

I want you - to bring father home.

JO

I shall write President Lincoln tonight! Another!

MEG

I want you - to get Annie Moffat to invite me to her St. Valentine's Day ball!

JO

I'll wring her bloody little neck if she doesn't! Another!

AMY

I want you - to get us a Christmas tree.

JO

Rodrigo will go chop one down immediately!

AMY

Where?

JO

There! Across the road!

BETH

But that's on Mr. Laurence's property.

AMY

You'll go to prison for it!

JO

(SHE exits with an exaggerated flourish)

Prison? What care I for prison?

*(The GIRLS rush to the window to watch her as the scene segues to THE MARCH
PARLOR: #1)*

BETH

Jo is an incredible human being.

MEG

Look, it's Mr. Laurence. He's standing there at the window glaring out.

AMY

He looks sinister.

BETH

I think he looks sad.

AMY

I wouldn't be sad living in such a house.

BETH

Has anyone ever been inside?

AMY

He'd never let any of us in.

MEG

They say he's a very angry and bitter man. Jo's going to get us all into deathly trouble.

AMY

We'll be known as the family with the criminal sister.

(MARMEE, the girls' mother, enters. Her strength and spirit hold the family together)

MARMEE

What criminal sister?

(BETH, MEG & AMY rush to her, helping her with her things)

BETH & MEG

AMY

Marmee!

Marmee, you're home!

MARMEE

(Seeing them all in parts of costumes)

What's happening here?

MEG

Jo's written an Operatic Tragedy.

AMY

And she's inviting all of Concord to come see us perform it.

BETH

And I'm the mother in it.

MEG

And I die in it, but it's a beautiful death.

AMY

And I play Clarissa, who's very sweet.

MARMEE

It sounds wonderful!

BETH

Oh, Marmee, it's Jo's best.

AMY

Tell us about your day.

MARMEE

Well - we knitted socks and blankets for the Soldier's Aid Society. And a letter came from father.

AMY

(shouts)

A letter from father!

MEG

Read it to us, Marmee!

MARMEE

Where's Jo?

BETH

She's outside.

AMY

Read the letter, Marmee!

MARMEE

We'll wait for Jo.

AMY

She may be hours.

MARMEE

I want to hear all the things you did today.

(BETH, AMY & MEG quickly gather around her, speaking all at once)

BETH

I baked a dozen biscuits.
Then I practiced the
piano.

AMY

Charlotte Fenton teased me
mercilessly at school. I was so
humiliated.

MEG

I hate being a governess, Marmee.
I do try. But the children get the
best of me.

JO

(SHE enters, breathless, trailing a very large evergreen behind her)

Rodrigo has returned!

MARMEE

Jo!

JO

(surprised)

Marmee!

MARMEE

Where did you get that tree?

JO

I borrowed it from Mr. Laurence.

MARMEE

Jo! You didn't -

JO

(passionate)

I took it for us, Marmee!

MARMEE

(coming right in)

You'll take it back immediately.

JO

Take it back? That's like bringing back a chicken after you've chopped off its head.

AMY

Do let us keep it.

MEG

It's Christmas, Marmee.

MARMEE

No. Destroying someone else's property - ?

BETH

(coming right in)

Well, we could give it to the Hummels. They have so little.

MARMEE

Good. The tree goes to the Hummels then. Now what about Mr. Laurence?

← **End**