

Falling Angel by Tracy Chevalier.

This is a fascinating story on several levels: the interactions between the upper and lower strata of the middle class at the turn of the century, reactions to the death of Queen Victoria and the new reign of Edward VII, and the development of the Suffragette movement.

Maude Coleman and Lavina Waterhouse meet and become friends at the age of 6, when their families visit the local graveyard as a mark of respect following the death of Queen Victoria. The friendship is not approved of by the parents, who are forced to mix with a family outside their class.

Various members of the two households and Simon who works in the cemetery recount the story over a period of 10 years. But it is when Maude's mother, Kitty, becomes involved with the Suffragettes that things really heat up.