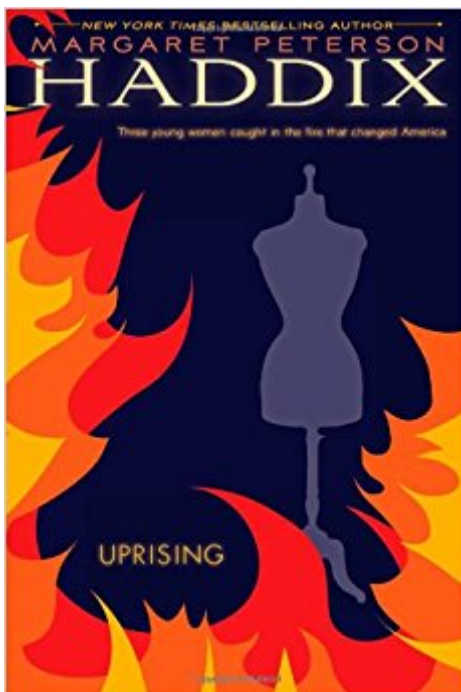


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# Uprising



## Synopsis

The fire at the Triangle Waist Company in New York City, which claimed the lives of 146 young immigrant workers, is one of the worst disasters since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, and the disaster, which brought attention to the labor movement in America, is part of the curriculum in classrooms throughout the country. Told from alternating points of view, this historical novel draws upon the experiences of three very different young women: Bella, who has just emigrated from Italy and doesn't speak a word of English; Yetta, a Russian immigrant and crusader for labor rights; and Jane, the daughter of a wealthy businessman. Bella and Yetta work together at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory under terrible conditions--their pay is docked for even the slightest mistake, the bosses turn the clocks back so closing time is delayed, and they are locked into the factory all day, only to be frisked before they leave at night to make sure they haven't stolen any shirtwaists. When the situation worsens, Yetta leads the factory's effort to strike, and she meets Jane on the picket line. Jane, who feels trapped by the limits of her own sheltered existence, joins a group of high-society women who have taken an interest in the strike as a way of supporting women's suffrage. Through a series of twists and turns, the three girls become fast friends--and all of them are in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory on March 25, 1911, the day of the fateful fire. In a novel that puts a human face on the tragedy, Margaret Peterson Haddix has created a sweeping, forceful tale that will have readers guessing until the last page who--if anyone--survives.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 790 (What's this?)

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (January 18, 2011)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-1416911722

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 85 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #19,642 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emigration & Immigration #10 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century #40 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 6-8 "This deftly crafted historical novel unfolds dramatically with an absorbing story and well-drawn characters who readily evoke empathy and compassion. Haddix has masterfully melded in-depth information about the history of immigration, the struggle for women's rights, the beginnings of the organized labor movement, and the horrific Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911 within a narrative that will simultaneously engross and educate its readers. The story is told from the alternating perspectives of Bella, an Italian immigrant teen; Yetta, a Russian Jewish immigrant; and Jane, the daughter of an upper-class American businessman. Yetta is opinionated and aware of how immigrants, especially women, are mistreated. She is outspoken and ready to work toward improving conditions. Bella is a new immigrant and easily taken advantage of. She only wants to earn money to send home so the rest of her family can join her in America. Though wealthy, Jane is influenced by college girls who are starting to work for women's rights. The three girls meet during the strike at the Triangle factory. Jane bravely leaves home when she learns that her father was involved in trying to break the strike. This absorbing and informative read is a wonderful companion to Mary Jane Auch's *Ashes of Roses* (Holt, 2002)."

Renee Steinberg, formerly at Fieldstone Middle School, Montvale, NJ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

"Haddix is a masterful storyteller and succeeds in putting a human face on a historical tragedy. Recommended."

"Library Media Connection" "A compelling message about labor, sacrifice, and the price of freedom in America."

"Publishers Weekly" "Will keep readers turning the pages. An excellent author's note provides additional historical information."

"Booklist" "This deftly crafted historical novel unfolds dramatically with an absorbing story and well-drawn characters who readily evoke empathy and compassion."

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"Booklist" "A compelling message."

America."--"Publishers Weekly"

The Fire at the Triangle factory took many lives. Many of the workers were young women newly arrived to the USA. Margaret Peterson Haddix has written the story relating the lives of these immigrants so that young people of today can better understand them. The tragic events of the fire brought tears to my eyes. What a masterful way to tell about a pivotal event that led to better safety regulations for factories and other public places as well. I thoroughly enjoyed being educated about it.

Told through flashbacks, *Uprising* by Margaret Peterson Haddix is an engaging work of historical fiction focusing on the lives of three young women growing up in the early 1900s. The book describes the events leading up to the famous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911 that killed more than 100 people. Haddix is a wonderful storyteller who brings the economic plight of young immigrants to life. The chapters follow each of the three main characters Bella, Yetta, and Jane as they fight for women's rights, labor rights, and respect in a world of class struggles and prejudice. Many photos of the actual events described in the book can be found online. These visual resources can really bring the book alive for all ages. Triangle Factory Fire from Cornell <http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/Library> of Congress <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/pphome.html> Search for Triangle Shirtwaist Company

History comes alive in this book by Margaret Peterson Haddix as she lets us come to face to face with women who stood up for themselves in a period of time when women were merely objects to own. Through the storytelling craftsmanship of Haddix we walk side by side with three women from different backgrounds and countries whose lives become intertwined in a single story of courage and determination to gain rights for factory workers and women. We find ourselves racing through each page to see what happens next to our heroines Bella, Jane and Yetta and in the process emerge ourselves in the history of the early 1900s and the plight of immigrants as compared to the frivolity of the wealthy. The story of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory comes to life through the story of these three girls as well as letting us see the struggles of the early unions as they were striving to make safe environments to live in and only succeeded after the tragic fire at the Triangle Factory. A compelling read from start to finish and the added historical notes at the end of the book are a bonus.

One of the nice things about fiction is that it allows the writer to insert emotion and depth into the story they are telling. Haddix does a great job of that in this book. The story follows three young women living in New York in 1911, whose lives slowly intertwine. Jane is the daughter of a wealthy businessman and has been sheltered and pampered her whole life, but she finds going to tea parties and wearing fancy clothes does not satisfy her. When she finds out about the garment workers strike it catches her attention. Eventually she runs away and finds out what life is really like for the garment workers. Yetta and her sister, Rahel, are both garment workers involved in the strike. They are immigrants from Russia trying to save enough money to help their families come to the United States. Yetta stands firmly with the strikers even when it results in beatings and arrest. Bella is a recent immigrant from Italy, come to the United States to earn money to save her family from starvation. Only when she meets Yetta and Jane does she start to understand that there are some things worth fighting and sacrificing for. All three girls are caught up in the fire. What makes this book so powerful I think is how real each of these characters becomes. It is easy to visualize each of the three girls very distinctly. The setting is so real one can almost see the crowds and smell the sewage.

I particularly liked the character development of the three protagonists. I read this because it was summer homework for my sixth grade twins (and me). Therefore I would recommend it to young teens and tweens who have a rather shallow understanding of history, robber barons, and the labor movement, not to mention the suffering of others in general and immigrants in particular. I gave this book 5 stars because of the heartbreaking suffering of the Russian and Italian girls, and their spirit!

Margaret Peterson Haddix has done an excellent job at looking at the different sides of many issues of the times. She humanizes through the stories of three young girls. Two immigrants to America and a New York girl that has had all the "advantages". It shows their friendship and how a horrible day in March 25, 1911 impacted forever the lives of these three young girls. One gets an appreciate for the formation of unions and women fighting to get the vote. Haddix includes a wonderful author's note about some of her research for writing and provides additional sources to obtain more information. You can see how the Triangle Shirtwaist fire has effected history.

This was a very good read. I learned a lot about women in manufacturing in the early 20th century in the US. I was drawn to the characters and started to really care about them. I was proud of their attempts to strike and form a union. This book was historical, but it also really also spoke to women

and the working poor today. I also liked the involvement of the wealthy girl with the immigrant from Italy and the Jewish girl. We are all so much more alike than different.

I read the book because I am using it with 7th graders for CCLS module 2. I was drawn in from the first word and finished the book in 2days. I am not sure what I enjoyed more; incredible writing crafted to tell a story, the non-fiction aspect to the story or the characters themselves. An amazing book I will be using for a very long time with my middle schoolers.

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