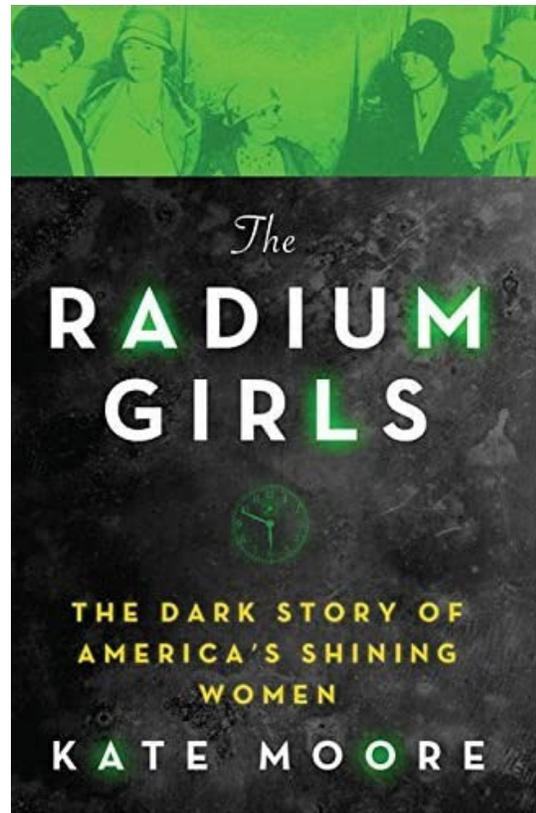


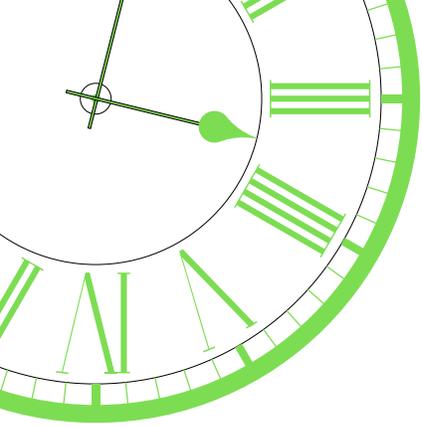
About the Author

Kate Moore was born in Northampton, England. She studied English Literature at the University of Warwick. She is known for writing across various genres and is also a book editor and ghostwriter. Along with being a full time writer, she is also an actress. She first discovered the story of The Radium Girls when she directed a play called These Shining Lives that ran in London in 2015 and dramatized the experiences of the dial painters. While researching for the play, she realized that there was no book that focused on the women themselves so she decided to write the first narrative nonfiction account of this story.



About the Book

The Curies' newly discovered element of radium makes gleaming headlines across the nation as the fresh face of beauty, and wonder drug of the medical community. From body lotion to tonic water, the popular new element shines bright in the otherwise dark years of the First World War. Meanwhile, hundreds of girls toil amidst the glowing dust of the radium-dial factories. The glittering chemical covers their bodies from head to toe; they light up the night like industrious fireflies. With such a coveted job, these "shining girls" are the luckiest alive – until they begin to fall mysteriously ill. But the factories that once offered golden opportunities are now ignoring all claims of the gruesome side effects, and the women's cries of corruption. And as the fatal poison of the radium takes hold, the brave shining girls find themselves embroiled in one of the biggest scandals of America's early 20th century, and in a groundbreaking battle for workers' rights that will echo for centuries to come.



Discussion Questions

1. Trace the emotional trajectory of the women who worked with radium paint—from their initial excitement about their jobs to their realization that it was killing them.
2. What did you find most horrifying about the suffering the women were forced to endure as their health deteriorated? Did you find this story difficult to read?
3. What outraged you the most in terms of how these women were treated by numerous people and groups throughout the book?
4. Do you think that the press and the radium companies would have handled the situation differently if the dial painters had all been men?
5. Even with modern science, medicine and laws to protect workers, do you think this is something that could still happen today?
6. Were you inspired by the “shining women”? If so, how can you use their strength to incite change in your own life?
7. Were there any parts of the book that especially affected you or resonated with you?
8. Do you think that the dial painters got justice in the end? If so, was it enough?

General Questions

1. Did you race to the end, or was it more of a slow burn?
2. What did you think of the writing overall? Were there any standout sentences?
3. Which was your favorite part? What about your least favorite?
4. Did reading the book impact your mood? If yes, how so?

