



Christmas with the Bomb Girls

Daisy Styles

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Christmas time with our favourite Bomb Girls at the Phoenix Munitions Factory

Christmas time is approaching at the Phoenix Munitions Factory and Gladys, Kitty, Edna and the rest of the Bomb Girls are determined to make this a year to remember.

With Myrtle's health in decline, Edna's love life beginning to take flight, a shy new arrival in their midst and continual hard work on the factory floor, life is never quiet in Pendle. But Gladys, back from performing for the troops on the front, is sullen and sad and her friends are sure she is hiding something.

What exactly happened while Gladys was away? Will she be bought back to life by her old friends? And will the Bomb Girls be able to provide a wonderful Christmas all round?

Christmas with the Bomb Girls Details

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Author : Daisy Styles

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Kathy E says

What a page turner I thoroughly enjoyed this book catching up with Gladys, Kit, Violet, Maggie, Flora and Edna, also poor Mrytle. Also, the girls welcomed a newcomer amongst themselves an Italian Jewess refuge Rosa who has escapes from the Nazis in Italy. Not to forget the men as the Phoenix Malc, Arthur and also Kit's husband Ian. This book makes you smile and also it has its sadness in the loss of two of the characters. All worked out well in the end. I have read all Daisy Styles four books and enjoyed them. Now looking forward to the next Bomb Girls book The Bomb Girls Brides.

Kim says

This is the third book in the Bomb Girl series and it was lovely to catch up with the characters again. It is full of wonderful friendships, romance, relationships, family moments all amongst the setting of the bomb factory on the Moors.

The girls have a dangerous job- but the camaraderie between them is great. Some of them are harbouring secrets- but you are sure that the warm friendships will have them confiding in each other at some point.

The bomb shelters and underground stations bring the horror of the war home and you really do wonder how some of the girls manage to cope on very little sleep and a demanding job and families and homes to keep.

The Christmas Day scene in the book is so lovely- you can just imagine yourself there joining in with the singsong and watching the children in awe with Father Christmas. The cover provides such promise- which is well delivered!

I can't wait to read the next in the series already.

Tracey says

I soon got to know the girls working at the Phoenix, the bomb factory in the Yorkshire hills. The bomb girls all have very different personalities and come from various backgrounds. The story is not really about Christmas, except for the last chapter, but I didn't mind that. There are lots of ups and downs as they all deal with life during world war two. This book has a balance of sad and happy events, reflecting real life.

Maggie says

Having read & enjoyed Daisy Styles' previous books about the Bomb Girls I was delighted to be able to catch up with them again in this, the third book in the series.

Once again we meet the interesting and endearing characters and follow them in their joys and sorrows. It is a light read but also an engaging one.

I really enjoyed it. Thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for taking me back into the Bomb Girls world.

Suraj Kumar says

'Christmas with the Bomb Girls' is the third book in the Bomb Girls Series by Daisy Styles. The narrative revolves around young girls and women working in a munitions factory. While managing their personal lives at one hand, these girls make their contribution to the ongoing World War II, by making bombs.

~ Originally published on <https://booksnmyself.wordpress.com> ~

The focus remains on a group of friends- Gladys, Kit, Violet, Rosa, Myrtle, Edna, Nora & Maggie and a few male members. The narrative is linked by a few subplots, each associated with a character. By showcasing conflicts coexisting with happy moments, the book presents a very realistic picture of life.

Gladys is back from Italy, where she was a part of the performing troop. But something is changed about her. She has lost the cheerful face that was her identity. Gladys discovers happiness with Nora- an Italian Jew, who has just joined the Phoenix Munition Factory after escaping from Italy. Rosa's heart aches for her own brother who has been captured along with other Jews.

Life for the Bomb Girls is all about making bombs, facing the air attacks by the Germans and praying for their soldiers fighting at the front. While a middle aged Edna is planning her wedding with Malc- the manager of the munition factory, Myrtle's health starts declining. But this is how life goes. Things never go as per our wishes. But finding happiness in the times of difficulty is what the bomb girls are known for.

*My Verdict

I got this book in October and I had saved it for this time of the year. And that was a right decision because this is a delightful book meant to be read in a relaxing mood. Daisy Styles has a lucid style of writing which makes this book a page turner. It is really a well written book.

Through showcasing the life of the bomb girls, the author does two things. Firstly, she tells us about the contribution that the women made during the war time. The author also gives a glimpse of the pressure that the doctors and the nurses faced in these times. Everyone had to make compromises with their personal lives. Life was no easier for those who served at the background.

Secondly, it presents a realistic picture of the life. Although the war was going on and bombs were being dropped, life was not completely gloomy and dark. There were moments of happiness and joy also. Amidst the loss of life, new bonds and relationships were also being celebrated. Thus, the author has achieved a balance between the two.

The narrative is truly engaging but it becomes too predictable at some points. Besides that I had no problem with the book. We find a touch of the colloquial language in the speech of some characters, which enriches the text. But at times, certain words and phrases are repeated. But that was not a big issue for me.

All in all, I enjoyed this book. Although it is the third book in a series, it can be read as a standalone. I would

recommend this book those who are looking for a light read. It doesn't demand much from the reader's part. It is best to be read in a relaxing manner, the way I did.

My Rating: **** (3.75/5)

Sarah says

I enjoyed this book, quite possibly more than any other book in the Bomb Girls series so far. It had a great story with twists and turns that I really didn't see coming. Being the third book in the series I was already acquainted with the characters so on the whole I cared about them from the first chapter, I have to say it was helpful for reminders of previous story-lines threaded throughout the book. The book is quite an easy read which I enjoyed although the repeated phrase mentioning Rosa's Northern accent being "at odds with her Mediterranean appearance" quite flummoxed me. I found this book slightly more gritty than other books in this series and whilst normally I would enjoy this I found the title of this book a little deceiving. I had especially saved this book for the run up to Christmas to get myself in the festive spirit so was a little disappointed that the story ran over much of the year with only the final couple of chapters running over the Christmas period.

I would happily recommend this book for other readers but would recommend reading the first two in the series first, because this book does hold spoilers of the previous book.

Amanda says

Really enjoyed this addition to the 'Bomb Girls' series. If you haven't already I'd recommend you read 'The Bomb Girls' Secrets' first. The only criticism I have is that it's only really Christmassy at the end. There's a lot of sadness first which you may not want to read during the festive season.

kay says

A good read but not very festive! the only christmasy but was crammed into the last few pages!

moira manson says

Bomb girls

What a page turner I thoroughly enjoyed this book catching up with the old faves Edna ,kitty, Gladys, violet, Maggie, Nora, plus the men and a new bomb girl it was exciting heartbreaking but so real hope there a new one to follow definitely a 5 STAR rating ..

Paromjit says

This is the latest festive edition of the wartime series set in Pendle featuring the return of the characters we

have become familiar with. The women are working hard at their dangerous jobs at the Phoenix Munitions Factory. Myrtle has health issues, and romance is in the air for Edna. The main focus is the return of Gladys after her stint at the front, performing for the troops. However, something is clearly wrong given Gladys's out of character behaviour but she is not talking. Her close knit friends are not going to desert her in her time of need, so rally around to support her. After the stresses of their work, and the wartime ordeals, they want to let their hair down by organising a wonderful Christmas, particularly for the children. Daisy Styles has created a great set of characters whose lives you cannot help but get involved with. An entertaining and absorbing festive read. Many thanks to Penguin Michael Joseph for an ARC.

Emma says

I don't normally read World War saga type books, but when I was asked to review this I thought 'why not' and I'm glad I did. I also had planned to read it closer to Christmas but I needed a nice book after a previous read, a palette cleanser so to speak, and 'Christmas With the Bomb Girls' fitted the bill nicely.

This is book three in a series and I did initially worry that I wouldn't enjoy it as much having not read the previous two books, but after a couple of chapters I was engrossed and enjoying the tale without worrying I was missing out. It's easy to read this book on its own, but I may well end up picking up the others because I enjoyed this one so much.

This book was a delightful read, I loved all the characters and I loved the plot. Quite a lot happens in the 389 pages and I found I just couldn't put it down. The premise of the book focus's on Gladys, returning unexpectedly from performing for the troops after a terrifying and life changing ordeal. But Gladys shares the pages with Kit, Rosa, Vi, Edna and soon all the girls take centre stage at some point during the book.

These strong, plucky, endearing women really stole my heart and I did tear up a few times. There are moments of terror, moments of sheer joy, moments of heartbreak and moments to warm your heart. This really was a joyous read for me and it's one I can recommend if you want something full of wonderful characters, a cracking story and a tale that will leave a smile on your face.

Abby Lewis says

Goodreads Giveaway Win.

Loved this book... and yes you can actually read it as a standalone. I mean it continued on, but you understood what was going on because of how good and brilliantly written it was.

Heather Copping says

Loved this book as much as the first two in this series. Was good to catch up with the girls of the Phoenix munitions factory that we met in the previous book.

Julie says

Sagas featuring a group of girls working together during wartime seem to be particularly popular at the moment, and this Christmas edition of the Bomb Girls is a representative sample of the type. This book is engaging and has enough jeopardy in it to be exciting and page turning, which is an achievement when the setting is largely rural and not affected by the London or any other city blitz. The characters were established in a previous book "The Bomb Girl Secrets" (the original "The Bomb Girls" was in the same setting but featured a different cast of girls), but it would be perfectly possible to read this book as a stand alone novel with enjoyment. This book draws its scope wider than the factory site and supporting village to great effect; and some of the newer characters bring with them problems that have not arisen before.

Gladys is the singer of the group whose dynamic talent meant an engagement with ENSA and foreign travel to entertain the troops. However, as the book opens, she has returned to England in something of an uncharacteristically downhearted state. Edna, one of the older women associated with the group looks to be finding true love at last, but will she discover more? A new character, Rosa, appears as a new worker. Exiled from Europe by reason of her Jewish descent, she emerges as a fascinating character whose talents and affection for the other women goes some way to ease her loneliness and sadness. While Kit and Violet seem well settled after their traumas of the previous novels, they have new circumstances and challenges to deal with in this book which take their stories in different directions. It is Gladys' story which dominates, as she experiences sorrow before heading off in different way. It is at this point that my major criticism of this book emerges; she finds herself in London which is still undergoing a Blitz which I felt was very late, and her work seems to hark back to the conditions of the First World War in the movement and description of the soldiers. Still, a real romance is discovered and some explanations are made.

This book is certainly more than just a Christmas read, as much of the narrative concerns events long before the Christmas celebrations in which it culminates. It is a touching climax to an enjoyable novel which succeeds in many of the necessary elements of this sort of saga. It is a truly female led novel, in which virtually all the action is led by the women of the title. All of life's major hurdles are dealt with in this well written novel which conveys many of the challenges of the wartime experience. I enjoy Styles' writing which is mature and competent, given that she deals with some very difficult situations in this novel. I found Rosa's experiences very moving and a different element to these books which are usually focused on the British circumstances in wartime. Despite my criticism this book is well researched and well written, and I recommend it as a good read.

Jenny Cooper says

Gladys is the central character in this story about the Bomb Girls, a group of women who work at the Phoenix munitions factory during WW2. Gladys has returned unexpectedly from Europe, where she had been posted with ENSA, the organization set up to entertain the troops abroad. All is clearly not well with Gladys as she rejoins her old friends (and some new ones) at the Phoenix. Obviously traumatised by something which happened while she was away, Gladys is a shadow of her former self and is unwilling to talk about it. However, she could not be in a better place and her friends rally round to support her. As Christmas approaches life becomes even busier than usual and they are determined to celebrate. Despite the fact that each of the girls has their own individual problems to deal with, they come together to plan the festivities. Against this background of camaraderie, Gladys begins to recover.

This is apparently the third in the "Bomb Girls" series, all set at the Phoenix munitions factory and featuring the same cast of characters. I had not read any of the previous books (in fact I had not come across Daisy Styles before) but this did not affect my enjoyment of the book at all. It works very well as a stand-alone read and I suspect it would also be enjoyed by Daisy Styles fans who have read the others in the series as it

manages to introduce the characters without repeating history.

The characters are well developed, likeable and very believable. Despite having to deal constantly with the daily impact of war on their everyday lives, the girls remain largely cheerful, pulling together and helping each other out as and when necessary. This results in a book which manages to be heart-warming even in the face of adversity. It is perfect for the festive period when all that is required is a good book that doesn't tax the brain too much. Although the picture that the book paints is realistic, the dark moments are tackled sympathetically and there is plenty of cheerfulness to compensate. The only problem for me was that it was very much a page-turner and, as such, difficult to put down – rather more reading took place than possibly should have.

If you are looking for a book that is deep and meaningful, challenges your intellect and makes you think, then this is not the one for you. It is however an easy-to-read, heart-warming story, very well told. I enjoyed it from start to finish and would be more than happy to read any other Daisy Styles novels which came my way.
