



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

- Sales Rank: #12718397 in Books
- Published on: 1999-09-22
- Released on: 1999-09-22
- Original language: English
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- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .65" w x 5.50" l,
- Binding: Library Binding
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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.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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) --
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Manuel Britton:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love Blackwater, it is possible to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Joseph Wood:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this Blackwater guide written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written inside good manner for you, leaking every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still skepticism Blackwater as good book but not only by the cover but also with the content. This is one reserve that can break don't judge book by its cover, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

Beverly Thomas:

In this particular era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more special than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple method to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of several books in the top record in your reading list is definitely Blackwater. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

Mathew Casillas:

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