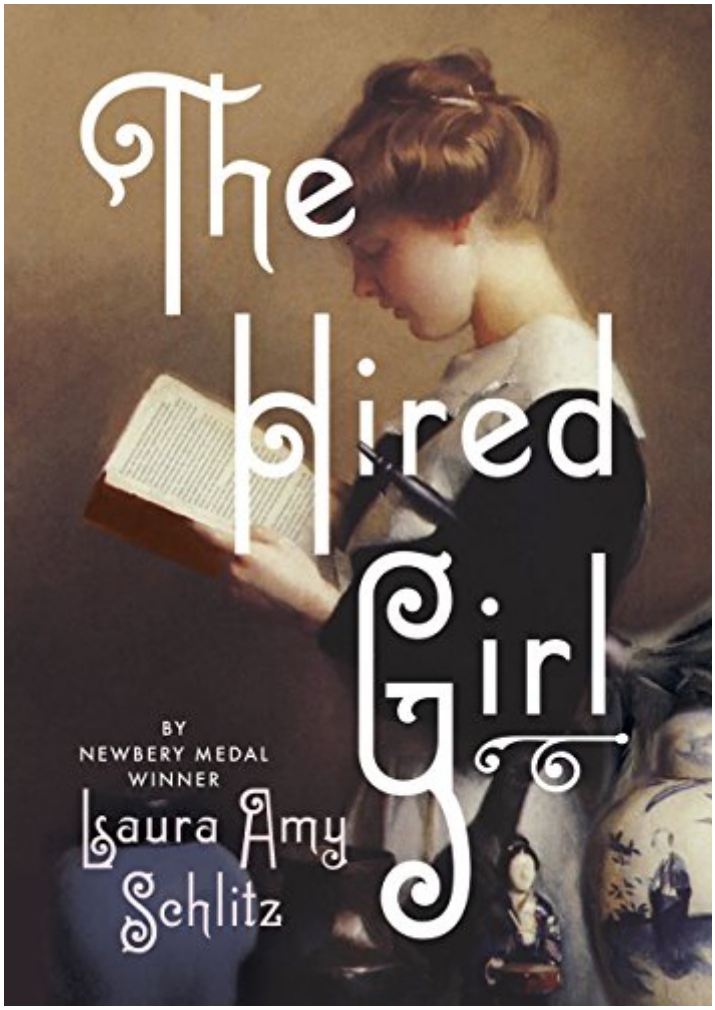
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The Hired Girl (Ala Notable Children's Books. Older Readers)



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Synopsis

Winner of the 2016 Scott OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Dell Award for Historical FictionA 2016 Association of Jewish Libraries Sydney Taylor Award WinnerWinner of the 2016 National Jewish Book Award for ChildrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s and Young Adult LiteratureNewbery Medalist Laura Amy Schlitz brings her delicious wit and keen eye to early twentieth-century America in a moving yet comedic tour de force.Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs, just like the heroines in her beloved novels, yearns for real life and true love. But what hope is there for adventure, beauty, or art on a hardscrabble farm in Pennsylvania where the work never ends? Over the summer of 1911, Joan pours her heart out into her diary as she seeks a new, better life for herselfÃ¢â ¬â •because maybe, just maybe, a hired girl cleaning and cooking for six dollars a week can become what a farm girl could only dream ofÃ¢â ¬â •a woman with a future. Newbery Medalist Laura Amy Schlitz relates JoanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s journey from the muck of the chicken coop to the comforts of a society household in Baltimore (Electricity! Carpet sweepers! Sending out the laundry!), taking readers on an exploration of feminism and housework; religion and literature; love and loyalty; cats, hats, and bunions.

Book Information

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20th Century

Customer Reviews

I bought this book knowing nothing about it and I was so pleasantly surprised by it! It was one of the best books I read all year. I found it a cross between the fun, intimate first person story telling of a book like "Confessions of a Shopaholic" and a lovely, historical book like "Anne of Green Gables." I would especially recommend this book for young women, but as an adult it completely held my attention. The narrator had my complete empathy. She was a credible, relatable narrator. I'm excited to read more from this author.

My mother and aunt once worked as "hired girls" for wealthy families, some Jewish--this story is a glimpse into what their lives may have been like.I found the characterizations well differentiated; I had a clear sense from her language and emotions that the heroine was a young person (though pretending to be adult), while her employers spoke, thought and acted their ages.The portrayal of the Jewish family was sympathetic to the religion and culture, and seemed to avoid stereotype. Being set in 1911, Judaism had not yet experienced the horrors of the holocaust.Overall, it was a well written, engaging story of a young girl forced to grow up too soon, but who managed to do it well.

If I had read this book when I was 13 I'm sure it would have been one of my favorites. This is the first YA novel I've read since I've been an adult, and I'm just now realizing that the boy-crazy underpinning of many YA novels is just not satisfying for a mature reader. However, I think this book was well written, and despite her boy-craziness I think Jane is an interesting and thoughtful protagonist who shares the questions and thoughts of today's girls that makes her so relatable even 100s of years after she "wrote" them. Aspiring to be a teacher is a nice bonus ;)

I completely understand. Who would want to read a diary written by a 14-year-old girl living on a farm in 1911? Take my word when I say, you do.I understand the slow nature of life in 1911 is an obvious no thank you for most readers, but Laura Amy Schlitz wasn't looking for ecstatic adventures. She was looking for the real, normal moments of life back in 1911.Our main character is Joan Skraggs, a naive but empowered young girl looking to give a name for herself as a teacher. After she is given a journal by her favorite teacher, she vows to fill it to the brim with words and knowledge. Of course there are hiccups along the way, some that land her in a Jewish household

as an almost Catholic hired girl.Throughout the summer of 1911, she covers her pages in eloquent writing and comical but stressful events that will leave you laughing and tearing your hair out. It’s the main reason why this is an important read. The diary pages are smothered in the life of a girl dealing with sexism and religious tension, which are all problems that we still deal with today. This novel is a magic mirror, and our world is staring right into it. But Joan’s growth throughout pushes these boundaries down. This is especially true as her relationship with the Rosenbachs takes two steps forward and a step and a half back.Take a moment or two to really dive into this novel. You’ll be laughing and wondering why the past seems to repeat itself.

I started this book expecting to take awhile to read it. However, I couldn’t put it down! Loved the sentiment. I couldn’t help but have strong feelings for the main character--Joan / Janet--who was neglected and abused as a young woman. She escapes her terrible life on the farm in Pennsylvania at the young age of 14 and gets employment as a "hired girl" for a prominent Jewish family in Baltimore. There are lots of situations she gets into as she lives with this family and lets herself become more involved in their lives every day! I was expecting one ending for this story .... and yet, got a different one. Loved it! This is a Beehive award winning book for young adults, but certainly can be enjoyed by adults as well. I highly recommend it.

The Hired Girl was an excellent story about a bright, young girl at the turn of the century. She uses her wits and work ethic to escape from the poverty and neglect she experienced on her father’s farm . In the city, she finds work in the household of a wealthy Jewish family. The author wrote realistically about the clash between the girl’s Catholic values and the Jewish values of the family for whom she worked. The characters were well-developed, the historical period was well-researched, and the description of chores a hired girl had to do made for a fascinating reading experience.Readers from middle school to adult would enjoy this very engaging story.

This was one of the most interesting books I have ever read! There is a lot of talk about religion, but it is clear the author is not trying to push any opinions on you. All of the characters were very realistic and hardly anyone was one dimensional. I finished this book in one day because I just had to know how things turned out. A very thought provoking book.

Such a good story of a young girl in the early 1900’s, who leaves her difficult home and hires herself out to a Jewish family. She, herself, want to become Catholic. She journals her days, and that is the

way the story reads.

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