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A Memory of Violets

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Book Review

A Memory of Violets

Leaving a complicated past and all that is familiar behind, Tilly rides the train to London to start a new job as Housemother in Mr. Shaw’s Training Homes for Watercress and Flower Girls. Grateful for the chance to start anew, and refreshed by the fact that no one knows her or her history, Tilly revels in her new life, job, and friends. After finding a hidden collection of letters in her room, Tilly embarks on a journey of discovery revolving around two sisters living barefoot on the streets of London. As she learns more about their relationship, she yearns for healing between her own sister and self.

Hazel Gaynor intricately weaves multiple viewpoints into one flawless story. Originally set on finding out everything she can about these two mysterious sisters, Tilly didn’t expect to relate so well to their sad tale and discover her own wants and needs. Gaynor beautifully instructs readers on the importance of empathy, the strength that can be found in familial relationships, and the power within new beginnings. Appropriate for young adult readers and enjoyable for older adults as well, A Memory of Violets spins an important, seldom-told story.