



Eva Underground

By Dandi Daley Mackall

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The year 1978 has been a pretty good one for Eva Lott. She has a terrific best friend, she's dating the best-looking guy in school, and she just made the varsity swim team. So when her widowed dad says it's time for them to move, she's not exactly thrilled. And when he tells her that he intends to move to Communist Poland to help with a radical underground movement . . . Well, it's all downhill from there.

Soon Eva has been transplanted from her comfortable Chicago suburb to a land that doesn't even have meat in its stores, let alone Peter Frampton records. And everywhere she goes, the government is watching. But Eva begins to warm to her new life. Sometime between eating lard on bread and dodging the militia, she makes a handsome new friend, Tomek. And soon she is wondering if maybe she's found home in the most unlikely of places.

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Eva Underground By Dandi Daley Mackall Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up—Place Eva Lott, high school senior from Chicago, behind the Iron Curtain in pre-Solidarity Poland circa 1978 with cute and brooding political activist Tomek and you have a combination of romance and socially conscious historical fiction. Following her mother's death, the teen's English professor father uproots her in order to participate in the underground movement. The border crossing is terrifying, the weather icy, and food and supplies are virtually nonexistent. She plots to sneak away to the airport and desperately longs for the friends and comforts of home. In time, she begins to understand the oppression that the Polish underground is fighting and the hope of freedom that they hold dear. Her father teaches the novice journalists who anticipate the arrival of the forbidden printing press that will enable them to disseminate the truth, if they can get it past a ruthless militia. Eva's trip to Tomek's home to harvest the family's plums before a devastating ice storm and her later dangerous journey to transport the illegal printing press create the expected transformation from spoiled American teen to enlightened supporter of the cause. It takes a few chapters for the pace to become compelling, and the characters emerge somewhat slowly, but readers with an interest in world social and political issues will enjoy this distinctive human portrayal of a troubling time and place mixed with burgeoning young love.—*Suzanne Gordon, Richards Middle School, Lawrenceville, GA*

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From Booklist

Gr. 8-11. In 1978 high-school-senior Eva Lott leaves her comfortable life in the Chicago suburbs for Communist Poland, where her father is teaching in the underground education movement. Coping with the recent death of her mother from cancer, Eva now has to contend with the boredom and loneliness of living in a foreign country. After a botched attempt to run away and make her way back to Chicago, Eva develops a friendship with Tomek, a young underground leader, and a romance blossoms, giving her a desire to stay. This otherwise standard coming-of-age love story is made more unusual by a strong sense of time and place. Mackall effectively conveys the harsh realities of living under a Communist regime and the sense of hope for a better future among Poles that came with the rise of Lech Walesa and the Solidarity Movement and the election of the first Polish pope. *Ed Sullivan*

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Review

First Eva's mother dies from cancer. Then her father decides to drag her to Communist Poland. He wants to "make a difference" by teaching for a year in an underground education movement. But Eva wants to stay put in Chicago. She's got a hot boyfriend, the best friend in the whole world, and a new position on the varsity swim team. Sure, her grades are slipping. Yes, she got busted for shoplifting. But that is hardly grounds for forcing her to interrupt her senior year--even if her father is adamant the experience will be good for her. Eva hates everything about Poland. The weather is crappy, there is next to nothing to eat, and she has to share a tiny, unheated room with her father. Even more irritating, the government is always watching. But like the sun that eventually pokes through the clouds, Eva's heart begins to soften toward the students her father has come to teach. And when she falls in love, Eva has to decide whether she really wants to leave. Mackall has crafted a fine story. Readers will be enticed by the interaction between Eva and her father, and the close calls between the students and thuggish soldiers. Most satisfying is the personal growth that Eva eventually allows herself. The book's glossary is helpful for keeping up with the Polish phrases that pepper the dialogue. 2006, Harcourt Books, Ages 12 up. (*Children's Literature* -Sheri Bell-Rehwoldt)

Grade 7 Up—Place Eva Lott, high school senior from Chicago, behind the Iron Curtain in pre-Solidarity

Poland circa 1978 with cute and brooding political activist Tomek and you have a combination of romance and socially conscious historical fiction. Following her mother's death, the teen's English professor father uproots her in order to participate in the underground movement. The border crossing is terrifying, the weather icy, and food and supplies are virtually nonexistent. She plots to sneak away to the airport and desperately longs for the friends and comforts of home. In time, she begins to understand the oppression that the Polish underground is fighting and the hope of freedom that they hold dear. Her father teaches the novice journalists who anticipate the arrival of the forbidden printing press that will enable them to disseminate the truth, if they can get it past a ruthless militia. Eva's trip to Tomek's home to harvest the family's plums before a devastating ice storm and her later dangerous journey to transport the illegal printing press create the expected transformation from spoiled American teen to enlightened supporter of the cause. It takes a few chapters for the pace to become compelling, and the characters emerge somewhat slowly, but readers with an interest in world social and political issues will enjoy this distinctive human portrayal of a troubling time and place mixed with burgeoning young love.—*Suzanne Gordon, Richards Middle School, Lawrenceville, GA*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Douglas Barney:

This Eva Underground book is simply not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is definitely information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This specific Eva Underground without we realize teach the one who looking at it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't become worry Eva Underground can bring once you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Eva Underground having fine arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Walter Jones:

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proficiency in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write for their book. One of them is this Eva Underground.

Melanie Pemberton:

In this time globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended to you personally is Eva Underground this e-book consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented how can the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some investigation when he makes this book. This is why this book ideal all of you.

Daryl Glover:

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