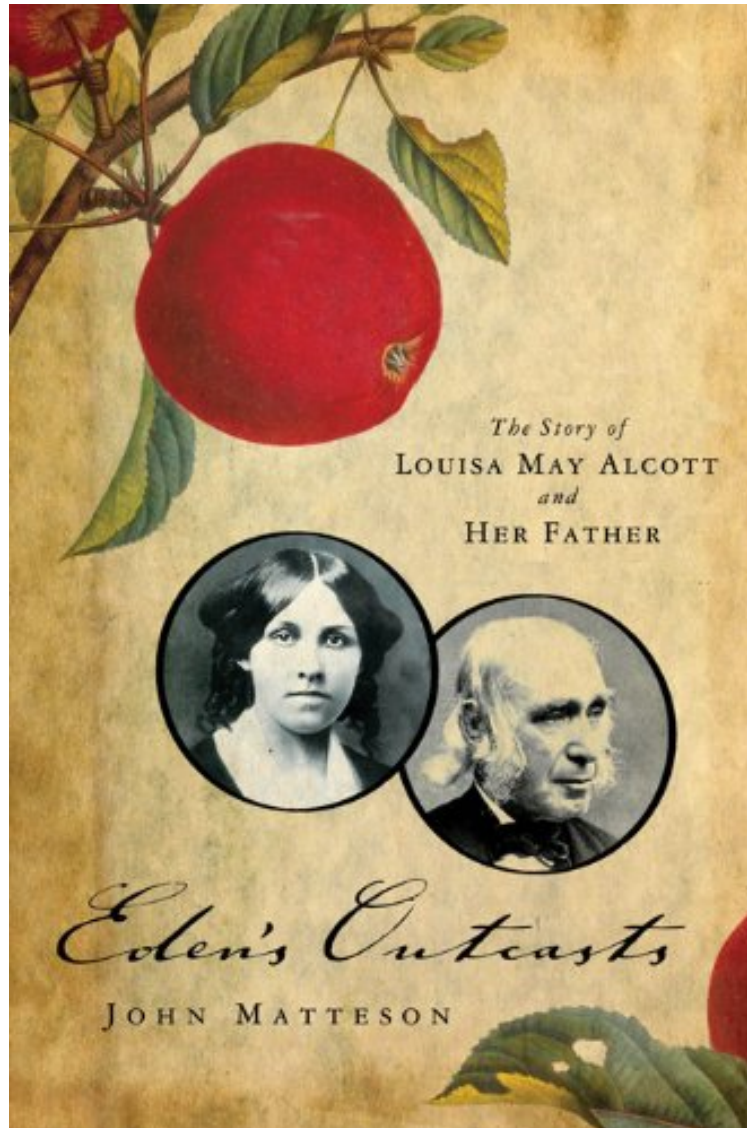


(Mobile library) Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father

Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father

Von John Matteson

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Von John Matteson : Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Redefines How Biographies Should Be WrittenVon Donald Mitchell"Listen, O daughter,Consider and incline your ear;Forget your own people also, and your father's house;" -- Psalm 45:10 (NKJV)A conventional biography gives a little family background and then focuses almost all of the attention on the subject. I don't recall ever reading a

biography before that paid almost equal attention to two individuals . . . and their relationship. Having seen how much I learned, Eden's Outcasts made me want to only read biographies like this one in the future. I have taken tours of Orchard House in Concord, Massachusetts, on several occasions and well remember how Bronson was described as an educator with "some peculiar ideas." Well, in this book you'll find out just what those ideas were. In contrast to what the Bible teaches, Alcott saw children as being born in perfection . . . which only needed to be encouraged. Naturally, he was more than a little taken aback by his daughter, Louisa May, who behaved as though she was far from perfect, despite whatever she could do to try to please her father. Eventually, the ambitious Louisa wins his approval by almost killing herself serving as a nurse in the Civil War and receiving treatment that destroyed her health and brought her life to an early end. No matter, the reconciliation between father and daughter seemed to have meant so much to both of them that the pain and loss were worth it, somehow. At a personal level, I gained a lot of insight into how a daughter might respond to a father with high standards and hopes for her. Hopefully, I'm a better father now for reading this remarkable book. Don't miss it!

Kurzbeschreibung "An amazing story [told] with clarity and intelligence ... colorful and insightful." Martin Rubin, Los Angeles Times
Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Biography
Louisa May Alcott is known universally. Yet during Louisa's youth, the famous Alcott was her father, Bronson an eminent teacher and a friend of Emerson and Thoreau. He desired perfection, for the world and from his family. Louisa challenged him with her mercurial moods and yearnings for money and fame. The other prize she deeply coveted her father's understanding seemed hardest to win. This story of Bronson and Louisa's tense yet loving relationship adds dimensions to Louisa's life, her work, and the relationships of fathers and daughters.
From Booklist *Starred *
Bronson Alcott filled hundreds of pages with minute observations of his infant daughters, believing that fatherhood was the ideal laboratory for testing his beliefs in the natural genius of children and a holistic mode of education. Yet he was baffled by the willfulness of his second-born, Louisa May. And so begins the dramatic father-daughter relationship on which first-time biographer Matteson so adeptly builds a riveting double portrait of two exceptional Americans and abolitionists: one a man of quixotic dreams and abject failures; the other a resourceful, self-sacrificing, and revolutionary woman writer. Making penetrating use of primary sources, Matteson gracefully interprets an astounding family drama of compassion and creativity, folly and courage, deprivation and mental instability. Sharing a birthday and dying within two days of each other, Bronson and Louisa were the driving forces of the Alcott household as he impressed and dismayed their friends Emerson, Hawthorne, and Thoreau by taking innovative ideas to ruinous extremes, and she became the destitute family's wage-earner and author of one of the world's most beloved novels. Matteson's lucid, commanding biography casts new light on an unusual father-daughter bond and a new land at war with itself.
Seaman, Donna
Pressestimmen "A double biography is a difficult thing to bring off but Matteson does it beautifully, giving a vivid but delicate account of two complicated characters inextricably entwined." Rosemary Hill, The Guardian "The story of Louisa's life has been told frequently, but Matteson's well-structured account... is engrossing." Matthew Peters, The Times Literary Supplement"