



Blackwater

By Eve Bunting

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Thirteen-year-old Brodie Lynch was ready for the perfect summer of adventure along the awesome Blackwater River. That was before everything changed forever. When a harmless prank goes too far, the unthinkable happens. Brodie's lies make him a hero, but inside, his guilt tears at him like the treacherous current of the Blackwater itself, which has become a horrifying reminder of his part in the tragedy. In this gripping new coming-of-age novel, a young boy is faced with a choice between right and wrong and ultimately learns that truth can offer hope in even the darkest moments.

01-02 Golden Sower Award Masterlist (YA Cat.)

2000 Quick Picks for Young Adults (Recomm. Books for Reluctant Young Readers)

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Blackwater By Eve Bunting Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Bunting (I Have an Olive Tree; Smoky Night) crafts an ethics-centered novel that will long flicker in readers' memories. Brodie's plans to go camping with his best friend on the nearby banks of the furious Blackwater River are foiled when his younger cousin, Alex, comes to spend the summer. To top it off, Alex also wrecks 13-year-old Brodie's highly anticipated plans to take his classmate and crush, Pauline, to the movies. One morning, Brodie decides to teach Alex how to swim in a protected area of the Blackwater, and the two spy Pauline cozying up to an older boy on a rock in the middle of the river. Bunting's cunning description of the tragic incident that follows leaves just enough room for readers' to interpret the events. Should Brodie be elevated to hero status, shunned as a villain, or somewhere in between? And Alex, with his proclivity for fibbing, devises a cover-up that further obscures the truth. But it soon becomes evident that someone else witnessed what happened in the Blackwater River. Smoothly shifting between dialogue and his inner thoughts, Brodie's affecting, first-person narrative makes the boy's nightmarish struggle with his conscience chillingly credible. Bunting's thought-provoking theme, solid characterization and skillful juggling of suspense and pathos make this a top-notch choice for both boys and girls. Ages 10-up. (Sept.)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8—"TELL." When 13-year-old Brodie reads the note, he realizes that someone knows his terrible secret. He didn't intend for anything bad to happen; he'd only planned to teach his pesky cousin Alex how to swim. But when the two arrive at the swimming hole, a dammed-up part of the dangerous Blackwater River, they find Pauline and Otis already there, sunning on a large rock. Brodie has a crush on Pauline and is jealous of the older boy. He quietly swims over to the rock and starts to pull her into the water. Otis pulls back and the screaming girl is stuck in the middle like a wishbone. When Brodie lets go, the other two teenagers fall backward into the swiftly rushing river. He jumps in the water to try to save them, but the current is too strong and he must be rescued. Pauline and Otis drown and Brodie is hailed a hero, especially when Alex tells his own trumped-up version of the story. Brodie means to be honest, but because of his injuries and the reactions of others, he finds he cannot tell the real story. How long—and how safely—can he keep his secret? Similar in plot to Marion Dane Bauer's *On My Honor* (Clarion, 1986), Bunting's more complex novel is an exciting blend of physical and psychological action and conflict as Brodie is caught in a web of deceit, as guilt and fear overcome his desire to tell the truth. The novel also focuses on friendship, family, and forgiveness as Brodie's friend Hannah helps him admit his responsibility in the accident. An engrossing tale with likable, realistic characters.

Janet Hilbun, formerly at Sam Houston Middle School, Garland, TX

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From Kirkus Reviews

PLB 0-06-027843-9 In an unusually weak story from the prolific Bunting, a teenager wavers between staying silent and confessing his responsibility for a half-serious prank that results in two deaths. Offended at finding a girl on whom he had pinned some summer dreams making out with another boy, Brodie sneaks up to startle them, then watches in horror as they fall into the river and are swept away. His desperate effort to save them makes him an instant local celebrity. Injured, half drowned himself and sedated by the doctor, he has no chance to set the record straight at first, and as time goes by, the prospect of telling the truth becomes harder to contemplate. In the meantime, Alex, a visiting cousin who knows the truth, trumpets Brodie's heroism for reasons of his own, while there is evidence of a mysterious witness to the tragedy. With the support of a loyal friend and loving parents, Brodie finds the strength to come clean, but since he has been

presented as a stable, right-thinking character, his decision is never really in doubt. While Bunting hints at the price Brodie will have to pay for holding back, the story ends before the boom actually falls. Ingrid Tomey makes the horns of a similar dilemma much sharper in *Nobody Else Has To Know* (p. 890), while Marion Dane Bauer, of course, charted a more subtle route in *On My Honor* (1986). (Fiction. 10-12) -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sarah Ruff:

Book is actually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can realize everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important issue to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading talent was fluently. A book Blackwater will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think that will open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or ideal book with you?

Michael Moore:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want really feel happy read one having theme for entertaining like comic or novel. The particular Blackwater is kind of publication which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Jonathan Zahn:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book could be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the reserve untitled Blackwater can be excellent book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Louella Rape:

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