



Factory Girl

Pamela Oldfield

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It's 1888. Florence works as a match girl, in dangerous factory conditions. There's talk of a strike, but striking means no work... and no pay. Meanwhile, a young journalist is keen to hear Florence's story - women have never gone on strike before! But is he just stirring up trouble to sell newspapers?

Factory Girl Details

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Author : Pamela Oldfield

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Irene Palfy says

This was my first 'meeting' with the London match girls' strike of 1888 as well as with the "My Story"-series and I might say it was quite interesting. Minding it is a series for children it is really a great way to get aquainted with history and I highly recommend it to young readers with an interest for history but maybe not that much into thick books.. I for one will try to get hold of other books from this series.

Molly says

This entire series is a wonderful way to learn history or teach it to adolescents. I find today's generations seem to recall more when they learn through other people (pop songs, celebrity gossip, etc.), so what better way to teach history than through someone else's perspective? Yes, "authentic" diaries would be "better", but would the language really hold the modern student's attention? Did the diary writer know what WOULD be important in the context of history? Probably not.

Maria says

Factory Girl, Pamela Oldfield is about a 17 year old girl, Florence, who is very close to the Grandfather and comes from a poor family in 1888. Her grandfather dies and she gets his journal. Florence starts to work at a Match Factory called Bryant & May. After a few days after starting to work there she this journalist named Jake who is interested in the dangers in the factories for his newspaper. After a few weeks she hears that some employees are planning to go on strike, but when you go on strike that means no job, but Florence can not afford for her family. Her father is very sick and her Sister has some disabilities and she doesn't want to end up being a person who lives on the street begging. One day the women go on strike and that means she has to go to. She gets help from Jake and starts making matches with her mom.

I can not really connect to Florence cause I am not 17 and I don't work in a match factory, but some feelings she has a long the story I think I would maybe have if I were her. The theme is stand up for yourself, women. The author uses a lot of dialogue and detail to paint the picture. The point-of-view is 1st person and it is Florence point of view.

I could recommend this book to people that are interested in england back in 1888. It is a good book. I kind of enjoyed the book.

Joey says

This book was interesting, wasn't as informative as some of the other books in the series have been but maybe that's just because the topic of the book.

Florence a 17 year old girl living in a poverty driven world in Victorian times loses her grandfather and must

go to work in the Match factory to earn money for her family. Almost as soon as she starts working there a young journalist recruits her as an informant to find out the inner workings of the factory and how the ladies working there feel, knowing a strike must strike out soon. As the women do indeed have too much to fight for they go on strike taking every factory worker out of a job. Times become even tougher as there is very little money coming in and her father having gotten into an illegal fight for money is on the brink of death. Eventually the workers get their say and the conditions change for the better in the factories and for the match making women.

I enjoyed the characters in the book and liked the way they all interacted with each other it definitely gave the book more depth because of that. It was interesting reading about the struggles of both the job at the factory and the struggle to live without the factory work and I loved that Florence was very adamant about helping people even though she herself hadn't gotten very much herself.

Rebecca says

Sixteen-year-old Florence and her family live in poverty in Victorian London in 1888. Florence, who unlike many poor young girls can read and write, starts a diary after her grandfather dies and leaves his diary to her. To help her family, Florence must start working at the Bryant & May match factory, despite the fact the her older sister died from a terrible disease as a result of working at the match factory.

Shortly after Florence goes to work at the factory, she starts hearing rumors of a possible strike, especially from a young newspaper reporter who interviews her to learn about the conditions at the match factory. While men in many industries have gone on strike before, this would be the first time for women. Florence isn't sure what to think. She believes herself and the other workers deserve better pay and conditions, but she is afraid of going on strike and not being able to bring any money home to her family, when they are already struggling to survive even with her wages.

This book wasn't one of my favorites from the My Story series. The historical information was interesting and the book was a quick read, but Florence's character wasn't really that well developed and so I didn't care that much about what happened to her. Readers who love the series or who are particularly interested in the historical setting might enjoy this book, but for readers who are new to the series I'd recommend starting with one of the other books. It wasn't a terrible book, I just enjoyed most of the other books in the series much more.

Jen says

another interesting read
