

Scene 1
The March Family Christmas

Setting: March family home, Christmas morning

LIGHTS UP: The home is clean and neat, not shabby, but also not elegant. There is a table with 6 chairs, a fireplace, a couch and 2 chairs (one a rocker), a rug, a coffee table and a simple Christmas tree, maybe a doorway and window, and a few old pictures on the walls. The girls are finishing up decorating and preparing for Christmas breakfast. Jo is hanging homemade garland; Meg and Beth are setting the table, and Amy is sitting on the floor at the coffee table, making paper ornaments.

Jo: Hurry up and finish those ornaments, Amy, and clean up that mess before Marmee gets home.

Amy: I'm trying, Jo. I'm making a special ornament for Marmee. I hope she likes it.

Beth: Marmee has been working so hard helping the poor Hummel Family. She will love that we have tried to make everything festive.

Meg: *(looking around)* Everything looks nice, for a poor home and a poor family...Jo, do you remember when we were wealthy? We had a lovely house and lovely clothes!

Jo: And books! Lots and lots of books, and glorious food! It's so sad that there's no money for Christmas presents this year! I would love a copy of German tales!

Beth: I would love some new sheet music, but I know the cost is too dear.

Meg: I would choose a new party dress, one with lace and ribbons. Now that I'm 16, I should have a more stylish dress.

Amy: *(Sighing)* For me, it would be new drawing pencils. My old ones are practically nubs. I hate being poor!

Meg: I love the children I care for, but I wish I could live a life of leisure like my friends Annie and Sallie, instead of being a nanny.

Jo: At least you don't have to work for Aunt March. She criticizes everything I do. What a curmudgeon!

Amy: Well, I have to go to school with those snobby girls who make fun of people... I wish I had a nice nose...

Beth: We shouldn't complain so. We are poor, but we have each other and Marmee and Father. We just have to bear our burdens.

Jo: You are so right, sweet Beth. I resolve to improve my temper.

Meg: And I'll try not to be so vain and be content with what I have.

Beth: I'll try to do the housework with a cheerful heart.

(It's quiet for a few seconds, and then everyone looks at Amy who fidgets and then speaks.)

Amy: I resolve to be less selfish...and stop obsessing about my nose.

(Jo sticks out her arm, and each girl does the same, putting hands on top of each other to seal their pact. Hannah enters with food, sets it on the table, and looks at each of the girls.)

Hannah: What are you all doing? Hurry up and finish up your work. Your mother will be home soon. Amy, warm her slippers; Beth, get her shawl; Jo, put another log in the fire, and Meg, help me with the food. *(Hannah exits)*

Meg: Hannah makes a good point. Marmee is so good to us. We should be thinking of her and not ourselves!

(Meg goes to help Hannah while the others rush to their tasks.)

Jo: Hurry, everyone! I think I hear Marmee.

(Marmee enters wearing a hat and heavy shawl, looking very cold and tired.)

Marmee: Good morning, everyone. And Merry Christmas! It's so terribly cold outside this morning! Quickly, help me get off my things and give me a hug...*(looks around)* Oh, everything looks lovely! Thank you all.

(The girls rush to hug her. Meg enters with food, puts it on the table and joins the hug. All wish Marmee a Merry Christmas. Hannah enters with sausages, etc.)

Marmee: Girls look, we have a letter from Father. I shall read it soon, but first I have to ask you all to do a special thing...I know we are not wealthy, but compared to some others, we are very fortunate. The poor Hummel family is sick and starving... Would you be willing to give them your Christmas breakfast?

Jo: Our lovely breakfast...with marmalade toast?

Amy: And fat sausages?

Beth: If it will help that poor family, I will gladly give up my breakfast.

(The girls all look at each other, and then agree.)

Meg: Of course, we will, Marmee. I will help Hannah get everything ready to go,

Amy: I'll help, too.

Jo: I'll go with you, Marmee. I will carry some logs for their fire.

Beth: As will I. We will make a lovely Christmas for the Hummels.

Jo: And when we return, we will read Father's letter and perform my play for Marmee!