



The Bomb Girls

Daisy Styles

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On an ordinary day in 1941, a letter arrives on the doormats of five young women, a letter which will change everything.

Lillian is distraught. And whether she tears, hides or burns the letter the words remain the same - she must register for compulsory war work. Many miles away, Emily is also furious - her dream job as a chef will have to be put on hold, whilst studious Alice must abandon her plans of college.

Staring at an identical letter, Elsie feels a kindling of hope at the possibility of leaving behind her brutal father. And down in London, Agnes has her own reasons for packing her bags with a smile.

Brought together at a munitions factory in a Lancashire mill town, none of them knows what lies ahead. Sharing grief and joy, lost dreams and gained opportunities, the five new bomb girls will find friendship and strength that they never before thought possible as they unite to help the country they love survive.

Praise for Daisy Styles

'A great read that I think will appeal to fans of wartime sagas and authors like Donna Douglas . . . From dances to disasters, encounters with handsome Yanks, rationing and relationships, *The Bomb Girls* has all the ingredients of an excellent wartime drama and I thoroughly enjoyed it!' Onemorepage.com

'The story is full of drama, love, heartbreak, friendship and in some part some comedy . . . It's full of twist and turns and is a real page turner' Laurahbookblog

The Bomb Girls Details

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From Reader Review The Bomb Girls for online ebook

Amanda says

Wow very much enjoyed it cant wait to start the next book.

Abby Slater- Fairbrother says

The Bomb Girls is an unusual series, in that each novel follows a different set of bomb girls. They are not a follow-on series such as The Shipyard Girls by Nancy Revell. So, each book can be enjoyed as and when you want to read them! I am already earmarking the Christmas novel, for one of my December reads.

The novels are set in the small Lancashire town of Pendle. Being from Lancashire myself I recognised some of the small towns and villages mentioned. The novel follows Lillian, Emily, Elsie, Agnes and Alice. Five very different women, as they navigate their new post at the munitions factory in an old Lancashire mill. With each of the women being seconded to compulsory war work, life is far from easy. But the girls will come to bond and it is that growing sisterhood that makes this novel so beautiful.

Emily is from the small Lancashire mill town of Pendle. She has a boyfriend Raymond who is serving with the Lancashire Fusiliers. Emily is a fantastic cook and had dreams of culinary school before the war. Eventually she ends up being able to provide some much needed subsistence to the workers at the munitions factory. Although she does have to twist the arm of Mr Greenhalgh.

Alice is the clever gal of the group. She had plans to attend Manchester University and study a degree in the French language. She is also a bookish girl, that can often be found at Tonge Moor library. Although she is the group tomboy, she has had a grammar school education and had high hopes for her future. Nevertheless, she signs up at the labour exchange and finds herself at the old mill.

Elsie is a unique character, she signs up to the labour exchange to escape her homelife. One that is filled with domestic abuse and unpaid labour. Her character really develops throughout the novel and her strength is inspiring.

Agnes lives in London, she has in one sense the most heart-breaking background. Her husband Stan is MIA. Her daughter Esther is not only an evacuee currently residing in the Lake District. But Esther is also recovering from polio. Agnes knows that a move to Lancashire is a move closer to Esther and so she takes her chances on life at the factory.

Lillian is the beauty of the group and she knows it. Lillian uses her charms and good looks, so breeze through life. When the female conscription is announced, to say she is unimpressed is a major understatement. Can Lillian thrive at the factory? Will it change who she is?

The women arrive to their 'hostel' type lodgings. By hostel, I mean cowshed. They are joined by local women of Pendle, Nelson, Colne and Darwin. Their work involves long exhausting shifts and each of the women quickly makes alliances with each other and new best friends.

'From now on we're going to look after Agnes' – Emily

The group band together to organise compassionate leave for Agnes to visit her daughter. It is then we see the true personal costs of MIA soldiers, polio and the plight of evacuees.

When the US and Canadian troops arrive in the UK, some of the girls find their eyes wandering. With Lillian, Emily and Alice actively going in search of these mysterious men.

There is love, laughter and an explosion at the factory. Can the women survive the war with their hearts intact?

Alice is offered a job at the war office, a job that will see her leave Lancashire for London and more important work in the war effort. The women are left devastated by her departure but determined to stay in touch as best they can.

The novel is an emotional rollercoaster, there are ups and downs galore. The strength of the women and sisterhood that develops is what makes this a brilliant read. It also forms as sort of a 'coming of age' in the ww2 era for the women. When the novel starts out they may be naïve, but by the end of the novel they are toughened young women.

'Lancashire folk are fighters and we don't let folk down do we?' – Gracie Fields

Journey through ww2 with the women of Lancashire. 5*

laura says

a excellent look at the livss of the girls.in the bomb factory onenoc who goes on to b a special ops.agent and how she.finds.love a gripping book.had me.gripped.from the first chapter

Laura says

A sweet and frothy wartime read following the trials and tribulations of a gathering of new friends who meet when they are conscripted to a munitions factory in northern England as World War Two rages on.

I loved the story of Alice in particular, and how she was scouted to become a member of the French speaking special operations forces. I felt her chapters could be a standalone story.

My issue with the book - and why I have resisted rating it higher - is that much of the dialogue feels disjointed, overly perky or too cut and dry. I appreciate the era the author is trying to describe and in some passages she demonstrates skill in this area, but much of her writing is cliché to the times. A perfect example of this is in the parts where the northern girls meet soldiers from across the pond!

I may continue to read this series, although I do prefer grittier wartime fiction, this makes a nice change and offers a new perspective on typical historical fiction. The wartime efforts of the women on the home front should never be forgotten; their sacrifices and their self reliance are noted by the authors attempts to create several well developed characters each with their own strengths.

Ali Bookworm says

Absolutely brilliant! It took me a while to get going as there were so many new characters at first and I had to keep checking back who was who. Once the story came together I began to enjoy it. All chapters are titled which gives you an indication of what is going to happen. I warmed to all the main characters. I think it could have been a little more detailed in some areas and the way it was written seemed a little rushed. It was emotional in parts and made me cry a little. If you like Ww2 Sagas and series like Home Fires this is perfect. I think it would make an equally good TV drama along the lines of that and Call the Midwife. I look forward to Daisy Styles next novel.

Kim says

This is the first book in a wonderful war time series. Women over 18 were called to sign up for war work- and this book is about a group of girls who sign up to work in a bomb factory where the Cordite will send their hands and hair yellow!

It has wonderful warm friendships, war time camaraderie and gives you a wonderful sense of wartime life. I will definately read the rest of this series to catch up with the girls.

Tracey says

I loved this book, about a group of girls of very different backgrounds brought together to work in a munitions factory during world war two. It's set mainly in Pendle, Lancashire. The group quickly become firm friends and although the girls all have their own stories their friendship is what sees them through many ups and downs. This book is well researched and informative and manages to blend the story into the facts. As all good stories should this book takes the reader through all sorts of emotions, it has very sad, poignant parts as well as uplifting bits. I'm looking forward to reading more books by Daisy Styles.

Meirav Berale says

Liked the characters and the plot, but the book is not very well written - I only carried on despite that because I really wanted to know what happens in the end. In other words: the author managed to hook me with the characters and storyline, so that, through gritted teeth, I went on reading to the very end.

Why the gritted teeth, you ask? The writing was mostly ok but somewhat clunky. There were far too many places where you're supposedly inside the head of one of the characters but suddenly there's a bit of description of what this character looks like - the colour of her eyes, or how shapely her bottom is, for instance. And now and again there's a chunk of text that feels like you're reading a history book and not a novel - an info dump, instead of weaving the information into the story.

Generally I'd say this writer does too much telling rather than showing, which means you just don't really get deeply under the skin of the characters. You hear what's happening to them and you might sympathise a bit here and there, but most of the time you're a bystander and not really inside the story.

Most of the main characters are likeable, so I wanted to stick around and hear what happens to them. But I won't be looking for any more of this author's books based on this sample.

Shannon Dyer says

Round up to 3.5 stars. The female friendships were the best things about this book.

Elisabeth says

The Bomb Girls

By Daisy Styles

Five girls, five different lives all brought together by Winston Churchill calling the women of Great Britain together to work to help the Allies win World War Two.

Lillian, Emily, Alice, Elsie and Agnes along with thousands of other women have to leave their homes, lives and families for the munition factories. Thrown together these girls forge friendships out of necessity and each day risk their lives on the bomb making conveyor belts. Dangerous and difficult work these girls know that a single seconds lapse of concentration could mean disaster.

A lovely story of friendship, love and courage this is a perfect read for fans of Elaine Everest (The Butlin Girls and The Woolworths Girls) and Kate Thompson (The Secrets of the Sewing Bee, Singer Girls)

moira manson says

Alice ,Emily ,Elsie ,Lillian , Agnes , Daphne .

The bomb girls was a book of what our women did in war time they served there country well I only hope women like the ones in this book got the recognition they deserved this was a blinder of a book well worth reading and definitely worth 5 STARS .

Diane Cunningham says

This is my first book by this author but definitely won't be my last. Sent during WW2 it tells the story of young women moved out of their comfort zone to help win the war. You get drawn into the characters lives as they learn to live with each other and end up as firm friends. There are happy and sad times but the girls are there helping each other through. A great read

c m bolton says

The brilliant bomb girls

Well I know have some new friends. All the bomb girls have fabulous personalities. You can't help but love all their different characters. This book is wonderful made me laugh a lot. I recommend this book to everyone. Thank you Daisy Styles. I'm now going to get the next book in the series.

Jane says

Loved it, this had me hooked from page one.

Heather Copping says

Loved this book, great characters and full of warmth, sadness, good times and bad. I really enjoyed it well worth 5?.
