



## Finding Eva

*J.A. Baker*

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## **Finding Eva** J.A. Baker

Eva is desperate to find her birth parents after spending her childhood in foster care. She leaves London and heads to Whitby in search of her mother and father, after breaking up with her boyfriend, Gareth.

Gareth is furious with Eva. He loved her deeply and the disclosure she made when she ended the relationship is eating away at him.

Celia, Eva's friend, is concerned about Eva. She has stopped answering her calls and when Celia goes to London to find her, she realises Eva has moved without telling anyone. Celia makes the decision to follow Eva to Whitby, concerned that Eva is unravelling. Both women have been damaged by their childhoods.

When Gareth also decides to go to Whitby, it is the start of a lethal situation.

Who exactly is Eva and why is Celia so concerned?

Some relationships are toxic. Others are deadly.

## **Finding Eva Details**

Date : Published August 27th 2018 by Bloodhound Books

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Author : J.A. Baker

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# From Reader Review Finding Eva for online ebook

## Susan Hampson says

Oh my there are some seriously messed up people in this book and I love it! Eva was placed in care when she was little but what has always eaten away at her was why no-one ever came back to re-claim her. You would think that having a successful career in finance in London would have been a massive 'see what I have done' to the world but it wasn't enough. She literally walked out on everything that was stable in her life and headed to her home town of Whitby and her past. Leaving behind a confused and angry boyfriend, Gareth, that turned into a ticking time bomb. This man is rightly furious and needs more answers. There is only one way to get them, to track Eva down. When lifelong friend Celia, who also grew up in care alongside Eva, discovers that she is gone she also heads towards Whitby.

The story is told through all three of these characters, Eva, Gareth and Celia. The chapters are of varying lengths with each one that is real a chapter in their lives and how it connects them in different ways. The descriptions in-depth to give the full feel to the situation and place. I dreaded the characters coming together in Whitby because there was so much anger in them all. All wanting their own worlds put right and damn anyone else. The story goes back into the past, not a good place, but there again neither is the present. The characters aren't really likeable but I think that is the point, it is what life has made them. The last third of the book picks up the pace from finding out about the past to what to do with it in the here and now. The story had begun at the end, well almost. A house, screams and a murder scene but who? Nice end!

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## Lou says

'Finding Eva' is psychological thriller author J. A. Baker's fourth standalone novel predominantly set in Whitby, North Yorkshire, although some of the story is set in and around London.

Eva has had a difficult life having been abandoned by her parents as a baby and placed into care. Since then she has managed to build a good life for herself, has a highly successful career in finance, and decides to sell her London flat and move to Whitby as it is where she believes her biological parents are now living. She also left her boyfriend without informing either him or her friend Celia of exactly where she was going. What could be lurking around the corner for Eva? Who does this danger come from and what do they want from her?

I'm afraid I had a number of issues with the book. It is very slow moving making it a real hard slog to get through, and I wanted to DNF it numerous times, although I did stick it out until the end as I don't like to give up on a book. There is also not much going on and I think this has been further enhanced by the slow-moving plot. There is a lot of description and although I enjoy many authors who write in a highly descriptive fashion, I found the mix of issues meant I couldn't get into the writing style here. It is well written but would be better described as suspense than as a thriller in my opinion. There were a lot of characters we were introduced to also, making it difficult to keep up with who is being talked about. However, Baker does a great job of seamlessly weaving together the perspectives of Eva, Gareth (Eva's boyfriend) and Celia. There were also a few non-predictable twists which I always appreciate, but unfortunately there were too many issues by that point and, as a consequence it didn't quite work for me.

Many thanks to Bloodhound Books for an ARC. I was not required to post a review, and all thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

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## **Pauline says**

Finding Eva by J.A. Baker was a story about a girl brought up in care and on a journey to find her birth parents. I found this book very disjointed and the characters unlikeable. This book was not for me. I would like to thank NetGalley and Bloodhound Books for my e-copy in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Sue says**

Finding Eva is the fourth standalone psychological thriller by author J. A. Baker. The novel centers around a girl brought up in foster care, searching for her birth parents.

Eva is desperate to find her birth parents after spending her childhood in foster care. She leaves London and heads to Whitby in search of her mother and father, after breaking up with her boyfriend, Gareth. Gareth is furious.

Celia, Eva's friend, is concerned about Eva. She has stopped answering her calls and when Celia goes to London to find her, she sees that Eva has moved without telling anyone.

Both Celia and Gareth decide to follow Eva to Whitney.

But who is Eva?

The story alternates between three characters. Eva, Gareth and Celia.

I am afraid that I had problems with this novel as I just couldn't connect with the characters. I found the pace slow and it took me awhile to get into the story. I found it very descriptive, and while it is well written, I would categorize this novel as suspense rather than a thriller.

I would recommend this book to those who like slower paced descriptive suspense.

Many thanks to Bloodhound Books via NetGalley for my digital copy.

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## **Myreadbooks says**

I would like to thank Netgalley and Bloodhound Books.

I was immediately attracted to the blanket, there is a woman from behind holding shoes by the sea and the catchphrase at the bottom of the blanket: "Some relationships are toxic, others are deadly".

There is Eva, who is saddened to be reunited with her biological parents after spending many years in foster care. She leaves London to go in search of her real parents. Her best friend Celia without news is searching for her as well as her ex-boyfriend Gareth. But in the end, who is Eva?

A book that kept me on my toes from beginning to end because I was so hooked on the story so captivating, moving and full of suspense and twists and turns. Looking forward to reading another book by this author.

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### **Donna Maguire says**

<https://donnasbookblog.wordpress.com/...>

I really enjoyed this story, it goes back and forth between the past and present and it is told from the viewpoints of the three main characters.

The story is very good, it is well thought through and has a great concept. The pace is good but I did feel it dropped about half way through the book, it picked back up again with about a fifth of the book to go thankfully and the ending was spot on.

It has a great writing style and well developed characters. The story is gritty and pretty dark in places so it might not be for everyone but I thought it was a good psychological thriller!

Four stars from me, a really good story that had me hooked!!

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### **peggy says**

Eva is looking for her birth mother, she was given away when she was a toddler. Eva has a dark secret that she has kept from her boyfriend Gareth. When she finally comes clean to Gareth it sets him on a downward spiral.

Celia has a best friend Eva, they were brought up together in foster care. Celia is worried as Eva has gone missing and needs to find her before it is too late.

Trish is Eva's birth mother and hopes to one day see her daughter again.

This is their story. The story of four damaged individuals and how they deal with their pasts, but which one has MURDER in their heart?

This book is a rollercoaster of emotions it is pay and you just have to keep on reading until the explosive ending. This is a marathon of a psychological thriller. I LOVED IT.

I would like to thank the author J.A.BAKER, Bloodhound books and Net.galley for giving me the opportunity to read this book in return for giving an honest review

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### **Sharron Machin (booksbehindthetitle) says**

This book took some getting into and slightly confused me as to who was telling the story so much so I had to check back on occasion to the title of the chapter as to whose turn of the story it was. But that said once it settled into a rhythm it was a fairly engrossing read. The twists and turns make you want to keep going.

The story tells of how the care system can affect two people who live together in the same environment can turn out so differently, but the back story of how they came to be together gives you more insight into why they are who they are.

Finding her birth parents is the end game for Eva with Celia dogging her every move as she reaches her goal. Unfortunately for Eva Celia has her own agenda and as she spirals out of control she takes Eva with her.

The story ends on an unexpected twist that you thought would happen but you have to keep reading to confirm it and even then it still throws you yet another twist.

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### **Denise says**

"Some things are best left tucked away in the recesses of your brain; kept as unremembered images which only wreak havoc if toyed with and set free."

This is psychopathy at its worst -- or best -- depending on your predilections for genre fiction. I have never 'met' such a cast of dysfunctional characters in a very long time and my head is reeling after the revelations and the conclusion of this psychological thriller. I don't usually care for books where all the "action" is in the psyche of the characters in a stream of consciousness, but I stuck with it and raced to the end as I was filled with a sense of dread as to what the outcome would be given the beginning chapter.

I knew that there were dead bodies, just didn't know WHO they were as I began reading. Eva Tweedie has gone to Whitby to finally confront the parents who gave her into care when she was a child. She has questions, wants answers, and won't back down this time. She's fresh off a breakup with her boyfriend, Gareth, and it seems that she has told him something that makes reconciliation impossible. In addition, her best friend from the old days in care, Celia, is worried about Eva, has cautioned her about raking up the past, and is set on stopping her from further heartbreak.

The narrative unfolds from the perspectives of Eva, Celia and Gareth. The reader has no clue if any of them is reliable as each tells his or her version of the story. All seem a bit overwrought with emotion and there is a LOT of anger underlying their actions. The pace is slow by sure as all of them come to Twinby for answers - - seeking out Eva's mother as the source and wanting her to pay for the sorry mess that is their lives. Unfortunately, one of them is a total psycho...NO SPOILERS

Despite my misgivings at the internal angsting all were experiencing and the repetition of the emotional turmoil, I ended up enjoying this because the conclusion, though somewhat expected, was quite satisfying. I'm glad I finished it despite wanting to chuck it initially. If you want to read a novel about 3 really messed up young people, then this is the book for you!

Thank you to NetGalley and Bloodhound Books for this e-book ARC to read and review.

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### **Michelle Ryles says**

Finding Eva is J.A. Baker's fourth novel and I found myself horrified that I seem to have missed one, something I shall need to rectify immediately. It is only 18 months or so since J.A. Baker released her debut, Undercurrent, so it is amazing that she is currently working on her fifth novel. What a writing machine! So I couldn't wait to see what Finding Eva is all about.

Eva has left London and headed North to find her birth parents. Eva has left under a cloud after breaking up with her boyfriend, Gareth, and not telling her best friend, Celia, that she was leaving. So Gareth and Celia follow Eva to Whitby, both of them desperate to find Eva for very different reasons. Gareth could kill Eva for what she did to him, and he just might if he gets his hands on her, but what did she do? I certainly

couldn't read fast enough to find out! Celia, meanwhile, is quite another matter and she really creeped me out. She sees herself as Eva's soul sister as they were both brought up in care, but with similarities in appearance, it is clear that Celia doesn't just want to be like Eva, she wants to be her. Creepy!

With Gareth and Celia chasing down Eva, the story is told from these 3 different perspectives. Each character has their own motivations which taints their point of view so it's up to the reader to decide which one is nearest to the truth. I really felt for Eva as she just wants to meet her birth parents and find out why they gave her away but, after reading the first chapter, I also worried whether she had some ulterior motive for visiting Whitby.

There's always a keen sense of place in J.A. Baker's novels and Finding Eva is no exception, set on the cold and wet cobbled streets of Whitby, a little fishing village in North Yorkshire. The setting seems to add to the suspense as Eva finds nowhere to hide, despite there being plenty of narrow alleyways and lots of people visiting during the famous goth weekend.

I found this book a little darker and more menacing than J.A. Baker's previous novels but there is so much suspense that it's virtually impossible to put down. Finding Eva is chilling, suspenseful, dark and menacing; it's another superb book by J.A. Baker.

I chose to read an ARC and this is my honest and unbiased opinion.

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### **Shalini says**

This book was interesting to begin with but somewhere in middle, it loses its pace till it reaches a good end. The story had Eva trying to find courage to meet her real mom. It is all about knowing where you come from.

The story is told in 3 POV, Eva, her ex Gareth, and her best friend in foster home Celia.

There were twists but it was too slow to keep my interest going. I had to skim read it to get to the end.

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### **Sarah says**

The story flicks between three characters. Eva, Gareth and Celia. It was good to see the point of views from each person as you really get a sense of them and how things affect them individually.

Eva hasn't had the stablest of home life's being taken from her real family and put into care. I could understand why she would want to find her real parents and having lots of unanswered questions. I was very intrigued to find out why Eva had cut herself from everyone, especially her closest friend.

This is such a dark and brooding read. The author has a knack of drawing you in so that before you know it she has you hooked and unable to put the book down even if you wanted to. As things start to be revealed, well I just let the author take me hostage and stayed within the pages until I got to the end. There are a fair few lies and secrets to be revealed and I was dying to find them all out.

Finding Eva is a story full of suspense that you don't quite know what you're walking into. The author is a good story teller and kept me enthralled throughout. I really enjoyed this book and if you haven't yet read



any of the authors books, then I highly recommend you doing so.

My thanks to Bloodhound Books and NetGalley for an advanced readers copy of this book. All opinions are my own and not biased in anyway.

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### **Berit???** says

This was a dark, disturbing, and extremely descriptive read

Eva is determined to find her birth parents... growing up in foster care Eva really is a success story...she has a good job in the financial market, a nice apartment, a loving boyfriend... so what really is behind her motivation to find her birth parents? Is it simple curiosity or something more sinister?

Told from three different points of view... Eva... Garrett her boyfriend who she breaks up with to begin this quest... and Celia a lifelong friend who also grew up in foster care... none of these characters were terribly likable, although I'm not sure if that impacted how I felt about the story or not.... although perhaps if I liked Eva a bit better I would have cared more as to what happened to her, I mean I cared, but.... even though I did not care for these characters I felt as though getting all of their perspectives really added a lot to the story....

The first half of the story was very detailed and descriptive... with lots of backstory and it did get a little tiresome at times... but the second half really picked up and there were lots of twists... one I saw coming and another one that surprised me.... i'd probably classify this as more of a suspense than a thriller, but either way I really wanted to find out how this was going to end...

Recommend for those of you who enjoy strong suspense with detailed and descriptive writing....

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### **Philomena Callan Cheekypee** says

I'm a sucker for watching the tv programme Long Lost Family so this blurb sucked me right in. Someone looking for their birth parents I find intriguing but of course this is fiction so I knew I was gonna get a good story.

Eva has spent most of her childhood in foster care. The need to find her birth parents is strong so after breaking up with her boyfriend Gareth Eva takes herself to Whitby to look for them.

Celia is Eva's friend who has been through the foster care system with Eva.

Although I found this a tad slow to start off with I really enjoyed it. I thought it was a really well written story full of suspense. I'm looking forward to reading more from this author in the future.

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### **Dash fan** says

3.5? An enjoyable read.

(Rounded up to 4? for Amazon and Goodreads)

Finding Eva is a story about discovering your past, secrets and drama.

Eva grew up in foster care after her parents left her. Eva is curious and feels like she wants to find them now. So she sells up and moves to the area she believes them to be.

Celia and Eva were in foster care and Celia is Eva's best friend. So when she disappears without saying anything she decides to try and find her. But just why is Celia so desperate to find her.

Unfortunately I just couldn't connect with the characters. The pace was slower and took me a while to get into the story. I found it to be a little confusing to start with as the story is told by three characters. Eva, Cecilia and Gareth (Eva's Ex) and I found myself back tracking to see who's chapter it was.

Having said that, it was a suspenseful read, with some twists, Drama and secrets. I just like my thrillers to be a little more faster paced and action packed.

I would recommend this book to those who like slower paced yet descriptive thrillers with some twists and suspense.

Thank you to Bloodhound books for this copy which I reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

My Review is also on my Blog Website :-

<https://dashfan81.blogspot.com/2018/0...>

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