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The Saturday Evening Girls Club: A Novel



Synopsis

For four young immigrant women living in Boston's North End in the early 1900s, escaping tradition doesn't come easy. But at least they have one another and the Saturday Evening Girls Club, a social pottery-making group offering respite from their hectic home lives - and hope for a better future. Ambitious Caprice dreams of opening her own hat shop, which clashes with the expectations of her Sicilian-born parents. Brilliant Ada secretly takes college classes despite the disapproval of her Russian Jewish father. Stunning Maria could marry anyone yet guards her heart to avoid the fate of her Italian Catholic mother, broken down by an alcoholic husband. And shy Thea is torn between asserting herself and embracing an antiquated Jewish tradition. The friends face family clashes and romantic entanglements, career struggles and cultural prejudice. But through their unflinching bond, forged through their weekly gathering, they'll draw strength - and the courage to transform their immigrant stories into the American lives of their dreams.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For me, this book was everything I'd hoped *THE BOSTON GIRL*, by Anita Diamant, or *BROOKLYN*, by Colm Toibin, would be! But instead of being the story of young immigrant women that just passively accept their fates and let life happen to them, these young women are based on actual historical figures who work to shape a new American life for themselves. *The Saturday Evening Girls* is the story of four resilient, determined girls from Italian and Jewish immigrant families, all residing in the North End of Boston at the turn of the 20th century. Though they have different ethnic backgrounds and different religions, Caprice, Maria, Ada, and

Thea are united by their participation in The Saturday Evening Girls Club. And despite their status as second class citizens – both because they are immigrants and because they are women – each girl refuses to be the victim of her circumstances. Caprice works toward establishing her own hat shop in a time when women business owners were anything but common. Ada secretly takes college classes, having to hid her brilliance from her traditional father while trying hard not to fall in love with a boy with a different ethnic and religious background. Maria, renowned throughout the North End for her beauty, heads down a dark path in an attempt to escape her alcoholic father and her fate to follow in her mother's footsteps. And Thea struggles with wanting to be a modern girl, while still wanting to hold on to old world traditions. Through it all, the four girls are united by The Saturday Evening Girls Club and find ways to be pillars of support for each other despite their difficult circumstances. This historical novel is clearly based on extensive research about Boston's North End and The Saturday Evening Girls Club, as well as two of the club's founders Helen Osbourne Storrow and Edith Guerrier. Healy was able to bring to life these girls in a way that enables the reader to step into their world – experiencing not only the sights and sounds of the North End as it was a century ago, but also the joys and sorrows of being an immigrant in a fast changing new world.

Four young girls growing up in the early 1900's. It relates their hopes, dreams and struggles as the first generation of daughters adapting to a different way of life from their parents in a new country.

Great story that really painted a picture of what life was like for women & immigrants of early 1900's Boston. I found myself really rooting for these remarkable young women

Lovely development of story based on friendships. women finding their place in family and life ... enjoyed and wish to continue reading about them!

Ok really enjoyed this book, it is a quick read but thoroughly enjoyable. The characters are believable and likeable.

Enjoyed reading about how it was for young woman who were discarding old ways to follow their dreams. Sorry to see it end.

I truly enjoyed every word of this beautify written book. Its what true, lasting friendship is all about.

My thanks to the author.

I found it difficult to put the book down ! I wanted to finish the story of the four fabulous young women and their lives !

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