



# **THE MYSTERIOUS KEY AND WHAT IT OPENED**

**LOUISA MAY ALCOTT**

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AND WHAT IT OPENED**

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**BY  
LOUISA MAY ALCOTT**

1867

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# CONTENTS

Chapter 1. The Prophecy

Chapter 2. Paul

Chapter 3. Secret Service

Chapter 4. Vanished

Chapter 5. A Hero

Chapter 6. Fair Helen

Chapter 7. The Secret Key

Chapter 8. Which?





















































































are happy, for you love one another!" she cried, with a sudden passion of tears. "Oh, forgive me, pity me, and take me in, for I am all alone and in the dark!"

There could be but one reply to an appeal like that, and they gave it, as they welcomed her with words that sealed a household league of mutual secrecy and sacrifice.

They *were* happy, for the world never knew the hidden tie that bound them so faithfully together, never learned how well the old prophecy had been fulfilled, or guessed what a tragedy of life and death the silver key unlocked.

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