



Going Over

By Beth Kephart



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It is February 1983, and Berlin is a divided city with a miles-long barricade separating east from west. But the city isn't the only thing that is divided. Ada lives among the rebels, punkers, and immigrants of Kreuzberg in West Berlin. Stefan lives in East Berlin, in a faceless apartment bunker of Friedrichshain. Bound by love and separated by circumstance, their only chance for a life together lies in a high-risk escape. But will Stefan find the courage to leap? Or will forces beyond his control stand in his way? National Book Award finalist Beth Kephart presents a story of daring and sacrifice in this three-starred reviewed Junior Library Guild Selection and Booklist Top 10 Historical Fiction for Youth.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—Stefan and Ada love each other, but they can only see each other four times a year. That is how often Ada and her grandmother can cross the border into East Berlin to visit the matriarch's best friend, Stefan's grandmother. As time passes, Ada obsesses about people who have escaped to freedom, but Stefan worries about those who tried and failed. He spends his days looking through his grandfather's telescope at the world around him, while Ada spends her nights creating graffiti artwork on her side of the Berlin Wall. While much of this story is focused on the teens and whether they can be together, other characters on both sides of the wall also get their own moments to shine. One of Kephart's strengths is her ability to immerse readers in 1980s Berlin, a time period that does not receive a lot of attention in most history textbooks. One subplot involves the plight of Turkish immigrants in West Berlin, and Ada becomes involved with trying to save a preschooler in her care from an abusive home. Kephart also uses plenty of sensual language to help readers feel the characters' aches and pains and to smell the smoke, dill, baked wool, and leather. This is an excellent example of historical fiction focusing on an unusual time period, and the author's note and selected sources list will be useful for readers who want to learn more about what it was like to live on either side of the Berlin Wall.—Andrea Lipinski, New York Public Library

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review In the divided Berlin of the early 1980s, 16-year-old Ada waits for her lover, Stefan, to escape across the Berlin Wall from East to West. But the odds are against Stefan making it over alive, and they are also against graffiti rebel Ada evading the notice of the authorities and the brutal punks hiding in the alleyways. National Book Award finalist Kephart has re-created the inexorable fear and tension, as well as the difficult living conditions, of Berliners on both sides of the wall, especially those suffering under the ruthless oppression of the dreaded East German secret police, the Stassi. Ada and Stefan are representative of the families, friends, and lovers separated and destroyed by the wall; their grandmothers serve as poignant reminders of the toll WWII took on the European population. Subplots about the Turks recruited to help rebuild Berlin and the ignored danger to women in all parts of the city add complexity to an already difficult, seldom written about time in the world's history. This is a stark reminder of the power of hope, courage, and love to overcome the most taxing of human struggles: war, its aftermath, and captivity. Grades 9-12. -- Frances Bradburn

Review

"An unforgettable portrayal of life and love divided. Kephart captures the beauty and desperation of 1980's Berlin with prose both gripping and graceful."--Ruta Sepetys, New York Times bestselling author of *Between Shades of Gray* and *Out of the Easy*

"Beth Kephart is one of my heroes. She's spun gold out of the language of longing and has shown us how to make room for miracles. *We Could Be Heroes*--about a boy and girl separated by the cruelest of fates--will inspire any reader to make the leap for love."--Patricia McCormick, author of National Book Award Finalists *Sold* and *Never Fall Down*

"Beth Kephart has done it again. She's spun gold out of the language of longing and has shown us how to make room for miracles. *Going Over*--about a boy and girl separated by the cruelest of fates--will inspire any reader to make the leap for love."--Patricia McCormick, author of National Book Award Finalists *Sold* and *Never Fall Down*

"A stark reminder of the power of hope, courage, and love."-Booklist, starred review

A Junior Library Guild Selection

"At once compelling and challenging... this gripping effort captures the full flavor of a trying time in an onerous place."--Kirkus Reviews

"An excellent example of historical fiction focusing on an unusual time period."-School Library Journal, starred review

"Readers will finish the book and continue to think about how effective one wall can be in separating a country and in fashioning attitudes toward life."--Reading Today

"A profound read meant for discussion."-VOYA: Voice of Youth Advocates

"Going Over carefully balances love and heartbreak, propelling readers through the story."--Shelf Awareness

"Paints a vivid picture of a divided Berlin and the wall that separates friends, lovers and families."--BookPage

"An intense, absorbing read that shows how the personal and political can be fused together, and how small, personal acts can have life-changing implications for many people.... a unique, passionate story illuminating a fascinating time and place."--Common Sense Media

"A keenly intimate story of human love made epic by circumstances."-- Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

"An absorbing story of young love and conflicting ideologies."--Publishers Weekly

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Susan Velez:

The book Going Over give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem with your subject. If you can make reading through a book Going Over to be your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You can know everything if you like open up and read a guide Going Over. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this reserve?

Reta Zimmer:

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