

## My life as a woman in WW1 by Olivia Parkman,

I am Sophie. I used to be a normal housewife, although I am from a wealthy background. I am married to a nice man, John. John went to war last year and he sent me a letter last week saying .... I have four children; two of them are girls (Lisa and Lia - Lia is eight and Lisa is ten), two of them are boys (Liam and Mat- Liam is fifteen and Mat is eighteen). Mat is in the war but I haven't heard from him in four months.

I am enjoying my new job as a nurse. I have to wake up at five am, and work until five pm. That means I work 12 hours a day and it's really tiring. If you were a really wealthy nurse, you would give up your stately home. When I go to work, I walk two miles to get to the house. My company doesn't have enough money so we work in a big house, with beds, operation table and all the equipment we need. I get two shillings a week. I don't get a lot but at least I get something. My friend (Sarah), goes to the hospital with me. My job is a bit dangerous because, if a patient has a contagious disease, we could catch it. As a nurse, it is a bit disgusting because there is vomit, gross bullet wounds and cleaning up things. It's kind of scary because you don't know if you are going to lose a patient.

After a long day at work, I start to cook dinner for my children. We usually would have bread and cheese, ox tongue and pig's trotters. If we were lucky, we would have tasty succulent meat. While it's cooking, I make a bath for Lisa, Lia and Liam. After that, I get all the dirty clothes and wash them, by hand, and although it is disgusting, I have to do it. Once that's done, Lisa, Lia, Liam and I start mending clothes and making rugs. When everything is done, I put my children to sleep, I go get my bed ready. Brush my teeth and hair and get changed. I get my clothes ready for the next day and I go to sleep. Sometimes, I have scary dreams a bit like, that we lose our house and be homeless, and that maybe John and Mat may never come home.

