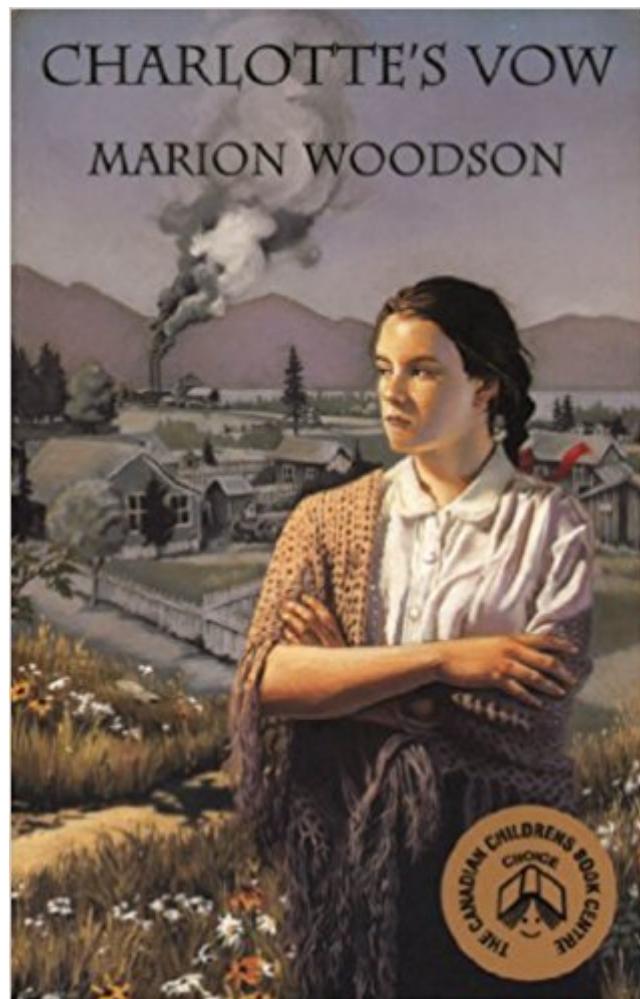


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Charlotte's Vow



Synopsis

It is Christmas 1912, and Charlotte McEwan is 15 years old. The coal-mining town of Extension, British Columbia, on Vancouver island has hit hard times. When the opportunity to work in a local dynamite factory presents itself, Charlotte braves the disapproval of her mother for the chance to bring in some extra cash and keep the vow she made to herself to get her family as far away from the mine as possible. But the job is more dangerous than she bargained for, and soon Charlotte is at risk in more ways than one.

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Customer Reviews

It is Christmas 1912, and Charlotte McEwan is 15 years old. The coal-mining town of Extension, British Columbia, on Vancouver island has hit hard times. When the opportunity to work in a local dynamite factory presents itself, Charlotte braves the disapproval of her mother for the chance to bring in some extra cash and keep the vow she made to herself to get her family as far away from the mine as possible. But the job is more dangerous than she bargained for, and soon Charlotte is at risk in more ways than one.

In 1912, 15-year-old Charlotte takes a job in a Vancouver Island dynamite factory, braving her mother's disapproval for the chance to bring in some extra cash.

When her father is killed in a mining accident, twelve-year-old Lottie has to grow up fast. She quits school and helps her mother doing laundry, scrubbing floors, and mending clothes to support her

family. At the age of fifteen, she is ready to find real work, work that pays enough to be able to move the family out of the mining town of Extension in British Columbia. She does eventually find work at the local dynamite factory. There are many hazards to the job, from the danger of explosions to the fact that she is a young lady working in a man's world. If that weren't enough, the town is in the throes of unionizing for better working conditions in the mines. It is a well written book giving the young reader a good historical perspective of mining and factory conditions of the early nineteen hundreds. I enjoyed it right up to the end. Except that when I got to the last screen on my e-reader, I tried to advance to the next screen, only to discover that that was it. The story just...ended. Looking back, I could see that the story was about Lottie's search for a way to better herself and her family. But it ended where I would have liked to see it begin, when Lottie embarks on a difficult quest requiring a lot of sacrifices and strength of will to see it through. Given Lottie's age and some of the conflicts, it is most suitable for upper middle grade readers.

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