

JO

*(Having tried to sneak past her)*

Good morning, Aunt March.

AUNT MARCH

Do you know the hour?

JO

Almost ten, I believe.

AUNT MARCH

Your workday begins with me at nine! You've missed reading to me. And still haven't repaired the latch on the cellar door -

JO

I got delayed finding you this beautiful flower.

AUNT MARCH

Don't trifle with me, Josephine. You were dawdling.

JO

I wasn't dawdling. I was writing a story.

AUNT MARCH

You are what happens to a girl when she has no father.

JO

I have a father.

AUNT MARCH

*(pointed)*

Never here when you need him. And now my nephew has the audacity to be an army chaplain when he can't even support his own family!

*(coming right in, strong)*

Josephine, listen to me: You are on the verge of womanhood!

JO

Christopher Columbus!

AUNT MARCH

And just look at you! You go about writing senseless stories, constantly trying to save the world - and you can't save yourself!

JO

I don't need saving.

AUNT MARCH

There are many pitfalls a girl can fall into, and Josephine -

(AUNT MARCH)

*(With deliberate emphasis, digging into her)*

- you are heading towards all of them!

*(With a great burst of enthusiasm)*

I want to see you shine. Even if you're not rich - you can at least marry well.

JO

I'll never marry.

AUNT MARCH

You'll marry! All girls marry!

JO

I'm not all girls.

AUNT MARCH

With a good marriage, you can have power. You can take your place in society.

JO

I don't give two figs about society!

AUNT MARCH

Then there is no point in our having this conversation. It's clear to me I could never take you to Europe.

JO

*(taken aback)*

Take me to Europe?

AUNT MARCH

It was an idle thought of mine.

JO

Do you know how important it is for a writer to travel? It's been my dream, Aunt March.

AUNT MARCH

*(coming in strong)*

We earn our dreams in this world. It's foolish of me to think you could ever change your ways.

#5 - Could You

JO

I could try!