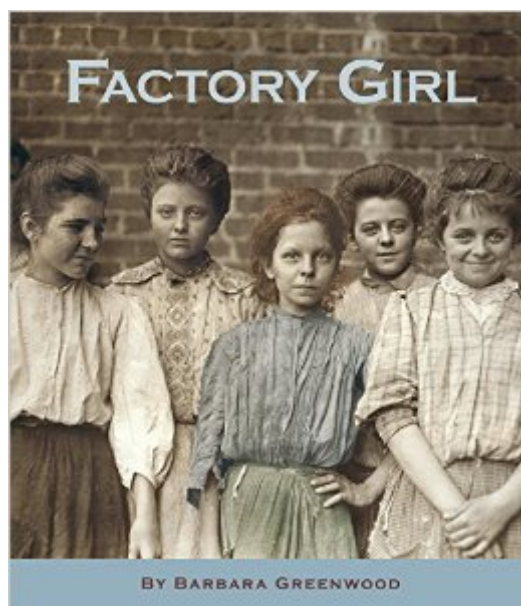


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# Factory Girl



## Synopsis

At the dingy, overcrowded Acme Garment Factory, Emily Watson stands for eleven hours a day clipping threads from blouses. Every time the boss passes, he shouts at her to snip faster. But if Emily snips too fast, she could ruin the garment and be docked pay. If she works too slowly, she will be fired. She desperately needs this job. Without the four dollars a week it brings, her family will starve. When a reporter arrives, determined to expose the terrible conditions in the factory, Emily finds herself caught between the desperate immigrant girls with whom she works and the hope of change. Then tragedy strikes, and Emily must decide where her loyalties lie. Emily's fictional experiences are interwoven with non-fiction sections describing family life in a slum, the fight to improve social conditions, the plight of working children then and now, and much more. Rarely seen archival photos accompany this story of the past as only Barbara Greenwood can tell it.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 850L (What's this?)

Paperback: 136 pages

Publisher: Kids Can Press (February 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1553376498

ISBN-13: 978-1553376491

Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 0.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #659,559 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Canada](#) #64 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Modern](#) #3272 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women](#)

Age Range: 9 - 14 years

Grade Level: 4 - 9

## Customer Reviews

This was a fantastic book. It is reminiscent of the American Girl Series in that the fact-based fictional character is an independent, progressively-minded girl of her time period, and in the way historical facts and photos are woven in with the fictional text. However, it is written in a much more sophisticated manner than the American Girl books, and provides more depth of information. We

have read several of Barbara Greenwood's other books as well, and they are similarly beautifully written and illustrated.

Before the New York shirtwaist fire, factory girls were in every city and mill town of the growing US. These young women worked under dangerous and unfair conditions, responding to a male-dominated foreman and factory owner only interested in greedy profits. It was sad to realize how much hurt is evident in these women's eyes. A great read and exact historical record of dominance by one gender over another.

In parallel narratives, this informative book provides a compelling and often disturbing look at the incidence of child labor in the United States during the early 1900s. Before unions had much power and before the country enacted federal legislation banning child labor, employers commonly hired young children as factory workers, miners, farmers, cleaners, messengers, and street vendors. Not only did children work at lower wages, they were often viewed as having more nimble fingers and feet for performing the same monotonous and sometimes dangerous tasks all day long. Employers could also intimidate children more easily so they would not complain about the poor labor standards, low pay, and hazardous environment. A fictional story of a twelve-year old sweatshop worker named Emily is interwoven with historical accounts of the atrocious working conditions that children faced and the abject poverty in which many lived. Both of these narratives highlight the plight of immigrant children who lived and worked in particularly wretched circumstances. The book also emphasizes the role of newspapers, labor organizers, churches, and reform-minded individuals in raising awareness about the plight of the poor and the injustice of child labor. Adding to the stark reality of the text is a treasure trove of archival photographs, many taken by Lewis Hines -- a former schoolteacher who famously travelled across the country taking pictures of exploited child workers. As the author notes, the United States has largely eradicated child labor, but the problem continues in some developing countries and requires continued advocacy and social reform.

I got this for my 8 year old granddaughter. She read it straight through without putting it down. She had never thought a book could be so real.

This was an excellent story and a good, quick read. Very interesting and historically based upon the early sweat shops.

Good book that explains the time period. Great Living history book

"I hated this book more than anything ever before in my whole life."Comment from my son who had to read it for school ;)

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DIY Screenprinting: How To Turn Your Home Into a T-Shirt Factory  
Kansas City B-25 Factory (Images of Aviation)  
Song Machine: Inside the Hit Factory  
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Kelly Kelly - Maxim Magazine - December 2011 - WWE Diva - Shaq - Factory Sealed With 2012 Calendar Numbers  
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Charlie and the Chocolate Factory: a Play  
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