



Bakke, Kit, MISS ALCOTT'S E-MAIL, Yours for Reforms of All Kinds, David R. Godine, Boston, 2006, Hardcover with illustrations, 288 pages, ISBN 1-56792-311-9

Now out in softcover (September 2007)

Kit, a Seattle native and 1960's activist with the Weather Underground, became a mother, a wife, a pediatric nurse and a business consultant before turning to Louisa May Alcott for advice about living the rest of her life. The two women's letters cross the centuries to show us a Louisa who was no "little woman" and a story which the *Washington Post* says reads "like a wonderful movie shot with a hand-held camera."

Booklist says "Alcott fans will enjoy the biographical essays and keen manner in which Bakke assumes Alcott's voice and connects two distant eras. Readers interested in the 1960s protest movement will also find much to consider in Bakke's frank assessments of her own turbulent young adulthood."

Library Journal writes "Bakke draws stimulating parallels between Alcott's life in the 1860s and her own background as a nurse and 1960s antiwar activist. Through Alcott, Bakke explores such issues as feminism, war, transcendentalism, nursing the sick, writing, and civil rights. Each chapter begins with a letter from Bakke introducing a new

topic, then continues with historical and biographical information about Alcott, her contemporaries, and her times. By mixing Alcott's biography with intriguing phases of her own life, Bakke successfully underscores that social struggles continue."

Kit has made many presentations about this content in various settings including school classrooms, bookstores, libraries and living rooms. For more, see www.kitbakke.com or her publisher at www.godine.com.

Women's Suffrage

"Drove about & drummed up women to my Suffrage meeting. So hard to move people out of old ruts. I haven't patience enough. If they won't see & work I let 'em alone & steam along my own way."

"Let *simple justice* be done, say I."

"I believe in the same pay for the same good work, don't you? In future, let woman do whatever she can do; let men place no more impediments in the way, above all things let's have fair play..."



(Sample slide from presentation, quoting Louisa May Alcott on her work for women's suffrage in 1870s and 1880s)