

BY THE AUTHOR OF *Year of Wonders*

WINNER
OF THE
2006
PULITZER
PRIZE

MARCH



GERALDINE
BROOKS



"Harrowing and moving . . . casts a spell that lasts much longer than the reading of it." —KAREN JOY FOWLER, *THE WASHINGTON POST*



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AN INTRODUCTION TO March

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PENGUIN BOOKS

MARCH

Geraldine Brooks is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *March* and *Year of Wonders* and the nonfiction works *Nine Parts of Desire* and *Foreign Correspondence*. Previously, Brooks was a correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal* in Bosnia, Somalia, and the Middle East. Born and raised in Australia, she lives in rural Virginia with her husband, Tony Horwitz, their son Nathaniel, and three dogs.

Praise for March

“*March* is a beautifully wrought story about how war dashes ideals, unhinges moral certainties and drives a wedge of bitter experience and unspeakable memories between husband and wife.”

-*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

“Clarity of vision, fine, meticulous prose, the unexpected historical detail, a life-sized protagonist caught inside an unimaginably huge event. [March] shows the same seamless marriage of research and imagination.... Brooks’s version of March’s story is both harrowing and moving ... March is an altogether successful book, casting a spell that lasts much longer than the reading of it.”

-Karen Joy Fowler, *The Washington Post Book World*

“Pitch-perfect writing.”

- *USA Today*

“Researched with great historical thoroughness, March hews faithfully to the spirit of Alcott’s original.... [March] enhances rather than appropriates its sister work from 1868. Louisa May Alcott would be well pleased.”

-*The Economist*

“It is harder, sometimes, to review a glorious book-to convey its power and influence without relying on suspicious adjectives. Good books can be slotted, characterized, explained; great books often cannot. I believe

Geraldine Brooks' new novel, *March*, is a very great book. I believe it breathes new life into the historical fiction genre, the borrowing-a-character-from-the-deep-past phenomenon, the old I-shall-tell-you-a-story-through-letters tradition. I believe it honors the best of the imagination. I give it a hero's welcome."

-Chicago Tribune

"Powerful"

-The Boston Globe

"*March* is a first-rate historical novel.... It feels honorable, elegant and true, an adult coda to the plangent idealism of *Little Women*."

- The Dallas Morning News

"The pictures that Brooks paints of the war-ravaged South, particularly on the liberated plantation, are haunting. This richness, of time and place and of *March*'s unrelenting struggle to live up to the man he thinks he should be, makes *March* a spellbinder. The picture is not simple, neither in terms of the life nor in the emotions of its principals. It is, however, compellingly honest. It is the feeling that the reader is witness to truth that elevates *March* beyond a gimmick to an engrossing, thought-provoking tale."

-The Denver Post

"Brilliant ... It is this disconnection between the inner self (what one knows and feels) and outward presentation (what one allows others to see and know of oneself) that provides this wonderful novel with dazzling narrative tension.... It is this struggle for balance-between being human and being principled-that is Brooks' brilliant creative stroke. From the intimidating virtues of the *March* sisters, it's clear that Alcott favored principles. But

thank goodness for Geraldine Brooks: She allows her characters to be human. And in the end, they have more to teach us.”

- *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

“Brooks has written a gripping story of an impossible time, and simultaneously a neat deconstruction and reconstruction of one of American literature’s best-known families.”

-*The Oregonian* (Portland)

“Richly imagined ... This meticulously researched and well-crafted book reveals that atrocities occur on both sides in war, leaving countless innocent victims, and that even the most seemingly dedicated often have feet of clay.”

-*Rocky Mountain News*

“When I learned the subject of this novel, I felt a twinge of envy. How inspired to fill out Mr. March, absent from nearly all of *Little Women* but, as a chaplain in the Civil War, probably up to something quite as interesting as the tribulations of his four daughters at home.... [I]n March, Brooks dares to create a man of his times, who believes that curbing his wife is among his proper duties as a husband. She also allows him to be as self-righteous as might be expected of someone with his fervent, high-minded convictions.”

-Christina Schwarz, *The Atlantic Monthly*

“It’s lively history, the sort that jumps off the page and won’t let you go. Brooks’ talent lies in her ability to bring life and personality to history.”

-*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

“Inspired ... A disturbing, supple, and deeply satisfying story, put together with craft and care and imagery worthy of a poet... I picked up *March* because I liked the idea of the book. I closed the cover loving its execution.”

-The Cleveland Plain Dealer

“Brooks has achieved something extraordinary in her new novel. It is powerful yet entertaining, and thought-provoking as it breathes life into something familiar. And for all the hardship and suffering it contains, *March* is most abidingly a story of redemption, one of heartfelt depth and humanity.”

-The Charlotte Observer

“[T]he vivid description of battles and atrocities is equal to any found in *The Red Badge of Courage and Andersonville*.... This is a gripping historical novel, brave enough to reveal the gray areas of politics and war. Although set in the nineteenth century, there’s a timeless relevance to the novel. That, coupled with Brooks’ powerful command of language and her ability to create engaging minor characters, firmly establishes her as a writer to watch.”

-Rocky Mountain News