

S U F F R A G E T T E



MAUD WATTS

works at the Glass House Laundry in Bethnal Green in London. She has worked there since she was seven years old.

SONNY WATTS

is Maud's husband. He also works at the laundry. He is a kind man. He and Maud have a young son, George.



EMMELINE PANKHURST

is the leader of the suffragette movement. She started the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in 1903.

EMILY DAVISON

is a militant suffragette. She has been to prison many times.

NORMAN TAYLOR

owns the Glass House Laundry. He is not a nice man.

DAVID LLOYD GEORGE

is an important Member of Parliament (MP).

INSPECTOR STEED

is a police officer. His job is to watch the suffragettes. He believes in the law, even when the law is wrong.





VIOLET MILLER

is another worker at the laundry. She has several children and is a suffragette.



ALICE HAUGHTON

is married to an MP. She is rich and knows many important people. She is a suffragette.

EDITH ELLYN

and her husband,

HUGH,

run a chemist's in Bethnal Green. Edith is middle class, studied at university and is a suffragette.



PLACES

BETHNAL GREEN

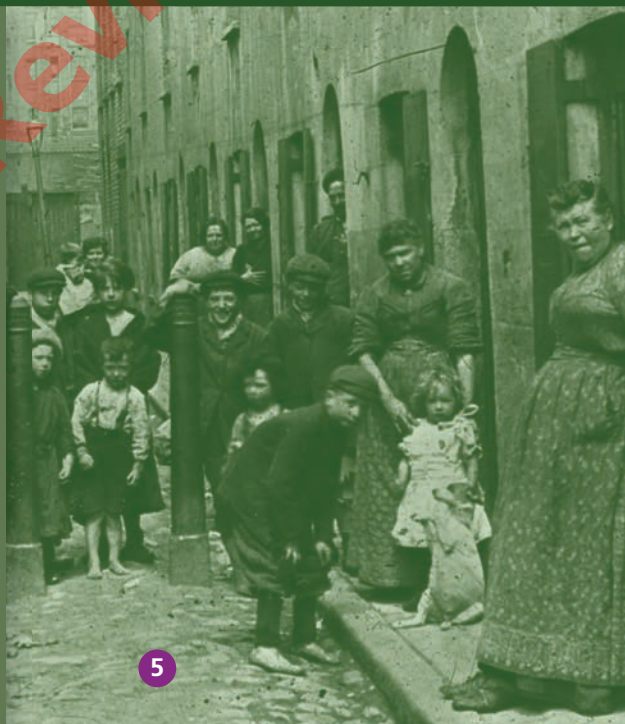
is in the East End of London. This was a poor part of the city, where working-class people lived and worked.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

is the home of the British Parliament, where MPs make the country's laws.

HOLLOWAY PRISON

is a women's prison in north London.



CHAPTER 1

MAUD

The bell rang in the Glass House Laundry. Lines of women cleaned out big washing bowls and put down hot irons. Men turned off the machines. Maud dried her red hands, grateful that another day was over. She imagined the smiling face of her little boy, George, waiting for her when she got home.



But her day wasn't quite over.

'Take this up to the West End for me, Maud,' said Mr Taylor, throwing her a packet of laundry. Norman Taylor was the owner of the Glass House Laundry. 'They want those clean shirts by six o'clock.'

It was the men's job to take the clean laundry around London, but someone had forgotten this packet. Mr Taylor knew that Maud always did what he asked. Maud picked up the shirts and ran to catch a bus. Before long, the bright lights of the West End department stores came into view.

Maud got off the bus in Regent Street. It was busy with shoppers and office workers. Maud passed a rich lady in an expensive coat and an older woman carrying a baby, covered with a scarf. She noticed a woman reading a newspaper beside a news stand.

Then one of the shop windows caught Maud's attention. It showed a picture of a family on the beach. Maud had never seen the sea. She thought about going there with George and playing on the warm sand.

The woman with the baby passed her again, and looked quickly at the woman reading the newspaper. The big clock outside the department store moved towards six o'clock. Maud was about to leave when she heard voices shout out behind her.

'Votes for women! Votes for women!'

Suddenly, the shop window broke into a thousand pieces. Glass flew everywhere. The woman with the baby, the rich lady and the woman with the newspaper were all throwing stones. They shouted slogans and waved flags of purple, green and white, as screams filled the air.

Some people ran while others stood shocked, unable to move. Maud wanted to get away from the trouble, but she tripped and dropped her laundry. The packet opened and

the clean, white shirts fell onto the dirty street. Maud cut her hand on a piece of broken glass as she picked them up.

Maud saw a bus moving slowly along the crowded road. She got on and looked back at the women. Among the faces was a woman who worked at the laundry. Her name was Violet Miller and she'd started work three weeks before. Violet noticed Maud too and smiled.

'Votes for women!' she shouted, throwing another stone at a department store window. Maud looked away quickly.

When she got home, Sonny was sitting by the fire, reading the newspaper. It was quiet and warm. Their son was in bed.

'Are you all right?' Sonny asked. 'You're late.'

'I had to take a parcel up to the West End for Taylor,' Maud said.

Sonny noticed the blood on her hand.

'You're hurt,' he said. 'What happened?'

'It's nothing,' said Maud. 'There was some trouble on Regent Street. It was those women – the suffragettes. They broke all the shop windows.'

'Trouble makers,' said Sonny. 'They're getting worse.'

'I know,' said Maud. 'It was terrible.'

She didn't say anything about Violet to Sonny.

'I'll take that packet for you in the morning,' Sonny said. 'Are you coming to bed?'

'I'm just going to wash the shirts again,' Maud said.

She put some water over the fire to heat and placed the dirty shirts into a big bowl. One more job before she could sleep.

Early the next morning, Maud opened her eyes to another day. Her life was hard and she was always tired. She

played with George while she dressed him, and then made breakfast for everyone. After leaving George with her neighbour Mrs Garston, she passed a boy selling newspapers.

'Suffragettes attack London shops: Mrs Pankhurst disappears!' he shouted.

'They're mad,' thought Maud, as she hurried to work.

For Review Only

Before you read

You can use your dictionary.

- 1 Complete the sentences with the correct words.

bell campaign class flag iron laundry slogan

- You shout or write a ... to share your message with other people.
 - You use a hot ... to make clothes flat.
 - You take clothes to a ... if you don't have a washing machine.
 - In many schools, a ... rings at the end of every class.
 - Every country has its own
 - In the past, working ... people left school at a young age.
 - You run a ... to try to change things.
- 2 Choose the best words in *italics* to complete the sentences.
- The campaign was very *shocked* / *militant* and many people died.
 - People were *militant* / *shocked* when they read about the attacks.
 - The footballer tried to *jeer* / *control* the ball and shoot at the goal.
 - The crowd *controlled* / *jeered* when the footballer fell over.
- 3 Look at pages 4–7. Answer these questions.
- Who doesn't work at the laundry?
Maud Edith Violet Sonny
 - Who isn't a suffragette?
Violet Emmeline Pankhurst Emily Maud
 - Why didn't the campaign before 1900 win the vote for women?
 - In what way was Mrs Pankhurst's new campaign different?

After you read

- 4 Answer these questions.
- Who is Maud looking forward to seeing after work?
 - Who usually takes clean laundry back to its owners?
 - Who does Maud see among the women throwing stones?
 - How does Sonny describe the suffragettes?
 - How does Maud help Violet the next day?
 - Who is Mrs Haughton looking for outside the factory?
 - What does Maud think about breaking windows?