

Typography & Imagery

Project 01

Process Work

Maggie Blaisdell
GRDE 206

Research/Resources

[written research and/or resource and reference material]

Book: Little Women

Louisa May Alcott

First Volume (Little Women) 1868

Second Volume (Good Wives) 1869

Combined Volume (Little Women) 1880

Synopsis, Characters, and Themes

Four close sisters, Meg, Jo, Amy, and Beth transition into adulthood in Plumfield (likely Concord), Massachusetts during and after the American Civil War. They are cared for by their mother, who they affectionately call “Marmee” and look up to their father, who serves as a chaplain during the war. The book is loosely based on the author’s (Louisa May Alcott) own life.

Meg is the oldest and traditional and hard-working. She likes the finer things in life, like pretty ball gowns and parties, but feels most comfortable at home and with her family and close friends. She eventually marries the tutor of the next-door-neighbor’s grandson and lives a modest yet comfortable life with him.

Jo is the second oldest, much like Alcott herself, and takes after the author in many ways. She is extremely independent and feels called to write. Throughout the novel she seeks to publish works, and finds success in newspaper writing short stories. She writes for the money, and bows (sometimes unwillingly) to the wishes of the publisher. This reflects Alcott’s own writing; Little Women was actually created at the request of her publisher. She has a deep friendship with the neighbor boy, Laurie. Jo also eventually finds love (although Alcott did not) in Professor Bhear, who she meets while being a governess in New York.

Amy is a bit of a troublemaker. She gets into major trouble at her school and perpetrates one of the most horrific acts in the book – she burns all of Jo’s writing. She is jealous and selfish. However, she eventually grows out of her immature ways. She goes to France to work on her art and, while there, runs into Laurie. She finds comfort in a familiar face and solace when the news of her sister’s death is revealed. The two discover their true feelings for each other and marry.

Beth is the most kindhearted and selfless character in the novel. She never once thinks about herself and, after visiting a poor family Christmas morning at her mother’s request, continues to care for the family long after her sisters have forgotten about them. She loves to play the piano, and although she is terribly shy, she works up the courage to play at the neighbor’s house. They develop a friendship, and he gifts her a beautiful piano. Sadly, due

Research

to her time nursing the poor family's children, she becomes ill and ultimately passes away. Her death is extremely hard on the family, especially Jo.

The most fascinating part of this novel to me is the resilience of the family, and their care for one another. Alcott is said to have hated the book because, although she loosely based it on her own life, she glossed over many of the less appealing parts and made the characters seem like perfect angels. She did not enjoy moral fluff. Nonetheless, it is the kindness and love of the family that appeals to audiences. There is also a gravity to the story, especially in Jo's want for independence. Alcott may have developed a story to satisfy her publisher, but she hid deeper themes below the surface.

Going Forward

Based on what I had researched, I began thinking of what the cover should *feel* like. While I originally wanted it to be a bit grittier, to make it unique, I settled on what the story truly reads like. Overall, the book feels grounded, yet light. There is a purity to the story, and something deeply beautiful. I wanted to convey this purity and beauty, along with a sense of quiet dignity. To do this, I played with scale and color. My final designs hope to show a simple elegance, blossoming maturity, and purity.

Louisa May Alcott's House



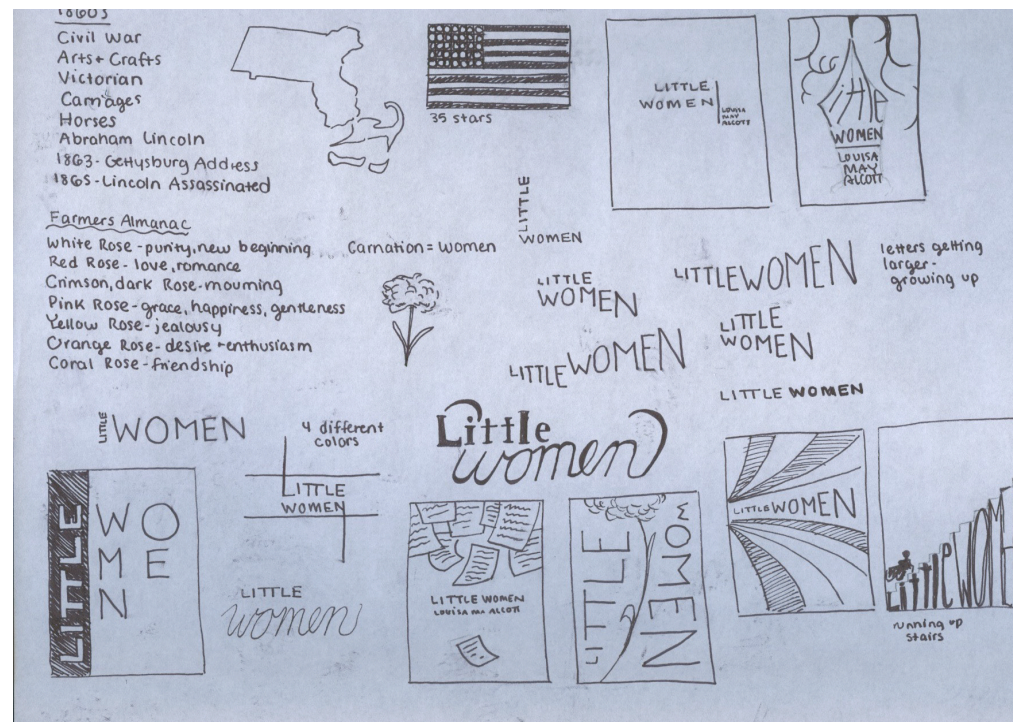
Sources:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/09/little-women-louisa-may-alcott/565754/>

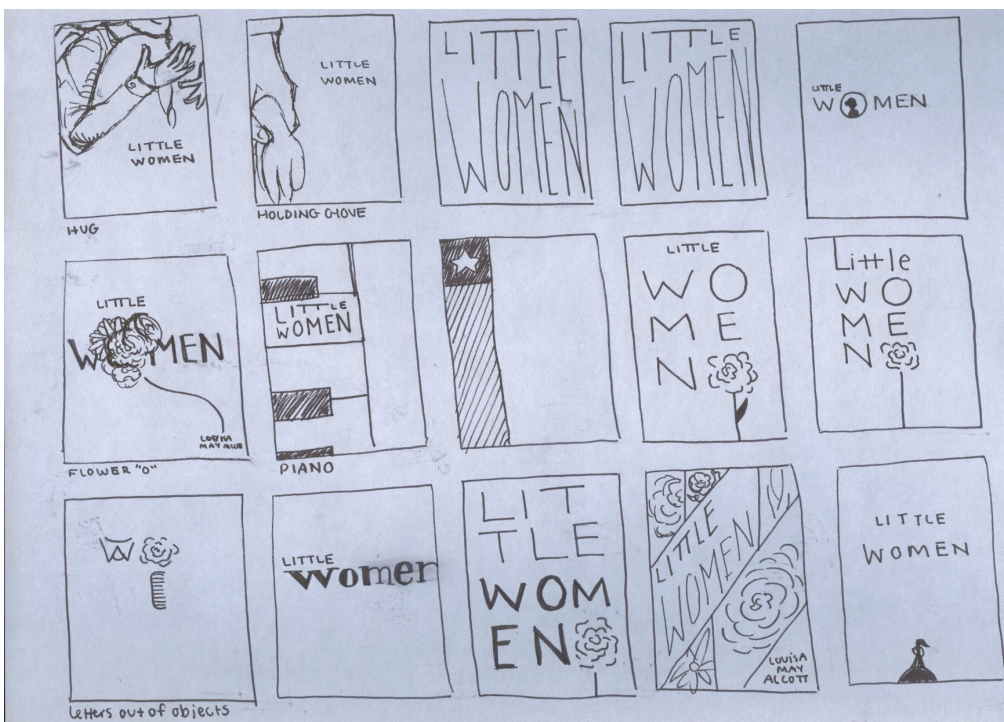
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Little-Women-novel-by-Alcott>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Louisa-May-Alcott>

(in the order of their creation)

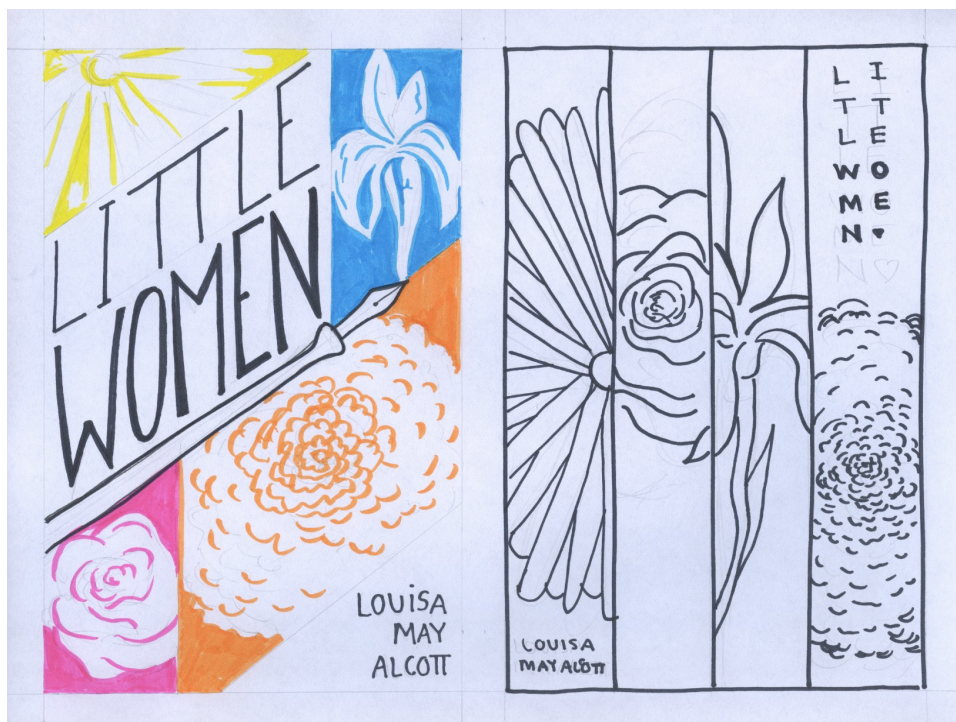


(in the order of their creation)



Sketches and computer comps

(in the order of their creation)



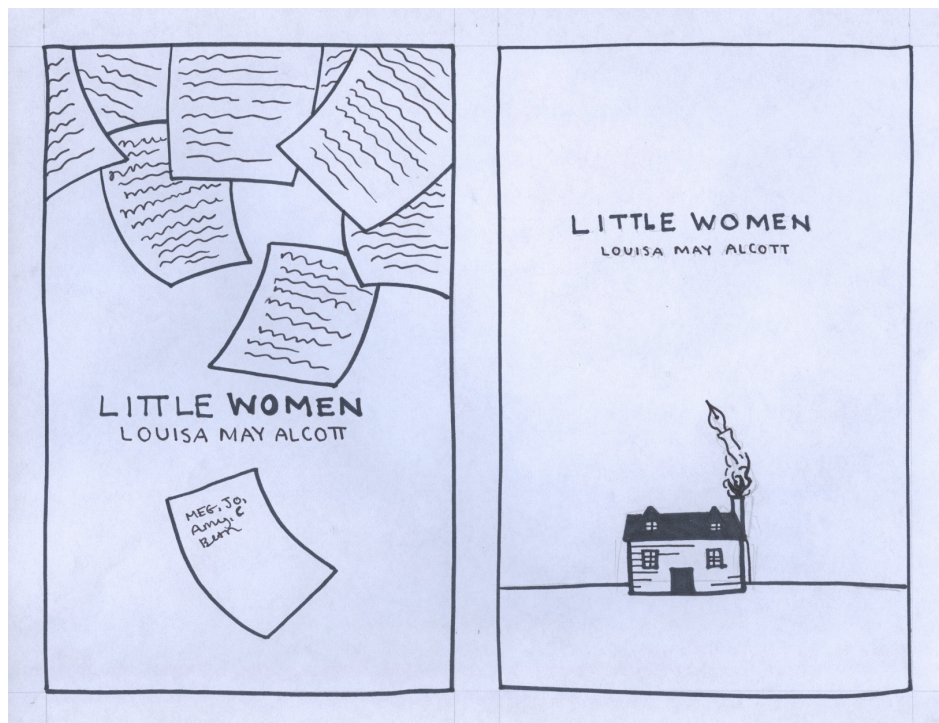
Sketches and computer comps

(in the order of their creation)



Sketches and computer comps

(in the order of their creation)

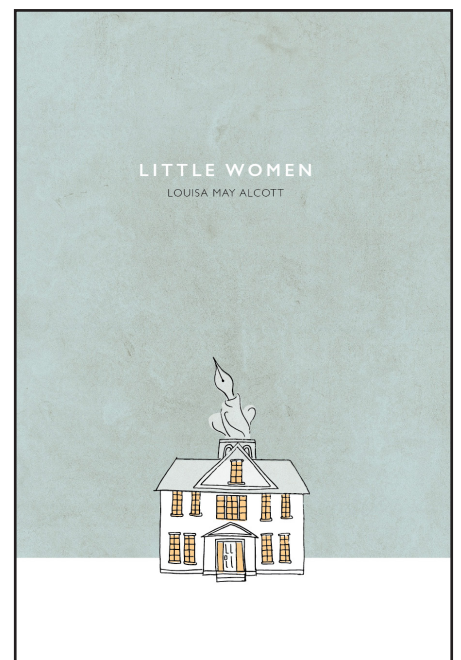
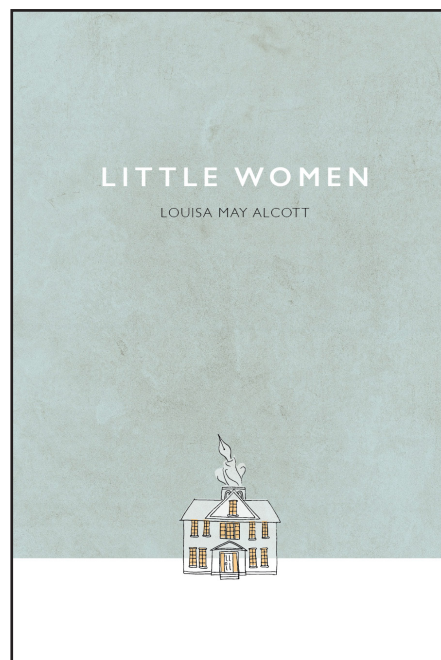
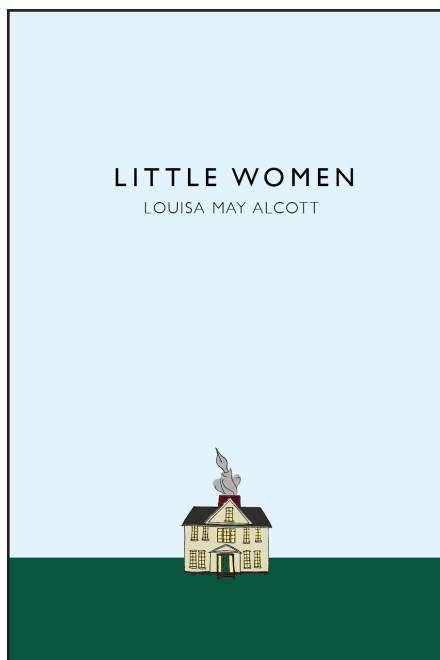
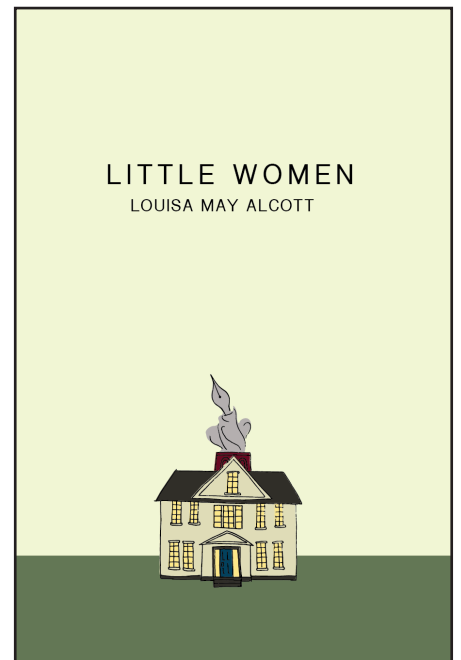
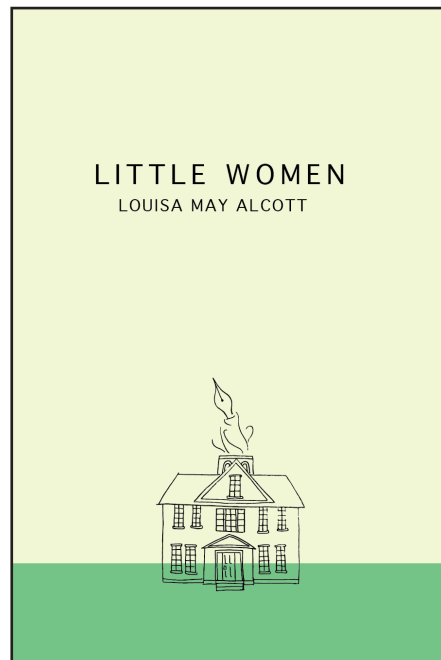


Sketches and computer comps

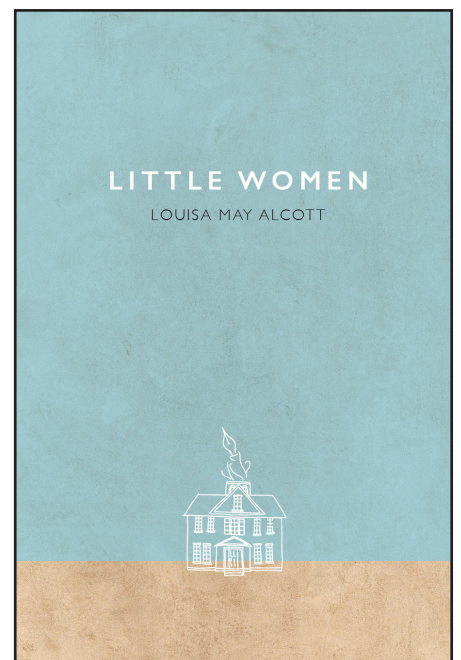
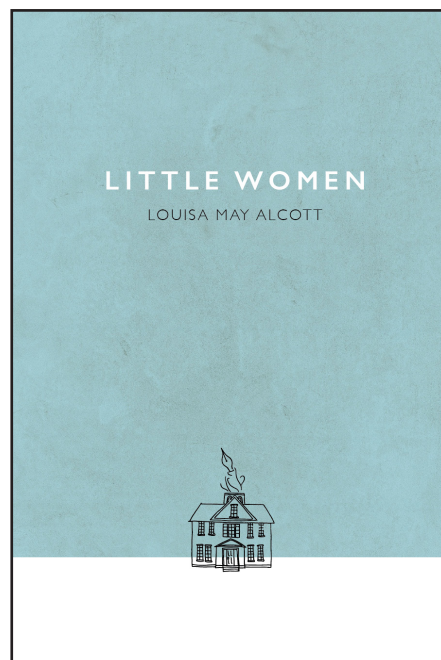
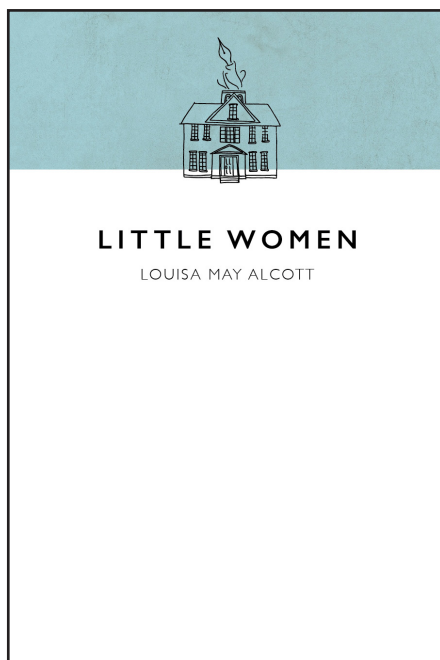
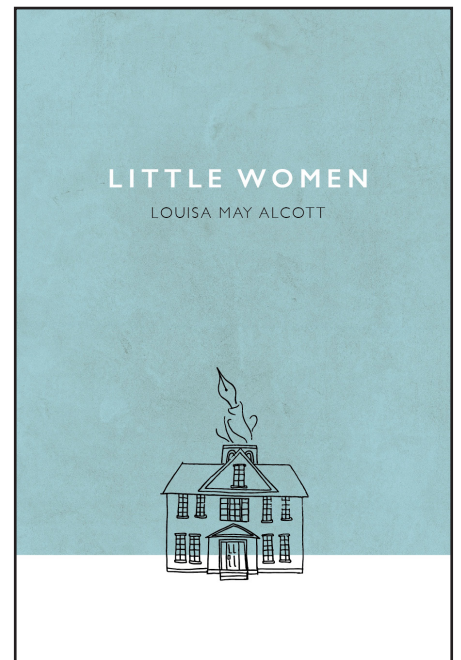
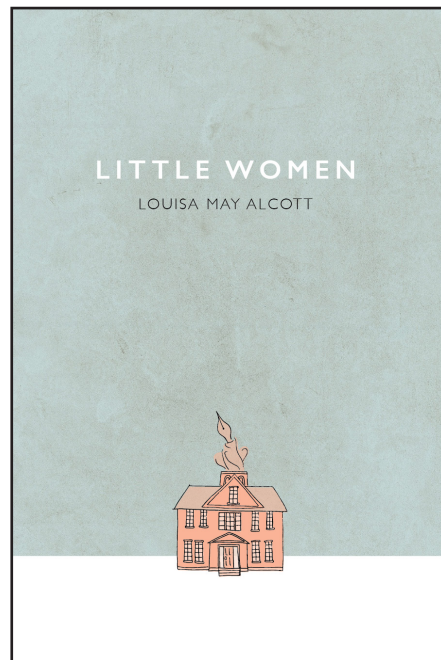
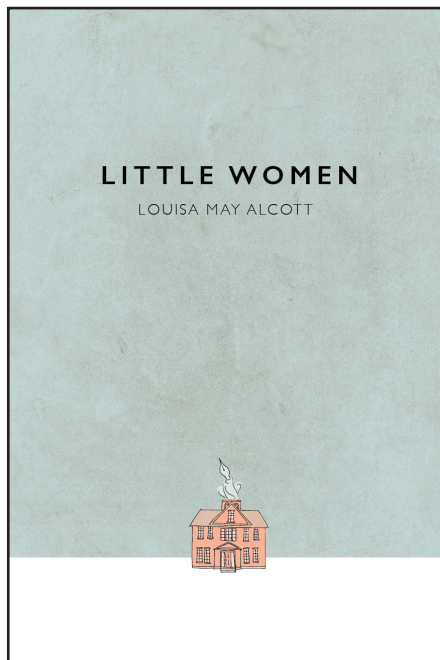
(in the order of their creation)



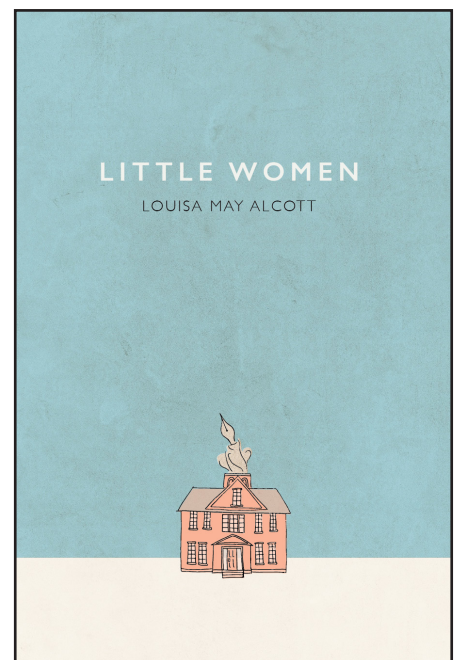
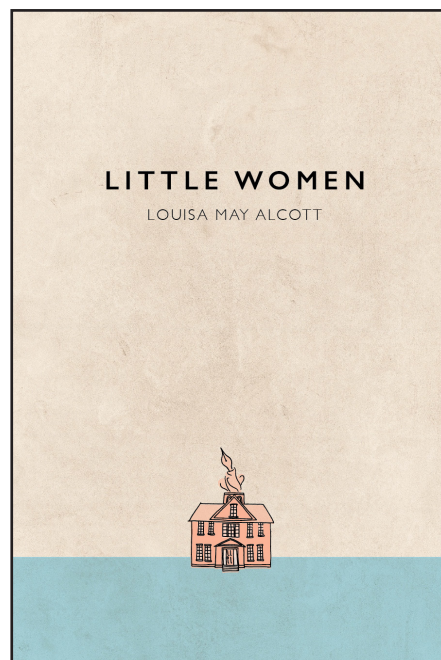
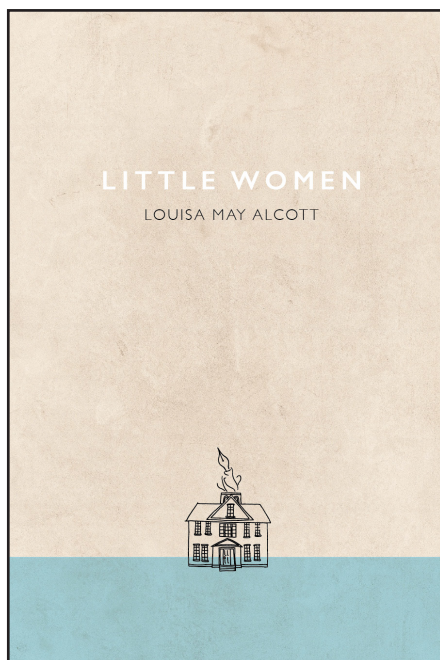
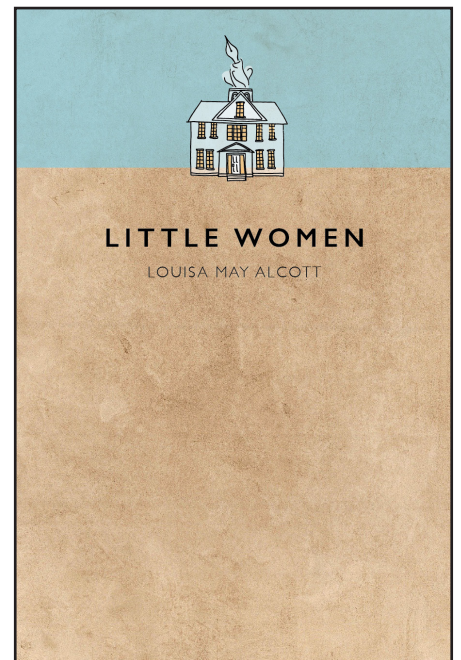
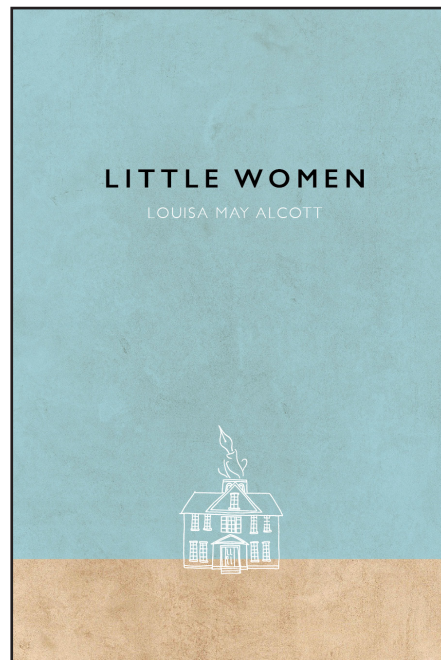
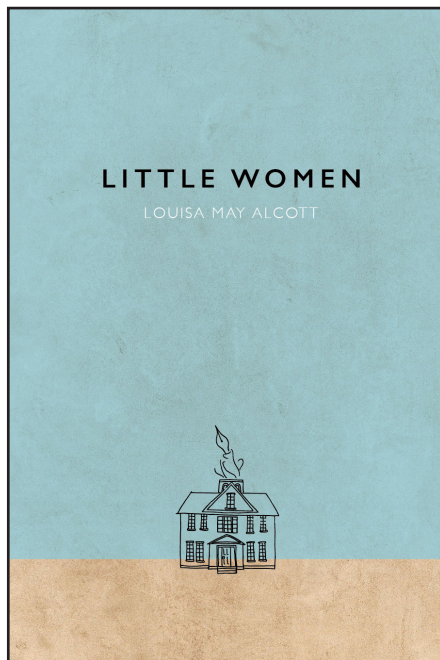
Sketches and computer comps



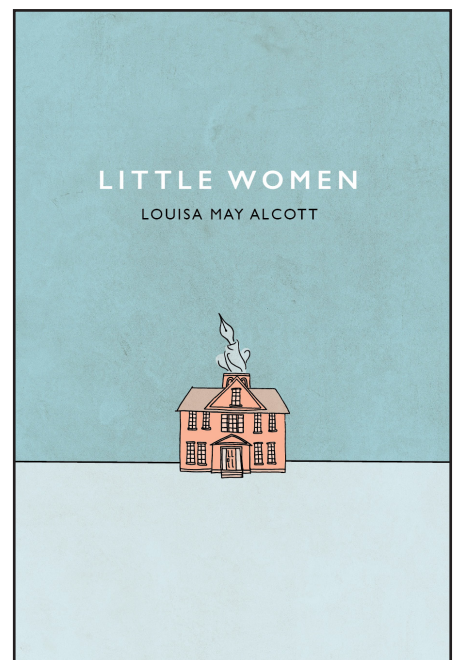
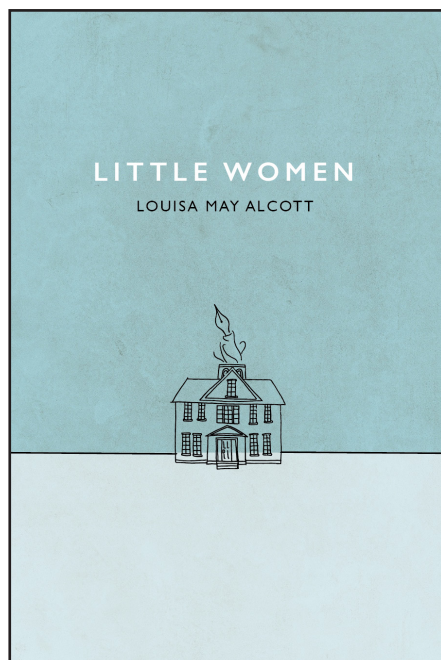
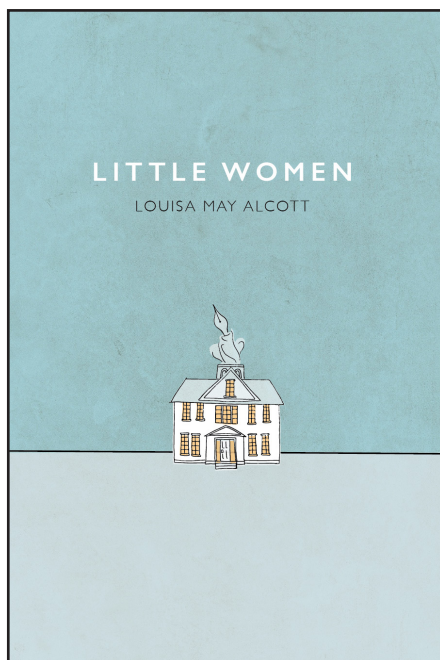
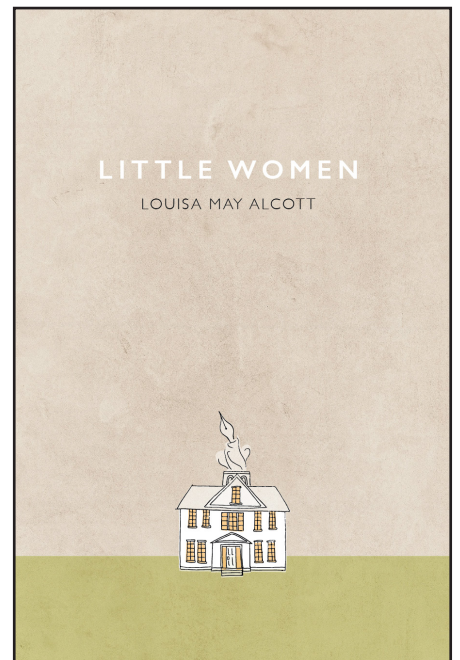
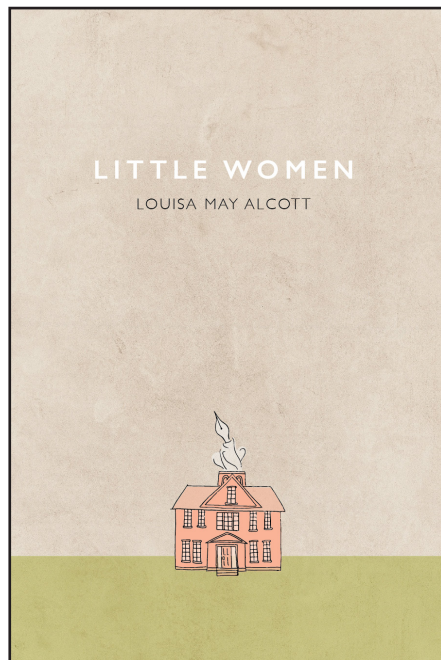
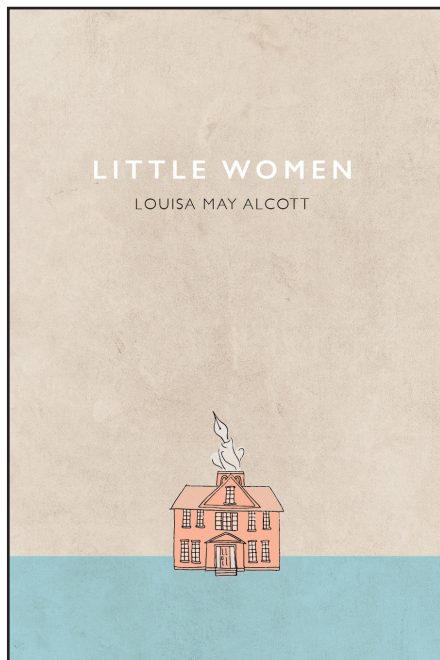
Sketches and computer comps



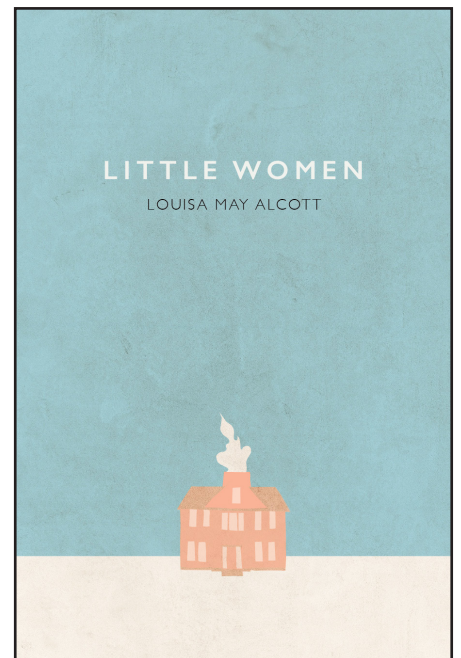
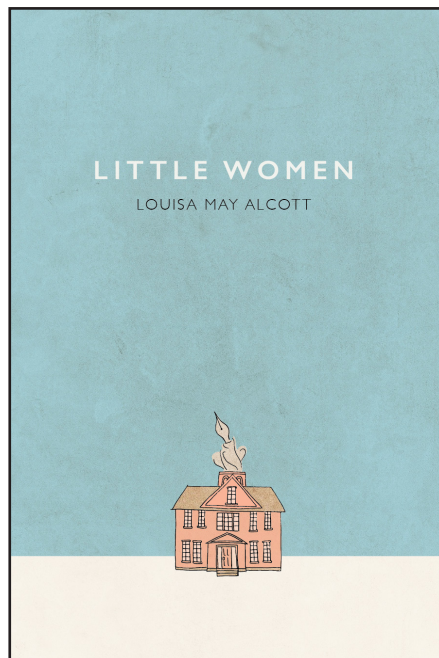
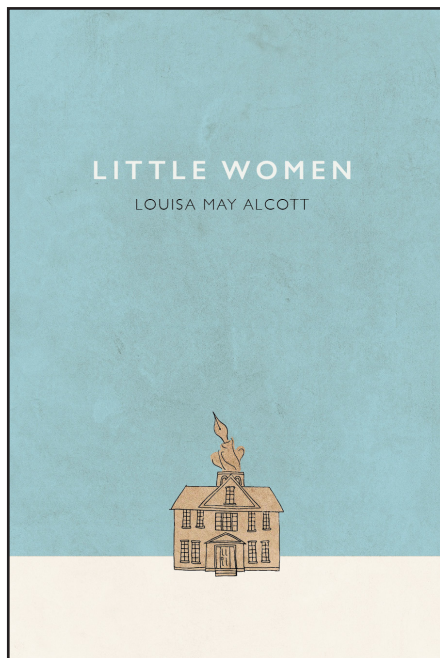
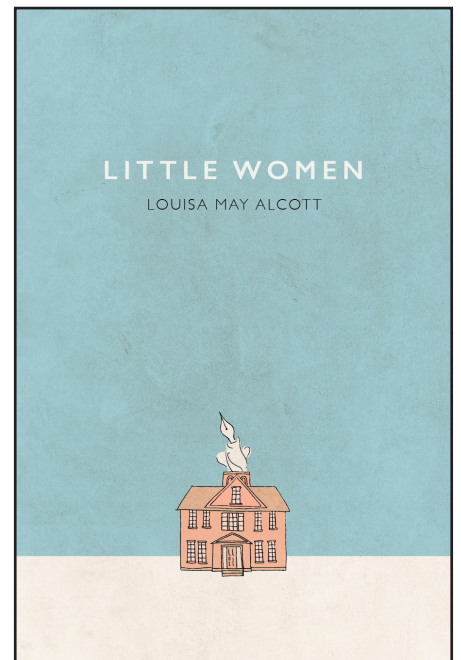
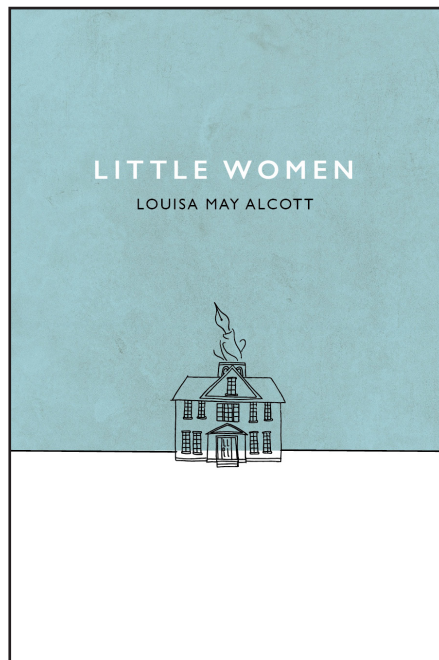
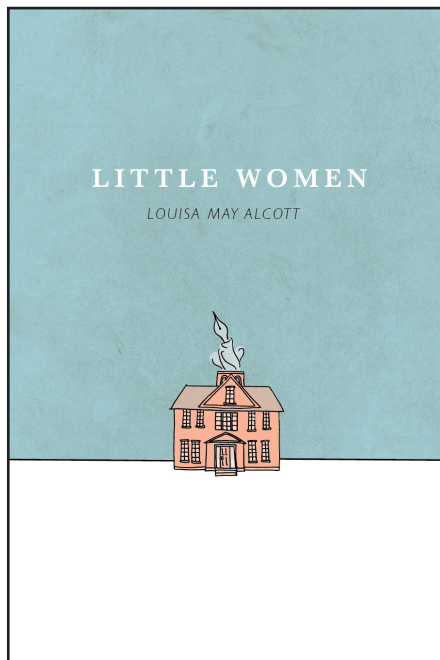
Sketches and computer comps



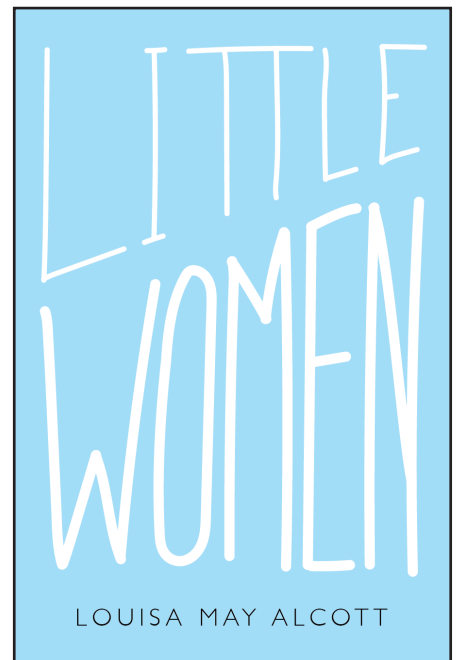
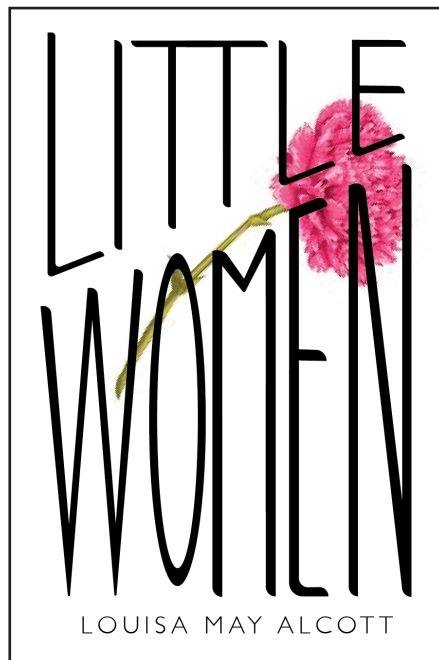
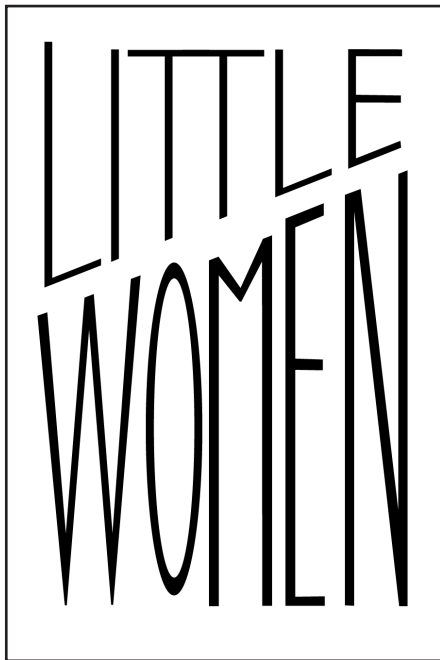
Sketches and computer comps



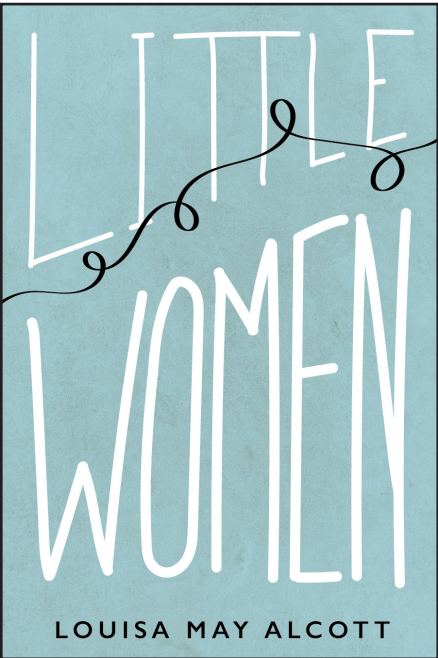
Sketches and computer comps



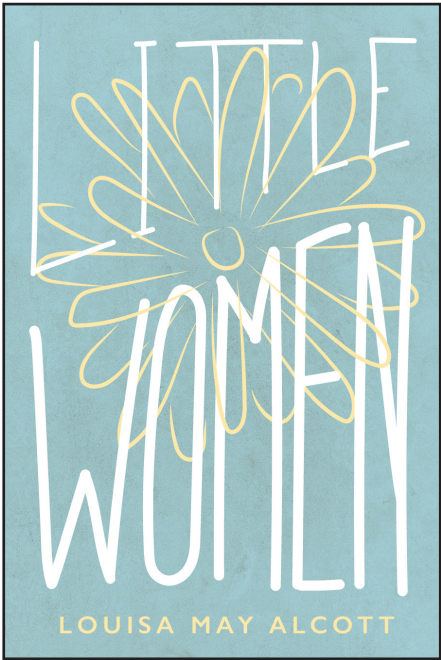
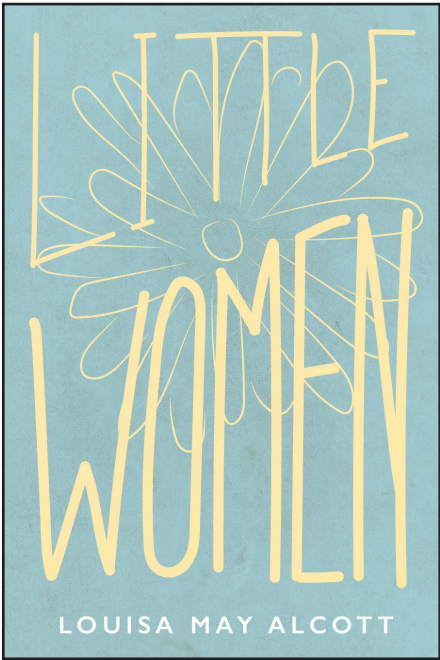
Sketches and computer comps



Sketches and computer comps



Sketches and computer comps



Sketches and computer comps



Sketches and computer comps



Final Design

LITTLE WOMEN

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT



Final Design



Final Design

