

# The Woman of Slight but not Stature

Rewritten by Robert Manning

At this suburban house, outside it was a very frigid cold winter day where one could see his breath. The month was December. Warm inside in front of the fireplace, a hearth of warmth are these four wonderful girls. They are conversing and have great anticipation about the holiday season. They talk about the New Year and about the gifts they want to bestow on their mother.

Margaret or the given name from her sisters is the diminutive name of Meg. Meg teaches the young children from the families of their neighborly friends. She makes extra stipends from this enjoyable and rewarding occupation. Meg wants to enter the teaching profession.

Josephine, or Jo, is a fifteen year old adolescent girl. She has a thin build, cute and slender and tall with luscious long thick black hair. Jo wants to be a writer of prose and short stories. She now works at the house of an elderly old lady, as a maid. She assists the lady in her everyday activities and looks after her providing entertainment by reading books to her. She makes extra income from this occupation.

Elizabeth, or Beth, is thirteen years old. She is tall with most dramatic and lovely brown eyes. Beth craves music and loves especially the piano which she is learning. She wants to be a music teacher. She helps mother in that roomy suburban house – dusts the furnishings, the tables, chairs and the bookcases; sweeps the floor and washes the dinner and flat ware.

Amy is a twelve year old and she has just reached puberty. She has flaxen blondish hair and large blue eyes. The girls at the school ridicule her for the old dresses she wears and she hates to go. Amy wants to be an artist. She offers assistance to her mother in the kitchen.

It is six o'clock in the afternoon, the time when their mother comes home. Meg brings the lamp into the diner. Jo put her mother's shoes near the fire. Jo looks at those shoes and says, "The shoes are very old. Mother must get new shoes."

Beth says, "I want to give Mother new shoes for the New Year".

Amy replies, "No, I want to give Mother the new shoes".

"I am the eldest", begins Meg, but Jo goes on, "I take the place of the man in the family when father is far from home. I want to give Mother new shoes."

"I have some nice handkerchiefs for Mother," says Beth. Amy looks at here sisters and then tells them, "I want to give Mother a little bottle of scent. I have a dollar to buy it."

At the time, the front door that enters the foyer opens and their mother comes in. She is tall, middle aged. Her clothes are out of style and olden, but the girls see in their mother, the most beautiful women. She is the woman of slight, but not to the children, for she has stature. The discussion stops, maybe for another day.