



A Memory of Violets: A Novel of London's Flower Sellers

By Hazel Gaynor



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The author of the *USA Today* and *New York Times* bestselling novel *The Girl Who Came Home* has once again created an unforgettable historical novel. Step into the world of Victorian London, where the wealth and poverty exist side by side. This is the story of two long-lost sisters, whose lives take different paths, and the young woman who will be transformed by their experiences.

In 1912, twenty-year-old Tilly Harper leaves the peace and beauty of her native Lake District for London, to become assistant housemother at Mr. Shaw's Home for Watercress and Flower Girls. For years, the home has cared for London's flower girls— orphaned and crippled children living on the grimy streets and selling posies of violets and watercress to survive.

Soon after she arrives, Tilly discovers a diary written by an orphan named Florrie—a young Irish flower girl who died of a broken heart after she and her sister, Rosie, were separated. Moved by Florrie's pain and all she endured in her brief life, Tilly sets out to discover what happened to Rosie. But the search will not be easy. Full of twists and surprises, it leads the caring and determined young woman into unexpected places, including the depths of her own heart.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Hazel Gaynor's tale of divided sisters conjures a bygone era with a poignancy so exquisite one can almost smell the violets." (Kate Beaufoy, author of *LIBERTY SILK* and *ANOTHER HEARTBEAT IN THE HOUSE*)

"Gaynor once again brings history to life. With intriguing characters and a deeply absorbing story, her latest is a fascinating examination of one city's rich history and the often forgotten people who lived in it." (Booklist)

"Given the awards she has already received, we are sure to hear much more from Hazel Gaynor-and that is a good thing." (New York Journal of Books)

"Gaynor's talent for evoking a time and place, as well as her ability to write a beautifully heart-wrenching story with realistic characters, enables her to touch readers. The unexpected twists and turns of the plot and jumping of timelines holds readers' attention to the satisfying climax." (RT Book Reviews (4 Stars))

"Historical details and the unique perspective of penniless, physically challenged young girls could make Gaynor's second historical novel a good book club choice. A tidy ending and sweet romance will satisfy readers hoping to exhale a long, contented sigh as they finish the last page." (Library Journal)

From the Back Cover

From the author of the *USA Today* bestseller *The Girl Who Came Home* comes an unforgettable historical novel that tells the story of two long-lost sisters— orphaned flower sellers—and a young woman who is transformed by their experiences

"For little sister. . . I will never stop looking for you."

1876. Among the filth and depravity of Covent Garden's flower markets, orphaned Irish sisters Flora and Rosie Flynn sell posies of violets and watercress to survive. It is a pitiful existence, made bearable only by each other's presence. When they become separated, the decision of a desperate woman sets their lives on very different paths.

1912. Twenty-one-year-old Tilly Harper leaves the peace and beauty of her native Lake District for London to become assistant housemother at one of Mr. Shaw's Training Homes for Watercress and Flower Girls. For years, the homes have cared for London's orphaned and crippled flower girls, getting them off the streets. For Tilly, the appointment is a fresh start, a chance to leave her troubled past behind.

Soon after she arrives at the home, Tilly finds a notebook belonging to Flora Flynn. Hidden between the pages she finds dried flowers and a heartbreaking tale of loss and separation as Flora's entries reveal how she never stopped looking for her lost sister. Tilly sets out to discover what happened to Rosie—but the search will not be easy. Full of twists and surprises, it leads the caring and determined young woman into unexpected places, including the depths of her own heart.

About the Author

Hazel Gaynor is an author and freelance writer in Ireland and the UK and was the recipient of the Cecil Day Lewis Award for Emerging Writers in 2012. Originally from North Yorkshire, England, she now lives in Ireland with her husband, two young children, and an accident-prone cat.

Nicola Barber is a voice-over actor who can be heard on audiobooks, video games, and international radio and television. Born in England and living in New York, she specializes in accents, including American, Scottish, Irish, Australian, and all dialects of British. She has won two AudioFile Earphones Awards.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Traci Farris:

The ability that you get from A Memory of Violets: A Novel of London's Flower Sellers will be the more deep you rooting the information that hide inside the words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but A Memory of Violets: A Novel of London's Flower Sellers giving you joy feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by anyone who read the idea because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having that A Memory of Violets: A Novel of London's Flower Sellers instantly.

Joe North:

The particular book A Memory of Violets: A Novel of London's Flower Sellers will bring one to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to read, this book very suitable to you. The book A Memory of Violets: A Novel of London's Flower Sellers is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

Billy Smith:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love A Memory of Violets: A Novel of London's Flower Sellers, you could enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Tia Rosario:

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