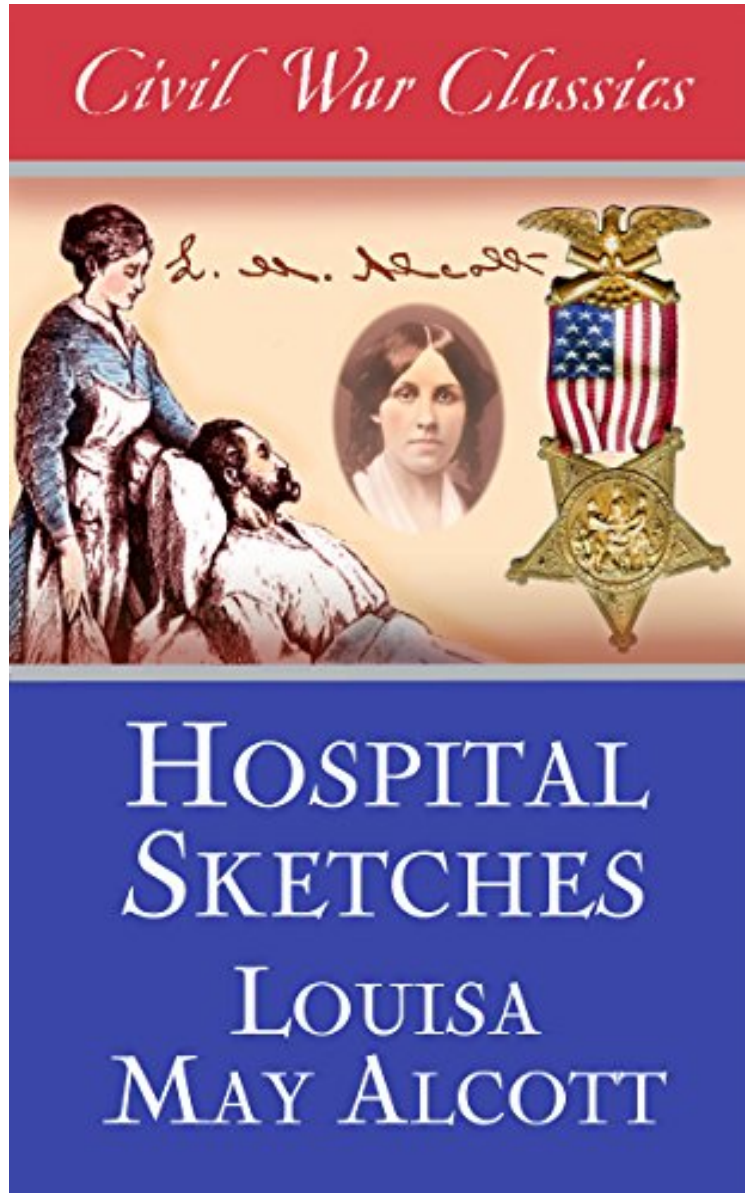


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Hospital Sketches (Civil War Classics)

Von Louisa May Alcott, Civil War Classics
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Von Louisa May Alcott, Civil War Classics : Hospital Sketches (Civil War Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hospital Sketches (Civil War Classics):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The experience of an author turned Civil War nurse. Von Ein Kunde Louisa May Alcott was the first Civil War army nurse to publish an account of her service. Not yet famous at the author of "Little Women," the appearance of "Hospital

"Sketches" in the summer of 1863 was also the first of her works to win her widespread attention. Bored with life at home and wanting to contribute something to the war effort, Alcott volunteered to serve as a nurse. After a wait of several months, she was assigned to the Union Hotel Hospital in Washington DC. She arrived in mid-December, and her very first day brought her responsibility for forty patients when another nurse fell ill. It was a sign of things to come. Three days after her arrival, the hospital was flooded with wounded from the Battle of Fredericksburg. Initially horrified at the idea of giving the wounded sponge baths, Alcott quickly overcame this misplaced modesty and became accustomed to the sights and sounds of the ward. By the end of her brief service, she had learned how to feed, bathe and comfort the wounded, change dressings and administer medicine. . . even watch amputations without revulsion. It was as the night nurse on a three-room ward that she found the vivid characters she would bring to life in "Hospital Sketches." There was a little Ohio sargeant she called "Baby B," who had lost his right arm in battle and was teaching himself to write left handed. (He would later become one of her faithful correspondents) There was a 12-year old drummer mourning the loss of a buddy, a helpful Prussian who spoke no English, and a nameless man so addled by war that he was given to running up and down the aisles yelling all night long. Most poignant was the story of John, a Virginia blacksmith whose death was a model of the 19th Century Christian ideal. Only six weeks after she arrived in Washington, Alcott fell dangerously ill with typhoid fever. Doctors wrote her parents, and before long her father had arrived to take her home. She would spend months recovering. Given a mercury-based compound common in the treatment of typhoid, she would suffer the effects of mercury poisoning for the rest of her life. She was still confined to bed when she began writing "Hospital Sketches." As "Nurse Tribulation Periwinkle" -- a name adopted under the dictum that a lady's name should not appear in print -- the short book illustrated the flair for characterization and the delightful sense of humor that would make her later works so popular.

Kurzbeschreibung To commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War, Diversion Books is publishing seminal works of the era: stories told by the men and women who led, who fought, and who lived in an America that had come apart at the seams. *LITTLE WOMEN* made Louisa May Alcott a canonical writer, but it was *HOSPITAL SKETCHES* that first brought her acclaim. These four sketches, based on letters Alcott sent home during a six-week stint as a volunteer nurse for the Union Army, reveal the horrors of battlefield medicine. In her baptism-by-fire, Alcott treats the wounded soldiers from the Battle of Fredericksburg. As she grows into her role, Alcott brings grace and dignity to the badly injured men, and in her letters, she reveals a writer growing into her own immense talents, and a deeply perceptive observer of the life of a healing force in a grueling war.