

Kissing in America

By Margo Rabb



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Acclaimed writer Margo Rabb's *Kissing in America* is "a wonderful novel about friendship, love, travel, life, hope, poetry, intelligence, and the inner lives of girls," raves internationally bestselling author Elizabeth Gilbert (*Eat, Pray, Love*).

In the two years since her father died, sixteen-year-old Eva has found comfort in reading romance novels—118 of them, to be exact—to dull the pain of her loss that's still so present. Her romantic fantasies become a reality when she meets Will, who can relate to Eva's grief. Unfortunately, after Eva falls head-over-heels for him, he picks up and moves to California with barely any warning. Not wanting to lose the only person who has been able to pull her out of sadness—and, perhaps, her first shot at real love—Eva and her best friend, Annie, concoct a plan to travel to the west coast. As they road trip across America, Eva and Annie confront the complex truth about love.

In this honest and emotional journey that National Book Award Finalist Sara Zarr calls "gorgeous, funny, and joyous," readers will experience the highs of infatuation and the lows of heartache as Eva contends with love in all of its forms.

Since publication, this novel received 4 starred reviews and has been named:

- A Chicago Public Library Best Teen Book of 2015
- A New York Public Library Best Book for Teens 2015
- A Miami Herald Best Book of the Year
- A Spirit of Texas selection
- A TAYSHAS High School Reading List Selection
- An Oprah Summer Reading List selection
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Kissing in America By Margo Rabb Bibliography

Sales Rank: #275962 in eBooks
Published on: 2015-05-26
Released on: 2015-05-26
Format: Kindle eBook





Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Two years ago, Eva Roth's father was killed in a plane crash, which is still being investigated. Eva's grief is as fresh as it was the day he died, but her mother seems determined to move on and expects Eva to do the same. As her mother becomes increasingly uncommunicative and obsessed with work, Eva tries to escape her pain by focusing on preparing for college; studying with her best friend, Annie; and losing herself in the pages of romance novels. When the teen is paired with high school heartthrob, Will, in an after-school tutoring session, she discovers that he, too, has lost a family member. Their shared understanding of loss and pain draws them into a relationship that is abruptly halted when Will has to move from New York to Los Angeles. Following the advice of her favorite romance novelist, Eva determines to find a way to go "get her man." She convinces the brilliant Annie to enter the two of them in an academic teen game show that promises a trip to Los Angeles and a \$20,000 scholarship to the winner. Together they embark on a cross-country adventure that will test their friendship, and ultimately bring Eva to a deeper understanding of herself and her family. With a full cast of multidimensional characters, this novel explores the complex nature of relationships and the many faces of grief and love with equal parts humor and poignancy. VERDICT A first purchase for most YA collections.—Cary Frostick, formerly at Mary Riley Styles Public Library, Falls Church, VA

Review

"Wonderful . . . Margo Rabb has created nothing less than a women's map of American mythologies, navigating from Emily Dickinson to Barbara Cartland, from the cowboys of the rodeos to the makeup studios of Hollywood, and from the bottom of the Atlantic to the spacious skies of the USA." (E. Lockhart, New York Times bestselling author of We Were Liars)

"A wonderful novel about friendship, love, travel, life, hope, poetry, intelligence and the inner lives of girls. Margo Rabb writes with compassion and clarity about lives that are worth telling, journeys that need to be taken, peace that needs to be reached. I loved it." (Elizabeth Gilbert, New York Times bestselling author of Eat, Pray Love)

"That Margo Rabb can write a story so gorgeous, funny, and joyous that is also unsentimental and honest is a testament to her skill and to her heart. I loved everything about Eva and the supporting cast in this beautiful novel." (Sara Zarr, author of The Lucy Variations)

"It is a marvel and I love every word of it: the carefully structured plot, the memorable characters, the wholly apposite style and tone. It is funny, sad, wistful, wise, and altogether memorable." (Michael Cart)

"Rabb's funny and big-hearted second novel is bursting with resonant themes of love, death, family, art and identity, fully embodied in a diverse cast of wonderfully fallible and entertaining characters." (New York Times Book Review)

"This feminist rom-com reminds us it's never about the boy but the joyride." (O Magazine)

"Rabb eloquently gets grief right in this compassionate, perceptive, and poignant story, deftly leavened with irreverent humor, of a girl in conflict with her mother. Wise, inspiring, and ultimately uplifting—not to be missed." (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

"A smart teen's novel. [The] characters are authentic and complex. Rabb knows the perfect point to interject humor to diffuse a potentially devastating situation—a leavening of sorts to the reality that death and love inexplicitly alter the landscape of a person's life." (Booklist (starred review))

"In this indelible coming-of-age story, Rabb seamlessly weaves together multiple narratives. Sprinkled with the poetry Eva reads and writes, this story makes for a hilarious, thought-provoking, wrenching, and joyful quest." (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

"[A] well-balanced read that exposes readers to weighty ideas and difficult feelings while keeping them entertained and emotionally invested." (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred review))

"With a full cast of multidimensional characters, this novel explores the complex nature of relationships and the many faces of grief and love with equal parts humor and poignancy." (School Library Journal)

"Humor and depth . . . Often entertainingly snarky" (The Horn Book)

"A young-adult novel that deftly weaves humor and snippets of poetry into its road-trip story. A beautifully crafted coming-of-age story that illuminates the layers of relationships." (Austin Statesman)

"It made me laugh until I choked, and it made me cry-it's a book that made my heart feel full." (Leila Roy, Kirkus Reviews Blog)

"Tender, expansive . . . Eva is a likable, sympathetic character whose horizons expand literally —during a New York-to-L.A. bus trip with a friend—and metaphorically." (Chicago Tribune)

"Kissing in America" is a road-trip story with humor and heart. (Boston Globe)

"Rabb's coming-of-age story has a sweep as wide as the star-spangled sky. [Her] snapshots of America are witty and perceptive and appropriately poetic. There's not just one love story in Kissing in America, there are many. (Austin Chronicle)

From the Back Cover

I loved romances because when you opened the first page, you knew the story would end well. Your heart wouldn't be broken. I loved that security, that guaranteed love.

In real life, you never knew the ending. I hated that.

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In this honest and emotional journey from acclaimed writer Margo Rabb, readers will experience the highs of infatuation and the lows of heartache as Eva contends with love in all of its forms.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eric Beasley:

What do you about book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what your own problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They need to answer that question due to the fact just their can do that. It said that about e-book. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this kind of Kissing in America to read.

Lee Henry:

Do you considered one of people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This Kissing in America book is readable by simply you who hate those straight word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable looking at experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer involving Kissing in America content conveys prospect easily to understand by most people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different such as it. So , do you still thinking Kissing in America is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

Jennifer Newhouse:

The particular book Kissing in America has a lot associated with on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was compiled by the very famous author. The writer makes some research just before write this book. This specific book very easy to read you may get the point easily after scanning this book.

Marlyn Melia:

Is it you who having spare time then spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This Kissing in America can be the solution, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this completely new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these books have than the others?

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