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Las razones de Jo

Jo's Reasons

Isabel Franc

The book *Little Women* has been a point of reference for several generations of girls, and Jo March the rebellious main character with which most of us have identified as readers. A brave warrior, this young woman rejected society's gender roles and channeled her desires for independence into her writing. But the enthusiasm that drew us to her turned to disappointment when, at the end of the book, Jo decides to get married and give up writing. There have been numerous interpretations of this ending, but the question remains: "Why did she do it?"

Isabel Franc gets into the character's skin in order to reinvent her and give her the last word from her own pen. Jo provides her own perspective on what happened: Papa was no hero; he went to the front because he was fed up with so many women. There is also a battle fought over love. Jo falls in love with a woman in New York, turning her long-imagined fantasies into reality. With her, she experiences a relationship on equal terms, knowing pleasure and sharing intellectual ideas and interests. She denounces the theory of the period that considered homosexuality a disease and demands the right to live her love freely.

Isabel Franc made her literary debut with the novel *Entre todas las mujeres* (Tusquets 1992), an unusual book that was named as a finalist in the Premio La Sonrisa Vertical. She has participated in several poetry collectives (*Abecedaria* 1995, 1996 and 1997) and has published short stories in the magazines *Zero* and *Nosotras*. She is the author of the celebrated *Trilogía de Lola Van Guardia*, edited by Egales, which includes the titles: *Con Pedigree* (1997); *Plumas de Doble Filo* (1999); and *La mansión de las Tríbadas* (2002), all three translated into French and published by Odin. She recently published a new novel, *No me llames cariño*, this time under her own name.

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