



2018

Factory Girl

Taylor Nelson

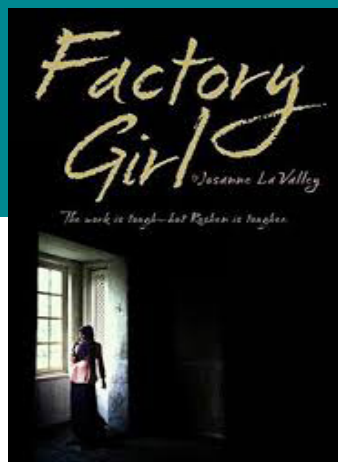
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Book Review

Factory Girl

Author

Josanne La Valley

Illustrator

Reviewer

Taylor Nelson

Rating

Excellent

Level

Young Adult

Pages

265

Year

2017

Publisher

Clarion Books

ISBN

9780544699472

Roshen, a sixteen-year-old Uyghar girl, has been selected to work in a factory for a year in the south of China. Her family's farm is at stake, and she is told that it is a wonderful opportunity that will help her future career. However, she is faced with the ugly truth upon arrival: work conditions are horrific and Uyghar workers are discriminated against. She is forced to stop wearing her Muslim headdress, served food that is against her religious beliefs, lied to about pay, and isolated from everyone and everything outside of the factory. Forced to do horrific things to keep customers happy, Roshen begins to starve herself to become 'ugly' so her boss will not single her out to entertain his guests. She becomes deathly ill, and, not wanting unwelcome government attention, the factory owners send her home, where she begins to pick up the pieces of what is left of her life.

Factory Girl is based on true stories of Uyghar girls forced to leave their families and homeland to work in Chinese factories. It is a difficult read because the reader is made aware that the awful things the girls go through in the book are happening in real life. Uyghars face hostility and contempt from the Chinese government, and the factory conditions for the involuntary indentured servants are deplorable. In this book, the main character is a refreshing heroine, as she is of a quiet disposition but holds an impressive inner strength. Roshen's love for her people, her family, and her culture is what helps her through the daily torture that she experiences. The ending is not very satisfying for the reader, as it leaves a lot of loose ends, but this is actually a strength to the book as it makes the story much more realistic. Factory Girl is a wonderful book full of faith, hope, love, and determination.

*Contains mild violence and mild sexual content.