



The Garden of Eve

K.L. Going

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Evie reluctantly moves with her widowed father to Beaumont, New York, where he has bought an apple orchard, dismissing rumors that the town is cursed and the trees haven't borne fruit in decades. Evie doesn't believe in things like curses and fairy tales anymore--if fairy tales were real, her mom would still be alive. But odd things happen in Beaumont. Evie meets a boy who claims to be dead and receives a mysterious seed as an eleventh-birthday gift. Once planted, the seed grows into a tree overnight, but only Evie and the dead boy can see it--or go where it leads.

The Garden of Eve mixes spine-tingling chills with a deeply resonating story that beautifully explores grief, healing, and growth.

The Garden of Eve Details

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Author : K.L. Going

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From Reader Review *The Garden of Eve* for online ebook

John Cowan says

I am not one to write long flowery, or deeply in depth book reviews. My desire is simply to say if I liked it or not, and why.

The Garden Of Eve is a beautiful little book that explores life, love, loss, and the power of love to overcome death and disbelief. True the book was written for a middle school audience, but it was mature and quick enough to keep my attention.

It started off a bit slow, and seemed somewhat aimless at first, and even though I was worried I might end up not liking it, something about the writing, and the little girl, Evie, kept me going. The story quickly picked up pace, and direction, and before I knew it I was lost in Evie's garden.

Please don't let the 8-12 age label scare you off. Just like *The Giver* Trilogy, *Narnia*, *Harry Potter*, *Leven Thumps*, and many other books at this age level there is plenty of heart, emotion, and just plain good story telling for kids of all ages; even for this 32 year old kid!

Samantha says

This book was soooooooooo good! I read it in 2 days. The book is mysterious as the ending is so suprising!

Jaret says

This was a young adult book dealing with grief. The magical elements were interesting and I loved the ties to the Garden of Eden. The under-rated character in the book, in my opinion, was Maggie. I would have loved to see more done with her character. Eve was a likeable character who found strength in herself that she didn't know she had. Overall, a good book, but a slow start. Not sure my kiddos would stick with it to the end.

jesse says

evie doesn't believe in magic anymore.

after all, if magic were real, her mom would still be alive.

but when evie moves to beaumont, new york, where her father has brought a withered apple orchard that the townspeople whisper is cursed, she learns about a lost girl, receives a mysterious seed, and meets a boy who claims to be dead. before long, evie finds herself in the middle of a fairy tale. and *this* one is real.

what an enchanting little story!

it reminds us of how *nothing* ever dies. only changes. a subtle fairy tale for both children & adults who crave

for magic. or maybe just a good book with valuable lessons.

Miriam says

Garden variety message-drive fantasy for younger readers, of the sort in which the fantasy elements are merely tools or metaphors for conveying some Wisdom to Grow On about valuing your family (they love you! even if they don't show it and in fact totally neglect you!), living in the real world, not grieving excessively, and those sort of ideas that seem to inhabit Books Where the Mother Dies. Oh, and don't mess around with supernatural crap, it is bad. That attitude and inclusion of homeschooling -- not that the father seems to ever actually teach Eve anything -- made me wonder if Going were a Christian author, but I couldn't stand to look at her hideous site (<http://klgoing.com>) long enough to try to figure that out.

Basic story: When Eve (thus named for the sake of the titular "cleverness") is ten her warm, imaginative artist mother Tally dies. Her father becomes withdrawn and disinterested in anything but his gardening work. He buys a dead orchard from an old man in a small New York town and takes Eve away from Michigan and all her relatives to live in a shabby old house that everyone thinks is cursed. No one will talk to them except the storekeeper whose brother was the previous owner. Eve's dad says she will be homeschooled but actually works all day in the dead orchard while Eve lies in bed in a state of depression. He doesn't bother to unpack or buy groceries. Eve's only company is a boy in the graveyard who tells her he is a ghost only she can see. When Eve learns that the dead old owner of the property left her a seed his explorer father claimed was from the Garden of Eden and caused his sister Eve to disappear after her mother died 70 years ago, Eve and Alex (the ghost boy) become determined to plant the seed and have it take them to the garden of paradise. But will it really be a paradise, and should they stay there?

I won't spoil it for you, but these last questions are not treated with any degree of suspense. Despite the repeated mentions of curses, ghosts, unexplained disappearances, decaying houses, and dead trees, this is not a scary book. It pretty quickly becomes clear that we aren't even going for "ominous". The core of the story is Eve and her father coping with the loss of Tally and turning back to one another. The supernatural elements fit rather awkwardly. I think the book would have been better for being left to percolate in the author's mind for a couple months and then given a ruthless rewrite. I suspect that the cursed seeds and disappearing sister really belong in another story.

Tracy Fleming-Swehla says

When your 13 yr old daughter says, "Mom, this is the best book EVER!", you get that book and you read it!

I thought this was a nice story about an 11 yr old girl coming to terms with the recent death of her mother, and trying to figure out how she would make her way in the world without her mom. My daughter found the story to be filled with mystery, magic and was even spooked out in some spots.

Granted, she enjoyed this book more than me, and I had more fun watching her read it than when I read it myself. For that alone, I love this story =)

Nahnita says

It was ok. There was one twist that surprised me.

Courtney Rodkey says

The Garden of Eve Review

K.L. Going

This is the second time that I have read The Garden of Eve. I really enjoyed this book because it is interesting, and magical, and the author, K.L. Going, keeps you wanting to read more. The Garden of Eve is 234 pages long and I recommend this book to anyone that enjoys an adventure with a little bit of mystery and magic.

Evie's mother has died, her father is always working in his garden, and now he is moving them to the middle of no-where New York because he wants to revive a dead garden. Evie has always believed in magic, but since her mother died, she just can't believe in it anymore. She keeps wishing, and reading the fairy tales that her and her mother, Tallie, used to, but her belief in magic isn't bringing her back. When they get to Beaumont, Evie is disappointed and terrified that they are going to be living in a run-down old house, a dead orchard, and... a cemetery.

One day, when Evie sees a young boy in the cemetery, her whole world changes. They go on adventures together, and get in lots of trouble. When they are stuck in a whole other world, Evie has to use all of the common sense she got from her father, and all of the magic, and curiosity she got from her mother to save themselves... and the trees.

Maren says

The garden of eve was a very touching book about family, grief, friends, and belief. I felt myself connecting to all of the characters as I do with all books. It had a very unpredictable story line and I found myself laughing, crying, suspicious, and scared nearly all the time. This is a fantastic book for everyone.

Kat Heckenbach says

I loved this story from page one. Eve is the kind of character you connect to immediately. Her mom has died of cancer and her dad is moving them to a tiny little town to live in an old house and take care of a dead apple orchard. But Evie's mom always told her to believe in magic...

I read the entire book in one day. Nearly everything about it was just right. The characters are real, the way the subject matter was handled was perfect--it's emotional but not so bleak. There really is magic, and seeing Evie's transformation is heartwarming. There is exactly enough description to bring the setting and characters to life, and the writing is smooth and effortless to read.

So very glad I picked this one up!

My Website

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My YA fantasy series:
book 1

book 2

Amy Gonzalez says

After Evie's mother dies of cancer, her whole world is turned upside down. Her father, unable to bear living in the same place, moves them across the country to a house that is not only in a dead apple orchard, but also near a cemetery. Everyone in the town says that the orchard is cursed, but because of her mother's death, Evie no longer believes in curses or fairy tales. It's only when she receives a mysterious seed and decides to plant it that she begins to see that magic is all around her, and that it can heal her loneliness and loss.

I absolutely loved this book. Once I started reading it, I couldn't put it down. The magic and mystery of the apple orchard, as well as Evie's journey within the orchard, made me feel so much. I couldn't help but cry a little at the end. I highly recommend this book for readers who love fantasy, fairy tales, and ghost stories. Even though Garden of Eve isn't a scary book, its message will haunt you after you've finished reading it.

Jade Le says

Read this in 5th grade, one of my favorite books when i have nothing else to read. I probably read it about three/ four times

Mark Dewey says

This is the story of a girl whose Mother has died. She seems kind of bitter about her father not being like her mom for much of the book. Anyway, she and her father move into a new place with an orchard full of dead-seeming trees. People say the orchard is cursed. Her father sets out to cultivate it, and bring the trees back to health. She meets a kid who says he's a ghost. He matches the description of a boy who recently died.

That's about as much as I can say without spoiling it. Anyway, I enjoyed the book. It was pretty different from most books I've been reading lately, although I admit I've seen similar stuff before (just not for a long time, and not in the same way). The book has character, though. I liked the cover art. I actually liked the title quite a bit, too. It's close enough to the garden of Eden that it seems natural, and of course, Eve was in the said garden—so it adds to the effect.

The narration was good, although I'm not a huge fan of narrators making their voices drastically different when they do dialog for kids—other than sort of that, it was great.

NatalieXAxel948 says

The story line was so good. I read lots of books and this one yacked me on the twist, never has that happen to me. I would mostly recamend to kids who have low inspiration on reading, on their self esteem, or kids who just love fantasy and a ending they will never forget.

Lisa says

I was thoroughly disappointed. The characters weren't well developed and the plot was thin and contrived. It was just too sappy, predictable and had way too many Biblical allusions for me.

Leselurch says

Worum geht's?

Vor 10 Monaten ist Evies Mutter an Krebs gestorben. Da es ihr Vater nicht länger an einem Ort aushält, an dem ihn alles an seine verstorbene Frau erinnert, packt er kurzerhand seine sieben Sachen und reist ab. Evie muss zwangsläufig mit auf die verfluchte Apfelplantage ziehen, die ihr Vater als ihr neues Zuhause ausgesucht hat, und ist damit alles andere als glücklich. Sie vermisst ihre Mutter, die Elfen und Einhörner zum Leben erwecken konnte und an die Magie geglaubt hat. Mit ihrer Mutter ist all der Zauber aus der Welt für Evie verschwunden. Aber auf der düsteren Apfelplantage wartet ein magisches Abenteuer auf sie, das ihren Glauben wieder aufleben lässt: Gemeinsam mit Alex, einem Geisterjungen, macht sich Evie auf die Suche nach dem Geheimnis hinter dem kleinen Saatkorn, das der Vorbesitzer der Plantage für sie hinterlassen hat.

Meine Meinung:

„Evies Garten“ ist ein Kinderbuch, aber keines von der zuckersüßen Art. K. L. Going behandelt in ihrer Geschichte ein schwieriges Thema, das Jung und Alt tief berührt: den Verlust eines geliebten Menschen. In Evies Fall ist es ihre Mutter, die vor 10 Monaten an Krebs gestorben ist. Sie hat Evie mit ihrem Vater zurückgelassen, der mit dem Tod seiner geliebten Frau selbst nicht zurechtkommt und versucht, durch die Flucht aus dem bekannten Leben wieder zur Normalität zurückzufinden. Evie muss zwangsläufig mit umziehen, steht ihrem Vater aber nicht sonderlich nahe. Und nun steht sie da, einsam auf einer verfluchten Apfelplantage, umringt von einem Friedhof, ganz allein mit ihrer Trauer. Nur der bleiche Junge, der von sich behauptet, ein Geist zu sein, kann sie ablenken.

Die Geschichte liest sich sehr schnell, was nicht nur an den knapp 200 Seiten und den kurzen Kapiteln liegt. K. L. Going legt ab der ersten Seite ein zügiges Erzähltempo an den Tag. Sie hält sich nicht lange mit ausschweifenden Beschreibungen auf und lässt lieber der Handlung ihren Lauf. Trotzdem sorgt die Autorin in „Evies Garten“ für ein tolles Kopfkino-Erlebnis. Jede einzelne Szene schleicht sich während des Lesens in den Kopf, sodass man die Geschichte auf besonders bildhafte Weise genießen kann.

„Evies Garten“ entwickelt sich recht schnell in eine Richtung, die ich von dem Buch zu Beginn nicht erwartet hätte. Die Magie, an die Evies Mutter geglaubt hat, die aber seit ihrem Tod aus dem Leben ihrer Tochter verschwunden ist, nimmt einen großen Part der Geschichte ein. Auf die rundum sympathischen und gelungenen Charaktere – allen voran natürlich Protagonistin Evie, die mich mit ihrem klugen und vernünftigen Köpfchen begeistert hat – wartet ein magisches Abenteuer, bei dem es mehr Geheimnisse

aufzudecken gibt als zunächst erwartet.

Trauerbewältigung und der Umgang mit dem Verlust eines geliebten Menschen spielen in „Evies Garten“ eine entscheidende Rolle. Die Autorin hat diese Themen in ihrer Geschichte auf eine einfühlsame und magische Art und Weise behandelt, die durchaus zu berühren weiß, ohne dabei eine bedrückende Stimmung aufkommen zu lassen. So gut mir K. L. Goings Umsetzung auch gefallen hat, gänzlich zufrieden bin ich mit ihr nicht. An einigen Stellen hätte ich mir gewünscht, dass die Autorin stärker auf die Ernsthaftigkeit der Themen eingeht und ihre fantastischen Elemente dabei zurückhält.

K. L. Going hat einen wundervollen Schreibstil, mit dem sie mich sofort für sich gewinnen konnte. Sie schreibt sehr leicht und flüssig, wie es sich für ein Kinderbuch gehört, ohne sich in zu komplexe Satzstrukturen zu verstricken. Trotzdem schafft sie es, mit ihren Worten eine zauberhafte Atmosphäre entstehen zu lassen, die einen an die Magie der Geschichte glauben lässt. „Evies Garten“ liest sich wie ein bezauberndes Märchen, dessen Moral K. L. Going ihren Lesern direkt ins Herz schreibt.

Das biblische Paradies, die Geschichte von Adam und Eva, die Versuchung durch den Apfel – all diese religiösen Bilder sind ein Teil von „Evies Garten“. Die Geschichte um Evie weist in vielen Punkten Parallelen zu der Schöpfungsgeschichte auf. Trotzdem ist „Evies Garten“ kein Buch, das einem die christliche Religion oder die Liebe zu Gott nahelegen versucht. Evie lernt, wie wichtig es ist, seinen Glauben nicht zu verlieren, aber dabei wird keine spezielle Religion erwähnt. Es geht vielmehr um den Glauben an sich selbst, den Glauben an sein Herz, den Glauben an die Liebe.

Fazit:

„Evies Garten“ von K. L. Going ist eine zauberhafte und wunderschöne Geschichte über das Leben und den Tod, die mich mit ihrer eigenen Magie in ihren Bann ziehen konnte. Ich habe mich mit jeder Seite mehr in dieses Buch verliebt, vor allem in Goings Schreibstil, der für eine ganz besondere, magische Atmosphäre gesorgt hat. Aber auch die Charaktere und die Handlung haben mich mit ihrer Einzigartigkeit verzaubert. „Evies Garten“ ist ein tolles Buch, das es schafft, ein schwieriges Thema auf einfühlsame Art zu behandeln, ohne dabei eine bedrückende Stimmung aufkommen zu lassen. Für „Evies Garten“ vergebe ich 4 Lurche.

Sherri (Passionate Book Lover) Rudnick says

What a wonderful book. This had such a wonderful message and far surpassed my expectations. I'm really glad that I decided to complete it.

MissSusie says

What a beautiful unsung hero in the YA genre it has everything a ghost story, coming of age, dealing with grief and some fairytale/fantasy/magical realism elements thrown in.

11 year-old Evie doesn't believe in magic anymore not since her mother died. After all if magic were real her mother would still be alive. But when Evie moves to Beaumont, NY where her father has bought a withered apple orchard that the townspeople whisper is cursed, she learns about a lost girl, receives a mysterious seed, and meets a boy who claims to be dead. Before long Evie finds herself in the middle of a fairy tale. And this one is real.

I really enjoyed this book it's beautifully written and is a very believable work of magical realism. I pretty

much read this book straight through and can see why it won the Michael Printz Honor. This book is beautiful and haunting and I would say a must read!

4 Stars

Theresa Milstein says

Gorgeous writing. I'm just blown away. This is one of those books that writers who aspire to be published read and wish they could write. I will think about this book for a long time.

Eve's mother, the one who believes in magic, has died. Eve is left with her practical, grieving father. You feel the profound loss for Eve. Her father can't take staying home where he remembers his wife, so he brings them to an orchard where the trees won't grow and the town is gray. Through meeting an old woman and possible ghost boy, and learning the secrets of the town curse, Eve begins to believe again.

Beautiful story about letting go.

mckmoriconi says

this book rocks
