

Among some of the most tragic incidents in American workplaces, the Triangle fire remains one of the most catastrophic. On March 25, 1911, 146 employees of the Triangle shirtwaist factory died in a devastating fire in New York City. *New York Times* bestselling author David Von Drehle's third novel, *Triangle: The Fire that Changed America* follows the life of both Triangle employees and owners from the organization of a shirtwaist union through the terrifying thirty minutes to the aftermath of the disaster.

Over one hundred years after the disastrous fire at the Triangle shirtwaist building, America can still learn from what happened. The legacy of those who fought for labor rights and those who tragically died in a fire that still rivals some of the most horrendous workplace incidents in American history is elegantly displayed in Von Drehle's novel.

As for the mostly nameless young women and men who went on strike in 1909 and bravely walked those relentless picket lines through a freezing winter-and especially those remarkable young people who later died at the Triangle-their memory grows. Their individual lives are mostly lost to us, but their monument and legacy are stitched into our world. (Von Drehle 268)

This is one of many ways in which Von Drehle pays tribute to those who fought for rights and those who lost their lives in the tragic incident in his novel *Triangle*. Not only does Von Drehle describe the lives of the those who striked and those of the employees who lost their lives in an awe-inspiring yet chilling way, he does so with historical accuracy.

*Triangle: The Fire that Changed America* is filled with information and facts about the fire. Von Drehle put in an extensive amount of time researching and learning about the Triangle fire, something which is clear as the reader continues throughout the book. In an interview with the *Buffalo News* in March of 2015, Von Drehle discussed his reason for writing *Triangle* and how he approached researching the book. To find information about the Triangle fire, Von Drehle referenced Leon Stein's 1962 book *The Triangle Fire*. This book included interviews with survivors and witnesses as well as information from a manuscript of the trial of Max Blanck and Isaac Harris. The manuscript of the trial was lost, but Von Drehle was able to locate the majority of it in a private legal library. He used these resources to write his novel. As Von Drehle continued to write, he became more and more intrigued with the story of individuals and how the fire affected them instead of just the specific events of the fire.

David Von Drehle's novel *Triangle: The Fire that Changed America* is deserving of the Pulitzer Prize because of its historical accuracy and the amount of research Von Drehle put in to *Triangle*. As the reader progresses through the book, each page is filled with information and facts. While all nonfiction books contain facts, *Triangle* is unique in that the facts aren't simply stated. The facts in *Triangle* are woven into a page-turning story that covers all aspects of the triangle fire, from the strikes of the Triangle workers to the trial of the Triangle owners. Within this story is intertwined the stories of the individuals. From the story of Yetta Lubitz who after being trapped for what she recalled as "sixty moments" finally escaped to the roof to the tragic

story of Margaret Schwartz who didn't survive the fire. These individual stories are what make *Triangle* such an intriguing story and a novel worthy of the Pulitzer.