Bella

Italian

15 years old

Her only family in America is her Cousin, Pietro, who left her to go to South Carolina.

Her father died several years ago.

She came to America to earn money so her starving family could buy food.

She lives in the tenements with the Luciano family and many other boarders.

She works at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory.

She depends on and trusts the men she lives with to send her money home because women are not allowed in banks.

Signor & Signora Luciano forces her to make cloth flowers for hats every night since she does not earn enough money to pay rent.

She does not know how to speak English.

She does not know how to read or write in any language.

She was manipulated into continue working during the strike by her boss with money, kindness, and music during her lunch breaks. He took advantage of her “new immigrant” status and knew she did not understand what was happening.

She was called a “scab” for working during the strike and then the strikers tried to attack her.

13 year old, Rocco, has a crush on her and helps her out a lot.

She daydreams about Pietro coming back to her and falling in love with her.

Discovers that her money never made it home to her family and that they all died.

She is hit by a car trying to find someone to read a letter for her.

She is overcome by grief for her deceased family and is unable to take care of herself.

Yetta

Russian but speaks Yiddish

14 years old

Jewish

She lives in a tenement with her sister Rahel.

She came to America to earn money so her family could escape Jewish persecution and save their lives by moving to America.

She is taking English lessons at night.

She is very passionate about being politically active. She considers herself a socialist.

She believes that if all the workers join a union, then the factory owners will stop mistreating their employees.

She does everything she can to help support and be apart of the strike. She spends many hours standing outside in the freezing cold to hold a sign in a picket line.

She is beaten up on several occasions by prostitutes, drunks, and police officers that have been paid off by the factory owners in an attempt to stop the strike.

She has been arrested several times and the union helps pay the bail money so she can get out of jail.

She works at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory.

Jane

16 years old

American

Lives in a mansion

Her mother died when she was 9 years old.

Her father is a wealthy businessman and owns many factories.

She has a governess, Miss Millhouse, and several servants who take care of all her needs.

She attends a finishing school for girls.

She wants to go to college but her Father believes that it is a waste to educate women.

Her friend, Eleanor, teaches her about Women’s Rights and gets her involved in the strike.

Her Father wants her to marry someone wealthy, with a title, and that will help his business grow.

She is teaching herself how to speak Italian.

She feels trapped in her life and wants to do something important to prove that she is not worthless.

She does not understand the working class or what conditions they are forced to live in and endure.