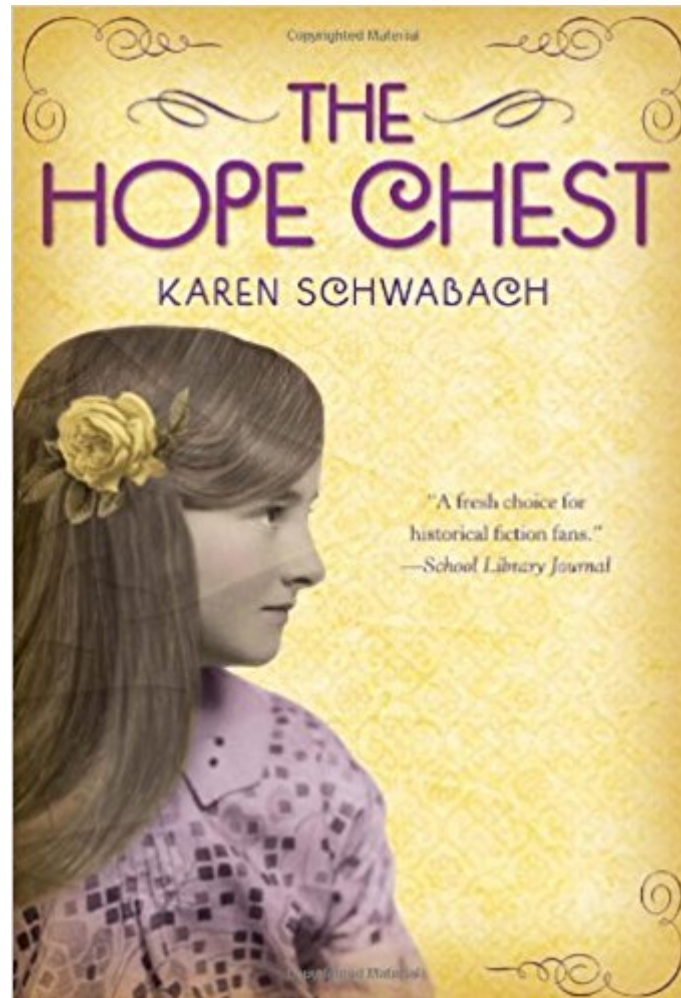




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The Hope Chest



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Synopsis

A perfect Common Core tie-in, *The Hope Chest* includes backmatter with period photographs, historical notes about the suffrage movement, and a Voting in America timeline. It's also a New York State Curriculum title for fourth grade. Eleven-year-old Violet has one goal in mind when she runs away from home: to find her sister, Chloe. Violet's parents said Chloe had turned into the Wrong Sort of Person, but Violet knew better. The only problem is that Chloe's not in New York anymore. She's moved on to Tennessee where she's fighting for the right of women to vote. As Violet's journey grows longer, her single-minded pursuit of reuniting with her sister changes. Before long she is standing side-by-side with her new friends—suffragists, socialists, and colored people—the type of people whom her parents would not approve. But if Violet's becoming the Wrong Sort of Person, why does it feel just right? This stirring depiction of the very end of the women's suffrage battle in America is sure to please readers who like their historical fiction fast-paced and action-packed. American Girls fans will fall hard for Violet and her less-than-proper friends.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0800 (What's this?)

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Yearling (December 28, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375840966

ISBN-13: 978-0375840968

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #267,512 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways](#) #255 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism](#) #324 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

While the book itself is fiction, it brings history alive for older primary kids to get a glimpse of what

happened during this time! Kudos to the author, my daughter was properly outraged by the treatment of black people as well as women.

There is a lot of rich vocabulary and colorful characters. Although the current cover might have one believing this is a "girl's" book, a lot of boys in my class have enjoyed it. I would suggest this as a read a loud.

In the early 1900s, choices for women were limited. For one, women were expected to marry. This was the case with Violet Mayhew's older sister. Chloe, a pioneer for women's rights, was at odds with her parents. Not wanting that fate, she leaves for New York and never returns. Her parents seemed relieved Chloe left, but Violet wasn't. Three years after her sister's disappearance, Violet finds some letters in her mother's drawer addressed to her from Chloe. After Violet reads the letters, she decides to find her sister. She begins in New York, but her sister has already left. Now she must travel down south where she will be forced to hang out with what her parents termed as the "wrong kind of people". In the end, she'd make up her own mind. This is a wonderful historical fiction book about the beginnings of women's rights and the struggles to get the freedom we have today.

I am taking children's literature at our local community college and we had to find a recently written historical fiction book to read and comment on so off the library I went. While I'm not big into reading, I had a hard time putting this book down. The author did a fantastic job at bringing history to life. Never did I feel the story was forced. Never did I feel the facts were boring. Never did I feel the author was trying to make the book authentic by adding in unnecessary information about life in the 1920's. The book just flowed. I learned so much about the passage in Tennessee. Really, a teacher could do an entire unit for weeks and weeks on this book. Awesome read!

This review is for a hardcover library copy. Has a beautiful cover with the two main characters. The setting is the 1920's, and women's suffrage is in full swing. This part of history is interesting, and is not touched on often in children's books. That being said, I found the large cast of characters very confusing. I could not keep track as the book progressed of who were the "Antis" and who were the "Suffs". Overall reaction: Myrtle and her situation were more interesting to me than the historical fiction about the suffrage movement.

Karen Schwabach's THE HOPE CHEST tells of one Violet, a young lady on the run from her

parents in 1917 - and in search of a sister who has left to journey to New York. Violet's search for her sister leads her on to Tennessee, where Chloe is fighting for women's rights, involving Violet in a new world of women's rights. THE HOPE CHEST brings to life early women's suffrage efforts and makes for an adventure-filled read.

Looking at this book I did not want to read but after a few chapters I really liked it.

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