***Lyddie***

***Chapter 21 – Turpitude***

In the morning, Lyddie started to think about what had really happened with Mr. Marsden and Brigid.  Lyddie started to wonder if maybe she shouldn't have thrown the bucket over his head.  Maybe if she had just yelled at him that would have been enough for him to run away and leave them alone.  Lyddie was worried that because she had been so aggressive, he might fire her.  Or worse, blacklist her.

When Lyddie got to the factory she realized that Brigid was not there. One of Brigid's friends came over and told Lyddie that someone had told Brigid not to report to work that day.  Lyddie knew this was bad.  They only told someone not to report to work if they were in a lot of trouble.

Lyddie started work that day and felt nervous.  It turned out, she was right to be nervous.  After a few minutes, a man came over to her and told her that the agent wanted to see her in his office.  The agent was even more important than Mr. Marsden. Lyddie was scared.

Lyddie felt dizzy as she walked into the agent's office.  At first he didn't notice her, but then he told her to sit down.  Lyddie sat down and waited anxiously.  Then, he turned around and told her that Mr. Marsden reported her as being a problem in the factory.  He had told the man that Lyddie was a troublemaker and was trying to get girls to sign a petition.

Lyddie couldn't believe it! Mr. Marsden didn't want anyone to find out the truth about what had happened so he was trying to get Lyddie fired for something else!

Lyddie told the man she hadn't done anything.  He seemed to believe her, but then decided to call Mr. Marsden in to see what he had to say.

Mr. Marsden walked into the office.  He sat down too and the man in charge asked why he was so upset with me.  He told him that I was being charged with "moral turpitude".  I had nooooo idea what that meant but all of a sudden the man got very serious.  Whatever that meant it seemed to be really serious.

I yelled to try and say I didn't do anything, but no one listened to me.

Then, the man in charge said I was fired.  He told me not to come back and he told me I wouldn't get an honorable discharge.  That basically meant I was blacklisted.  No other corporation would hire me!

We have seen in the previous chapters that Lyddie has struggled so much to make things in her life better. She has found out that her mother has died while in the asylum. In chapter 21, Lyddie has settled into factory life. She has more responsibilities and now watches over the new employees. She helps Brigid, when Mr. Marsden tries to harass her by pouring water onto him. He gets her fired and she can't defend herself because she is not aware of what the words mean.

Lyddie still has to look after her sister and herself. Since she was fired she can't get another factory job, because she didn't get an honorable discharge. Lyddie is starting to realize that she needs to have more education if things are going to change in her life. This chapter is huge for Lyddie. She learns just how little she knows and she learns that the only way to make a difference, is to get an education. Lyddie has lost so much up to this point in the book. She has lost the farm, her father, her mother and now her job. She has worked hard to get where she is, just to have it all taken away from her. We really see the strength that Lyddie has inside of her. She is determined to make a difference in her life and the life of her sister.

Lyddie’s chapter 21 is an important chapter in the book because it is a turning point for Lyddie.  In the previous chapter, Lyddie has been helping new girls get accustomed to the factory life.  She also stuck up for Brigid by dumping a bucket of water on her boss, Mr. Marsden.  Mr. Marsden gets Lyddie fired by saying that she has a problem with moral turpitude.  This basically means that she is immoral, but since Lyddie does not know what the word means she cannot defend herself.  This is a turning point for Lyddie because when she is fired she makes it a point to better educate herself.  Since she was not granted a certificate of honorable discharge, she cannot get another job at a mill.