



## Across the Barricades

*Joan Lingard*

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Kevin and Sadie just want to be together, but it's not that simple. Things are bad in Belfast. Soldiers walk the streets and the city is divided. No Catholic boy and Protestant girl can go out together - not without dangerous consequences . . . The second of Joan Lingard's ground-breaking Kevin and Sadie books

## Across the Barricades Details

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Author : Joan Lingard

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## From Reader Review Across the Barricades for online ebook

### Roxanne says

I had to read this book in year 9 in class and again reading in a group (seriously did they not trust us reading by ourselves?) Anyways i just remember being given this book as everyone else was reading Romeo and Juliet but our teacher must have been sick of that so we got given this book. I remember being totally bored to tears with this book and constantly wondering why we were been made to read it, and i thought the pace was slow and nothing really happened and it was mainly sadie and kevin escaping every couple of chapters and so it went on. Once i had finished it though it was a good read i was pleased i read it, it does have some really good moments in the book and i cant remember the name of the woman that worked in the shop but she was funny. Also i think it really got the message across of the problems that were going on in Ireland of the divides they had.

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### Isabella says

Whilst I liked the idea of this, the writing itself felt a bit simplistic and I found it hard to identify with the characters. It was very quick and easy though, and definitely very informative for learning about the troubles. If you want eloquent prose, it's not for you, but if you want a sharp novel about a relavant issue then I'd reccomend it.

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### Jade Davenport says

This book was something my class and I read together in high school, I really enjoyed this book, although I don't remember the ending.

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### Stok29 says

I quite liked it! I had expected it to be a bit boring, and my friends didn't like it at all. but it surprised me how much I actually liked it!! :D

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### Maria says

An easy and enjoyable read that allows you to transport yourself into northern ireland in the early 70's . The content will never age, religious/ racial intolerance, political unrest, freedom to make your own choices and romeo & juliet romance. I gave this book to my teen and she loves it as much as I did at her age. Sadi , Kevin and their families ignited my interest in Irish history, religion and language.

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## Elegale says

(see review for first book)

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## Aoife says

4.5 stars

The Kevin and Sadie's series is based around two teenagers living in Belfast, Northern Ireland, during a time where there is great tension between the protestants and catholics living in the area, aka 'The Troubles'. Kevin and Sadie used to be enemies but now at 17 and 18 years old, they meet again and end up falling in love at a time when no-one wants them to be together.

This is a book series I originally read as a child and I was really happy to see it up as an audiobook in my library's e-services. It was fantastic getting back into the story and remembering the finer details of Kevin and Sadie's 'Romeo and Juliet' story that I had forgotten. This was narrated by Gerard Murphy who did a great job and I loved that he was also Northern Irish so everyone's accents were correct, and I also find that accent to be extremely soothing and nice to listen to so bonus points. This is marketed as a series for children aged 10+ which I do find a bit odd as Kevin and Sadie are teenagers and the series does go on to explore their eventual marriage and family life but as a kid this didn't bother me at all so I guess it was all okay then and all okay now.

This is a book that looks finely at the tensions during The Troubles - a time when a Catholic boy couldn't walk out with a Protestant girl without getting beat up. Kevin and Sadie have to live with violence every single day and the reader is with them as their tolerance grows less and less with the way they're forced to live and hide their relationship. Kevin has to work hard to not be forced into doing violent things he doesn't want to do and not become involved with old schoolfriends being involved with the IRA, or IRA activities. Sadie's father is in the Orange Order, and her own brother has to constantly explain to others why he himself doesn't want to join up as he is also sick of violence.

I was sad near the end of the book as I had forgotten one of the things that did happen and it is quite heartbreaking. But I'm definitely going to reread the rest of the series as I had forgotten how much I loved it.

Note: This is technically the second book in the series but I actually think it can be read as the first, as the first is a bit of a prequel from when they were children and you more or less find out what happens in that one in Across the Barricades.

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## Phoebe says

The story of Sadie and Kevin was a very sweet and honest one. The troubles they, their families, their streets, and subsequently their city (Belfast) was facing were depicted very believable, honest, and without drawing conclusions or putting blame on anybody.

It is a book depicting everyday life in Northern Ireland back in the days when Protestants and Catholics were regularly fighting each other. It is about the everyday life of folk, who just want to live in peace and have everyone mind their own business.

It is a book about a young couple fighting for their right to be with each other against all odds.

A nice read.

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"Across the Barricades" ist der 2. Roman von Joan Lingard der Sadie und Kevin auf Ihrem Weg zum Erwachsenwerden folgt. Sadie, Tochter einer protestantischen Familie, und Kevin, Sohn von Katholiken, leben in einem Belfast, welches von den Kämpfen zwischen britischem Militär und irischen Freiheitskämpfern gezeichnet ist.

Nichtsdestotrotz versuche sie sich von den widrigen Umständen nicht abschrecken zu lassen und ihre Gefühle füreinander auszuleben.

Mit jedem Tag, und jeder auf sie aufmerksam werdenden Person in ihrem Umfeld, wird dies mühsamer.

Ein Jugendbuch, dass sehr realistisch die Zustände im gespaltenen Nordirland beschreibt und die alltäglichen Probleme der dortigen Bevölkerung - auf beiden Seiten der Unstimmigkeiten! Es zeigt wie es auf beiden Seiten gleichermaßen den Wunsch nach Frieden gibt, und dass Gewalt keine Lösung ist.

Wirklich gelungenes Jugendbuch zu diesem sensiblen Thema!

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### **Chrisoula Panagoulia says**

A sweet, lovely and fast - paced book which shows us there are no boundaries regarding true love.

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### **Diana says**

Man oh man. I can't imagine living in that kind of environment, and yet it still exists in many places today. An excellent book. I love Kevin and Sadie.

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### **Klaudia says**

Inspiring story about two individuals who given all the odds still made the impossible - possible

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### **My says**

We got to read this in our English class and I really enjoyed it. Didn't know it was a series until I finished it, so I might read the rest of the series.

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### **Mica says**

Read for school. Review will come later

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### **Heather says**

News of the "Troubles" in Northern Ireland dominated my childhood and teen years, so I find it interesting that there aren't more books set in that time and place. I loved this book. It is actually the second book in the series, but you don't need to read the first book to understand the action in this one. The main characters were well rounded, the neighborhoods were filled with people on both sides of the Catholic/Protestant issue. The details were blunt without being graphic, making a good book for younger readers. I loved that the story presented not just the main divide, but also secondary issues that divided families as well as towns. This is a great introduction for preteens and older to terrorism and the IRA.

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### **Chrisoula Panagoulia says**

A lovely read.

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### **Trish at Between My Lines says**

Every bit as good as I remembered. I love the troubled Belfast setting, the star crossed lovers and how real it all feels. Even after all these decades.

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### **Yseult says**

C'était le deuxième d'une série de cinq, je me demande si je lirai les trois suivants. En aucun cas, je ne lirai le premier.

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### **donna bedwell says**

O love all her books. . .they seem so alive!!!!

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### **Ema says**

I love the ending. But the conflicts that occurred not really 'nice'(?)

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### **Ryan Williams says**

For anyone who wants to know what children of the 1980s read during their schoolyears, and loved, this book would be high on that list.

The others?

Grinny

The Demon Headmaster

The Silver Sword

The Goalkeeper's Revenge

The Worst Witch (first three books)

The Asterix books (up to Magic Carpet)

The Machine Gunners

Virtually anything by Roald Dahl.

Many of these were published by Puffin, the children's division of Penguin books. Someday, someone will calculate the impact the series had on Britain's youth. I doubt they will rate them as highly as they deserve.

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