

## Little Women and the Men “Problem”

When the December 2019 adaptation of *Little Women* was released, it was a success, but there was some controversy on it. *Little Women* just screams women, but that’s what it is about - the personal lives of the March girls, their natural talents, their wishes, and their family. Their mother, Marmee, was very involved in their lives, but their father figure was hardly there. According to *The Atlantic*, “Men might not feel great after seeing *Little Women*, because the movie, like the book, takes a dim view of them.” The film takes us back to the 19th Century when women had to marry men in order to have a fulfilling life. Women felt oppressed by the power men held over their lives. Even though the father was absent throughout most of the movie, the March sisters continued to focus on his approval.

This latest adaptation of this feminist film is written and directed by Greta Gerwig. Gerwig wanted this to be seen on the big screen. Audiences for the film are mainly women. When I walked into the theatre with my sister, I noticed that immediately.

According to *The New York Times*, “If many men haven’t wanted to give *Little Women* a chance because they don’t think it’s meant for them, we still have a way to go in considering all kinds of narratives about women to be deserving of thoughtful attention.” I think that some men don’t want to see the realistic aspects of how women were and are treated, but it’s not only that. They don’t want to see women portrayed in a non-sexualized way. According to *NPR*, a lot of the men that want to see the movie feel obligated to go with a female. “Like, they need a chaperone. I want to go with my wife, or, I’m excited that I get to take my daughters. Some of it is out of a sense of deference.”

In my opinion, I don’t think men should feel like they shouldn’t see a movie with strong female protagonists. Although *Little Women* is a great example of a film they should see because it represents female strength and leadership in a non-sexualizing way, there are plenty of other movies that they could enjoy as well. The act of heterosexual men seeing movies with female protagonists is a simple one. The solution is to support women run movies in the film industry because most of the people seeing them are only women. I find that it’s important to stay open-minded when it comes to the type of movies that involve a plotline around women.

### Works Cited:

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