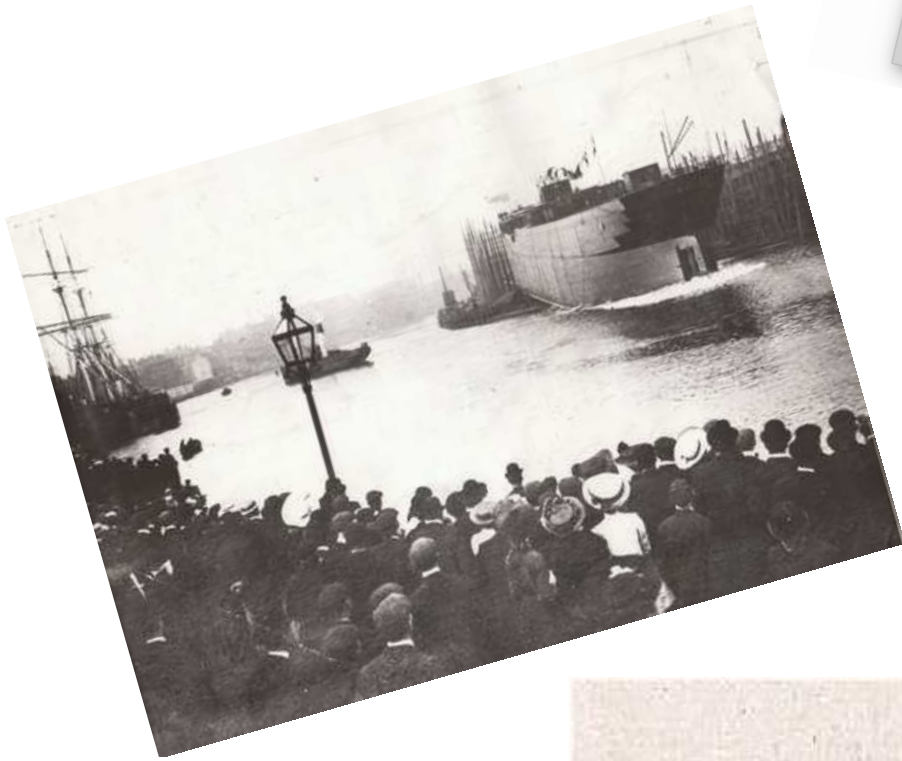


Good Girl.

BOOK 1



Dedication & Other Books

I would like to dedicate this book to my great grandmother. I just got the name for the main character: EDITH from you.

THE SERIES:

Good Girl. Book 1

Twasn't Good. Book 2

The Last March. Book 3

Chapter One

"When I was growing up, Olivia" began Grandma.
"In the 20th Century, everything would be real hard work, I'd help my Mum and Dad all the time with farm and chores and my younger siblings, but then Mum had a secret she ain't tell us"
"What was it, Granny?"
"Well, she ain't tell us then, but Mother wanted to send me and my older brother on ye convict ship to get a job 'coz we ain't have enough money to live our life here but not enough money for all of us to go, be we ain't wanna go on the convict ship and that's when it all began.....
.....

Chapter Two, It all began.....

"We aren't sending anyone as a convict on my boat!" exclaims Sir James Pavilion.
"We aren't sending my children for sure!" remarks Old Michelle.
"Oh old deary, of course you poor one, we shan't be sending any of your grandchildren on the convict boats" says Maiden Mary Chinmey (Shin-May).
The older adults were talking about moving the oldest children in the family going on the convict ships. They want us to go on the convict ships to sail to Australia with the convicts to get a job there. But the problem is there's no jobs in Australia because it's just bushland so they want us to start up a business there. I personally don't want to go with the convicts, but we have to because the money-earning here in England, London and Ireland twasn't too good. But we don't have enough

money for all of us to go so Mother's sending the eldest children in my family.

"Edith and Alan we have some news to share with you" Father says looking at mother.

We were all settling down for dinner and Father and Mother wanted to tell me and my older brother Alan something. I realized that it was probably something about the convict ships leaving tomorrow, because Alan and I are the eldest in our family.

"Yes?" Alan says.

"Well, you two should well know that you're going on the Convict Ships right?" Father says slowly.

"Yes, Pa" groans Alan.

"In other words, just get to the fact" I point out.

"I think I know that, Edith" says Mother.

I blush as red as a ripe strawberry growing on our farm.

"Well, we don't want to leave you on your own in Australia, so we've decided to sell the farm and with that money meet you in Australia" begins Mother.

"More?" groans Alan. Father and Mother ignore him.

"But all the other children are coming back with the money in two years, but you two will have to wait two more years for people to have the money their children bought to buy the

farm, so we can go to you" finishes Father.

"Are we going to make Australia a world, Daddy?" asks Rebecca the second youngest at 4 years old and five minutes.

"Yeah, with pretty princesses in palaces and prince charmings!" adds in Ella the youngest (out of the twins) at four years old. (Rebecca and Ella are twins).

The little baby triplets, Charlotte, Michael and Ron start crying in their cots.

"I'll go get those chubbies!" sighs Mother.

"Two more years?" I exclaim accidentally dropping a piece of potato on the floor.

"Yes! Actually you'll be waiting four years in total!" Father says sarcastically.

"Father, we know we'll be waiting four years, do you know how old I will be then?" Alan says.

"Yes, let's see, eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one!"

"Goodness me, Alan, from seven teen to twenty one!" I exclaim.

"How about me, Father?"

"Let's see, well, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen!!!"

"Ooh, delightful! Thirteen to Seventeen!" I exclaim.

"Oh, little Rebecca and Ella will be, eight!" I squeal.

"What about, Charlotte, Michael and Ron, oh so they are 12 months, 1 year

that is so, four!! They'll be Rebecca and Ella's age by then! "

" Send us mail will you, Father?"

" If-If-of course my young ones "

Father stammers.

I do *the eyebrow* at Alan.

He shrugs.

Chapter Three, The Convict Ship

" No Rebecca, Edy has to bring *my* picture! " argues Ella.

" No, mine! "

" I'll bring both of them! " I laugh sweeping sad Rebecca up in my arms and taking both of their pictures they drew of me and them in the park holding hands. I packed a few dresses, some hats, shoes, underwear (of course!), hair bun clips and a few kettles to boil food and we took the cartons of food to start up Australia. I brought along my mail set and feather pen.

" Alan! I want a piggy-back ride too! " shrieks Rebecca swatting Ella as I stand up and turn around.

" Girls! Enough! You don't want to make them tired and then get sick on the boat! "

It was time, time to say our last goodbyes to our family for four whole years.

Mother (with the babies in a roll cot), Father and the twins walked with

Alan and I to get our tickets and get on the boats.

"How many young convicts going, today?" asks Sir James Pavilion the ticket master.

"We aren't convicts, Sir!" says Alan. "We're going to Australia with the other young teens and I think I'm going to get married there, there is this beautiful young lady who decently dresses and I think I do like her!"

"Enough Alan!" I say nudging him sharply in the ribs.

"Ow, that ought to be enough of spitefulness from you, Eden!" smirks Alan.

"Stop it you two, grab your tickets and get on board!" says James.

"Alright" sighs Alan grabbing the two tickets and saying bye to mother and father before flying off.

"Well you better catch up deary" says Mother as a big, fat tear rolled down her cheek. I cried too and gave Mother and Father a kiss. Two big kisses each for Rebecca and Ella on their lolly sticky cheeks and blow kisses to the babies.

"Bye, Mother!" I shout.

"Bye, Father!" shouts Alan, and off we were.....

Chapter Three, The "Big Surprise!"

" Okay, tickets please! Tickets please! " calls out the ticket-collector, Alan hands in our tickets. " Oh how nice, a brother and a sister, you will be in cabin two with Rebecca Early and her brother Adam Early, very handsome that man! "

" Phew! No convicts in our cabin!" I murmur. Alan was blushing bright red, oh I should've known! Rebecca was Alan's fiancé, there were going to get married in Australia. I'm not joking! I'm serious. Mother and Father are organizing for me to get married to Adam when we come back, but I think that we'll get married sooner than that!

We rushed off to cabin two and Alan ran in the room and put all his bags on his bed and rushed to find Rebecca, she was on the balcony gazing out at the sea.

" I'll be back, Eden, you stay with Adam " convinces Alan running to the balcony.

Adam, turned around from the fridge to welcome me, his welcoming blue eyes gave me a "you're safe feeling" but I was safe anyway because he was my fiancé!

" Hi, Eden, how you going? "

" Oh good thanks, Alan was delighted to be in this cabin with his 2 month away from being: His Wife! " I giggle. " Well, I'm glad to be with my fiancé, or wife to be! " Adam* says. I blush. This was going to be a great trip!

*Adam is now, Olivia's grandfather who is Olivia's Mum's dad.

Chapter Four, Alan & Rebecca

The wedding day has changed! They're getting married today! I'm the bride's maid and Rebecca is wearing a delightful white, delicate dress. They're getting married at night on the 26th of October 1918. The cook has prepared a delicious chocolate cake with figures of Alan and Rebecca on it. Rebecca is wearing a dazzling white scarf around her head so you cannot see her hair, she is very innocent and sometimes I wear it too!

"Alan, hand the ring!"

"Rebecca, hand the ring!"

Blah Blah blah, all the do you agree stuff and then....

"The groom may kiss the bride!"

Alan and Rebecca did a quick kiss of happiness, it was surprising to see my brother who I've known for so long get married, I really need to tell Mother and Father all about it on my letter to her when we get the doves trained enough!

After a few tears from the cooks and Sirs and Maidens the party began, I rushed over to Rebecca as she had told me she wanted to tell me something.

"Yes Rebecca?" I say after telling her how great the wedding was.

" You know you're getting married to Adam, right? "

" Yes "

" Well, you will have the choice to have it in two weeks time when we're still on the ship or when we get to Australia, this is my opinion but you wouldn't want to get married in the wild, " suggest Rebecca.

" Well, I think Australia would be nice, we could have a picture of me and him in a tree! " I dream lazily.

" Okay, I'll tell the dress mistresses to get your dress prepared for then, come to the sewing room tomorrow and we'll measure you okay? "

" Yes! "

I loved this trip, so far as I know I didn't have *one* day free.

That night, I heard banging from the Convicts and a few shouts.

Then I heard the sound of a big bed slamming against the walls.

" Adam? "

" Alan? "

" Rebecca? "

" GUYS!!! " I shout.

" Yes? " Rebecca says sleepily from Alan and her bed.

" What is it? Edith? " Alan says sitting up in bed.

Adam sits up in alarm in his bed (Here we don't share beds until we're married!).

"What is it, Edy?" he asks softly.

"I heard the convicts next door, it's freaking me out!"

"Let's go investigate!" Rebecca says sarcastically.

"You're a genius!" Alan snorts.

"No I'm serious, Alan! You're my brother you're supposed to believe in me!" I whisper sharply.

"Come on, Edes, lets go!" Adam says opening the door of the changeroom to get changed out of his sleeping pants and shirt into clothes. I run to the bathroom to get on my tracksuit pants and shirt.

I twist the torch on. We walk down the hall until we get to the convict door. The sound immediately stops. Adam chuckles.

"Probably thought we were the masters of the convicts!" he whispers.

I smile, then Adam slowly opens the door and shouts.

"Who *dares* to make a sound at night?"

I stuff my sleeve up my mouth to stop laughing, to Adam it twasn't serious either.

We crept in the room and shone the torch, a few women and little girls were freezing to death with the window open a plate of a few peas and no blankets.

"My goodness, the convicts aren't men!" I gasp.

"Except for old me!" says an old voice.

"That's old Finnigan" squeaks a little girl.

"Enough, Jane!" says a woman.

I walk backwards startled.

"It's okay, come on, Edith"

"I've been on this ship for two years in a row, waiting for someone to help me get the doves to mail my family, no-one came, but you guys will help won't you?"

I shine the torch on an old man's face, it was a soft face with crinkles on it.

"Finnigan, we'd love too, but first I need to tell you something, I'm Adam and this is- Edes! Where are you?"

hisses Adam.

"I'm helping the little girls calm down!" I say running back down the hall with some warm fuzzy blankets in my arms.

Adam nods at me and takes some leftover food from the dining room. He fills up the little ones and some elder ones stomachs with chicken breast and rice.

"Thankyou" says Jane.

"Thank you!"

After getting to know Finnigan and giving him some chicken and rice we left the cabin.

"They aren't that bad after all" I say.

"No they aren't"

Then the torch shines on me, I see Adam's hand reach out to mine, he places a beautiful silver ring on my finger.

"I can't wait any longer," he whispers.

"One more week, we'll be in Australia for our *proper* wedding" I laugh.

I run back to the balcony to watch the sunrise, this is the best trip ever.

Chapter Five, I feel rich!

We promised the young convicts we'd be back tonight, so I went first thing in the morning to sneak some pancakes, old cook nearly caught me as I rushed out of the hall in a nick of time!

I slid the plates under the door and ran to the sewing room, Rebecca and the dress Mistresses were already there with measuring tapes in their hands. The sewing room was filled with needles, wool, thread and beautiful materials. I felt rich!

"Let's get started girls! You know what to do, shoulders to ankles, Emily and Robyn shoulders to wrists!"

commands Rebecca in a nice manner.

After measuring both ways they type up my calculations on a typewriter.

"Ok she's 1.57 tall but from shoulders to ankles she's 1.28, shoulders to wrists she's 45 centimeters" says Robyn.

"Alrighty, all done, Edith! You go relax and we'll get to work!" Rebecca says.

Ooh! That was quick, I'll think I'll go have a warm bubble bath before we go to train the doves! Oh no, I think that's thunder rumbling. Don't tell me I'm going to be seasick for the second time today!

The rain poured and poured, we couldn't train the doves today because they'd die if we sent them flying in lightning.

We have to stay in our cabins, it was ordered by the captain. We're still going to see Finnigan tonight though, we'll have to tell him we can't send the doves for his family today anyway. "Alan! It's 10:45pm! The cook should be asleep by now" I hiss through the dark cabin.

"Okay, you can go to Finnigan with Rebecca and Adam I'll go get the food" Alan says jumping out of bed. Rebecca and I stay creeping down the alleyway while Adam jumps ahead.

"You're brother is so crazy! We could get busted if the captain's crew finds us!" I whisper to Rebecca.

"I know, ADAM!" Rebecca whispers loudly as she bumps into the wall. Adam had the torch but he was standing still.

" Ssh, can you hear that? "

We listened closely.

" How dare you steal food from the kitchen! You've already had your dinner! " says the captain's voice. I gulp.

" I-I was just trying to get food for my sister, she missed out on the Chicken and Rice serving, she only got salad " Alan lied.

There was a minute of silence.

" Fine, fine I'll let you go, anything for ol' Edith! "

" Thankyou Sir " Alan says quickly rushing back down the alleyway to us.

" Gosh, that was close! "

" Hurry up, let's get inside before Finnigan thinks we can't do this! "

When we opened the door all the other children (like us) were inside with blankets for the young ones and food. I dropped the plate of salad Alan had given me.

" He didn't trust us, " says Rebecca.

" No I don't think he did, " I say looking around helplessly.

" Oh there's my friends! Come in, come in, Rebecca, Adam, Alan and- Edith! " shouts Finnigan.

We put our fingers to our mouths and Finnigan shushes up.

" Sir, I mean Finnigan, don't you trust us? "

" No, of course we do, but of course the same thing happened the night you came! " says Finnigan.

" Huh? "

" You heard the banging and thumping right? "

" Yes "

" It was our young ones crying of hunger! Having tantrums so they came to help "

" Then, what *did* you need us for?" I asked.

" Well, Edith you see, I really need to go home, I've been sick since the end of the first year I've been here " We all sit down and listen.

" I was only sixty eight when I came here, now I'm seventy one, the convicts never get seen by *anyone* on the ships, because they could care less 'bout us, so twasn't any food to be eaten, twasn't any medicine to be swallowed, so I was alone with these clueless convicts, now I need you to help me get home "

" How? " Alan asks for the umpteenth time.

" You need to translate the aboriginals language, to tell me where the Dove Language Map is hiding so I can use it to translate my directions for the doves to deliver my letter to my family in Scotland asking for the syrup my mother makes for sore throats when I was sick when I was little, hopefully, they'll still be around "

" That sounds easy, except for the language part " says Adam.

" I agree, we'll try, but I'll have to stay the four years with my husband and when Adam and Edith get married

Adam will have to stay four years"
"Why are you staying four instead of two?" asks Victoria.
"Because, my family doesn't have enough money, so when you guys come back they're going to sell the farm and people will pay for it with the money you bring back from Australia, then they'll come with us in Australia and we're going to make Australia a home" I say.
"Ooh! Will you make a home for convicts?" asks Jane.
"No, convicts won't exist, you'll be *normal* people!"
"Really?"
"Really."

Finnigan have us all the gear we'd need in Australia when we got the tomorrow, I guess we can't train the doves on the boat, we'll have to train them in Australia.

Chapter six, Australia

We landed along the cove of a beach, a beautiful place it was. Australia didn't seem to be so much bushland to me, but Cranky Captain Charles said we'd hike to the deserts and drop off the convicts there. Finnigan said he'll stay on the ship and we *must* come back so we can get started on our *mission for him*. Finnigan's a bit mysterious, he's ol' and all that but it twasn't very exciting when he gave

us this "adventure of a lifetime" to complete. Alan's not so sure about it, we hardly know Finnigan that much and he isn't coming on the "adventure of a lifetime" with us. He doesn't seem so much sick anyway.

"Load the convicts in the car!" shouts Charles. I saw Charles's crew throwing the weak bodies into the truck.

I had to go "ouch" a lot of times. I saw Jane struggling to breathe, she looked very pale. Finnigan had a scary grin on his face that made me shiver.

"He's creepy!" whispers Adam.

"I know" I whisper back.

As we sat in the trucks on the long drive to the deserts, I was excited because tomorrow was my wedding!!

FINALLY!!!!!! We're here! I've written a letter to my family on the ride, here it is:

Dear, Mother, Father, Rebecca, Ella, Merv, Ron and Charlotte

The trip was ever-lasting, Alan and Rebecca-2 got married the second day on board! It was wonderful and the cake was delicious, one night we ended up in the "Convicts" room, all the convicts were girls and women who stole food while their fathers went

away to war. They're really nice I love little Jane the most, she's SO cute! She's only six and she looked very pale today was the Crew shoved her into the truck. We're at the deserts now and I really will miss her. Sorry, my ink is running out, I'll get my new ink set out.....
Ah, much better! Well anyway the only man convict is seventy-one year old Finnigan, he's very scary and wants us to complete this mission for him!
I wish you were here, see you in:
1925!

**xxx Edith I MISS YOU-For Mother and Father
I WON'T FORGET YOU, MY LITTLE CUTIES!!-For Rebecca and Ella
YOU ARE GOING TO BE SO BIG! YOU WILL THINK YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ME BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T GROW UP WITH ME!!!!-For the Triplets!**

"Who's that for?" asks Adam.

"My family" I say sadly.

"Don't worry, I miss mother and father too" says Alan.

"We miss our mom and dad don't we, Adam?" says Rebecca.

Adam nods.

Just then, I heard a startling cry.

It was Jane.

"I feel sick, he's killing us! He's giving us poison!" she croaks.

"Jane, who?"

She takes deep breaths.

"Finnigan"

We couldn't let her starve in the desert! We just can't! I looked around quickly and stuffed Jane in my suitcase giving her a quick notice, a bottle of water and a 3cm wide zip open so she can breathe.

Adam winked at me.

Ooh! So soon! TOMORROW!

Chapter Seven, the wedding

Because it's our wedding today, we don't have to get started on building houses and shops. No-one does.

The soft, classical music begins to play quietly as I walk slowly down from the deck of the ship onto the beach to awaiting Adam. He knelt down and put the silver ring on my finger. We did all recitals, of I agree same at Alan's wedding, then the kiss! It was the same quick type like at Alan's wedding, then the party began. We had a scrumptious caramel cake decorated with vanilla meringues.

"I have to agree, you did look, *gorgeous* in that dress, darling!" says Charlize the Cook.

"Thanks, Charlize" I say taking a bite of the cake.

"Liked it?" asked Adam walking up to me.

"LOVED it!" I say.

Just then Rebecca and Alan came running up to me.

" GUESS WHAT????? " they scream.

" What? "

" The doves sent you letter to mother and father!" exclaims Alan.

" Oh! Delightful! "

" But they sent it this morning, and oh look they're coming back now with something in their beaks! " says Rebecca.

The doves fly above us then drop a letter into my hand, it says:

Dear, dearest Eden,

We all miss you so much and did you know that there was a man called: Old Finnigan who went on the convict ship you went on two years ago?

Then, he wanted to take over the ship so he poisoned all the young convicts that came on, he wants you to bring the doves so he can poison you then the Captain will come looking for you and Finnigan will poison him. So don't you trust him my love!

XXX send me one of your fabulous drawings of AUSTRALIA!!!!!!! Love from Mother.

" What about father? " I ask.

" War, Edith " says Alan.

" Oh, everything is going so terribly bad these days! " I say.

" I know, but hopefully he'll be back soon "

"HOPEFULLY" I snap.
"Jeez, sor-ry Edes" says Alan.
I glare at Alan but he just steps
backwards and goes to take another
piece of cake.
"GREEDY!" I grumble.
"Er, let's go join the party" Adam
says awkwardly.
I sigh and smile at the same time,
Adam was just trying to make me feel
better.
"Might aswell!" I reply cheerfully
taking his hand.

Chapter Eight, Where's Jane?

"Well she's got to be somewhere!" I
argue.
"Edith, calm down I'm sure she's
fine!" says Rebecca
I flick the pen in the air.
"Aren't you going to fill out the
certificate?" Alan asks.
"Yes" I groan.
I dab the feather in ink and sign the
certificate:

Edith Holten MARRIED TO Adam Early.
New Name: Yes
If yes, name: Edith Early

Paragraph of significance:
I herby declare to be Adam Early's
wife.

Adam had to fill out the same
certificate too. It's too much

gibberish and it's too hard to concentrate while I'm worried about Jane, I checked my tent this morning and she was gone.

"Wait a second, where did you last see her?" asks Alan.

"At the wedding" I say.

"Was Finnigan there?" he asks.

"Yes, well, yes he was! Lucky Charles didn't catch him!" I say.

Then Alan rolls his eyes at me, I was confused but then realized...

"OH MY GOSH! GOD HELP US!" I panic. Jane must've been stolen, she was at the wedding, oh, dear, oh, dear, OH DEAR!

"We, *must* go check the ship for any signs!" says Adam.

"Immediately!" adds in Rebecca.

Chapter Nine, no luck but what's that.....

We searched the *whole* ship but there was no signs or anyone.

But we saved the best for last, the convict room. We jumped inside and searched the fuzzy blankets and broken plates.

"Anyone?" asks Rebecca.

"No luck" I call out.

" But what's that? " asks Alan.

" What? "

" This, it's a bottle with a map
inside "

" Open it! "

We open it and read the map, it says:

**Under the desk you will find a
trapdoor, push three times to lead to
Finnigans Sct Lb.**

" He's ink probably ran out "

" Most likely! "

" Well let's find that desk! "

Chapter TEN, the desk

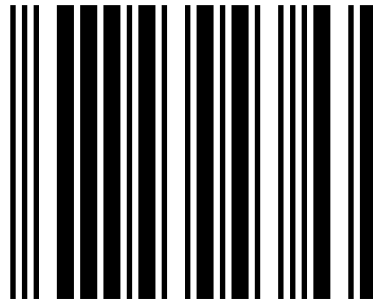
WE pushed the desk to the side, we
found a small trapdoor with faint
lines around it.

" Ready? " says Adam.

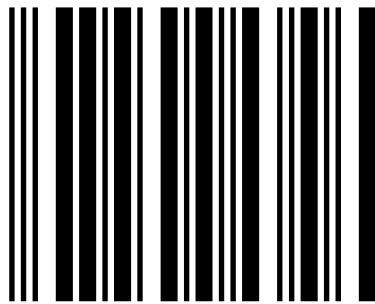
" READY! "

One, two three pushes.....

Read BOOK 2: 'Twasn't Good to find out
what happened next!



G O O D



G I R L

It's 1922 and we're going with the convicts to Australia!
Who you ask? My brother Alan and I! We aren't convicts but
all the eldest children in the family are going to Australia to
get more money for everyone back in Ireland, we just don't
earn enough at home, but there's something mysterious
about Old Finnigan, has he been lying to us? -Edith Holten
1922.

Meet Edith, Finnigan, Adam, Rebecca, Alan, Cranky Captain
Charles, Little Jane and The Holten Family! (Edith and Alan's
family).