



First and Goal

Kata Čuić

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Eva Papageorgiou has one goal: to make it through her senior year of high school unseen and unscathed. But when her strategy to stay out of the limelight is derailed by rampant rumors, she's forced to change tactics. Her new game plan is to keep everyone at arm's length. Especially boys. So when she's partnered up in class with the hot as hell varsity quarterback, she pushes and pushes.

Until he pushes back.

Rob Falls just wants to fit in. With his teammates, with his friends, with everyone. His image as the quintessential jock makes him feel like a fraud. Especially since it's the only reason all the girls at school want him, except the one girl he dreams about. She wants nothing to do with him. When he's forced to tutor the class pariah, he realizes it's time to get in the game instead of standing on the sidelines.

She's going to help him get exactly what he wants, whether she knows it or not.

Life doesn't come with a playbook, but Rob knows this could be the most important play he'll ever make.

First and Goal is book one in The Moving the Chains series. It ends on a cliffhanger.

First and Goal Details

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From Reader Review First and Goal for online ebook

Alexis says

I am not usually a fan of Young Adult (YA) but I needed to mix up my reading a bit and I was lucky enough to score an ARC of First and Goal.

Rob and Evie meet the first day of freshman year in a super-cute sort of fashion. They both are AP students and end up in the same classes. Press fast forward to senior year where they are matched up as bio partners.

Here's the rub...they have both been pining for each other since that fateful day back during freshman year. But both have become different people and can't see what's truly right in front of them. Thankfully, they start to see each other in a different light and you too, will fall in love with Rob.

What I liked the most about First and Goal was that it dealt with true issues that shouldn't be dismissed. I think the author did a fabulous job executing the issues that surrounded Evie and how Rob was able to break down some of those concrete walls that Evie erected around her heart. I like how the story showed that not everything you hear about another person is true and that gossip can really be the fodder for so many lies and misgivings. And truth be told, Rob was so incredibly sweet and makes my heart do that pitter patter thing it does. The only drawback was that I wish Evie would have come to her senses a bit sooner with Rob. At times I sort of wanted to yell at her and tell her she has the most amazing man RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER!!! But I digress...

Truth be told, I can't fathom that this is Kata Cuic's first novel, this book does not read like a debut novel. Her writing is top-notch and has you hanging on until the last word.

I am glad I decided to go outside the box and read this novel, I wouldn't have found this sweet, charming, and fun one!

Lastly, I must warn you...there is a bit of a cliffhanger and I hope the second one is out soon!

Cheryl McIntyre says

Rob's 12-Step Program for Falling for Evie:

1. You are kind.
2. You are sweet.
3. You are a good friend.
4. You are smart.
5. You are a smartass.
6. You are beautiful.
7. You are strong.
8. You are brave.
9. Your smile lights up a room.
10. Your laughter is my favorite song.
11. You always look me in the eye when you talk to me.
12. You're one of my best friends.

Here's what you need to know about this incredible debut novel:

There's a boy, Rob.

There's a girl, Evie.

Rob has secretly loved Evie from afar since the day they met freshman year.

Evie loathes Rob and most other jocks.

Rob plays football and is a god at school.

Evie is in marching band and has a bad reputation around school.

Rob has always watched out for Evie, defending and protecting her.

Evie is independent and doesn't want anyone, especially Rob Falls, standing up for her.

Rob and Evie are assigned as bio partners senior year, much to Evie's displeasure.

Rob is relentless when it comes to breaking down Evie's walls.

Rob and Evie slowly, but surely become close friends.

Rob enlists Evie's help to land his dream girl, unbeknownst to Evie that she is actually helping him win herself over.

Rob and Evie's 12-Step Program for Getting Dream Girl (AKA Operation Dream Girl):

1. Talk to her.
2. Pay her compliments.
3. Make her feel special.
4. Let her know she is important to you.
5. Notice the little things.
6. Comfort her if she needs it.
7. Give her time and space.
8. Give her little gifts that mean a lot.
9. Be a friend first.
10. Kiss her like you mean it.
11. Respect her.
12. TELL her.
13. (End Goal) Give her my jersey.

I loved this book more than I can put into words and I can't wait for the next in the series—which I have on good authority (straight from Kata's mouth) is already written and in the editing stage. So we won't be hanging off the cliff for long. You can add it to your TBR **here**:>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3...>

Patty Belongs To Kellan~Jesse~Lautner~Miller~Jack~Racer~Rafe~Liam~Prince Nicholas~Hayes~Simon~Gianluca & Archer says

*******FOUR STARS*******

{ARC Generously Provided by Author}

As much as I've spent the last three years wanting Evie, it kind of scares the shit out of me to realize how low I'll go to get her. I'll take anything she might give me and work as hard as I have to in order to get it.

For a brand new author, I have to say that I was impressed. I kept seeing this book being mentioned on Facebook and Goodreads and decided I needed to see what the buzz was all about. This is YA, and while I can appreciate a good YA, it's not my typical "Go To" genre. The teenage angst is off the charts high in this one, but the Hero is certainly lovable enough that he kept me engaged in the story.

Eva and Rob are seniors at the same high school. They have known each other since the 9th grade but over the past few years, a distance developed between them. Both harbor huge crushes on each other but they are equally oblivious to that fact. Eva is an honor's student and drum major, she thinks of herself as a geek, but to Rob, she is the most beautiful girl he's ever seen. Eva and Rob end up in a lot of the same classes since they both are honor students. Rob ends up being her calculus tutor when she fails the first quiz of the semester and their teacher orders him to tutor Eva to help pick her grade back up. This seems to be the last thing Eva wants. She has a huge chip on her shoulder and doesn't hesitate to lash out at Rob. She went out with one of the members of his football team and things ended badly. The guy spread rumors about Eva being supremely easy and ever since she's been branded the school slut. Her trust level of the opposite sex is at an all-time low because of her predicament.

Rob Falls is the Quarterback of the High School's football team. He's the most popular and most desired boy by all the girls in school. But Rob has only ever had eyes for Eva. He hasn't dated anyone since he transferred from his catholic school back in the ninth grade. He's been secretly pining away for Eva and hoping to get his shot with her. Unfortunately, rumors start spreading about Rob being a ladies man and he does nothing to stop them because they end up giving him more street cred with his other teammates. His reputation has Eva seeing Rob as a player and someone she needs to avoid. How ironic that the girl who is falsely accused of being a slut could so easily believe rumors about someone else and then treat them badly because of said rumors!! For this reason, I didn't care for Eva for almost the entire book.

These two end up as partners in biology class and their first project is called *the bio-effect*. Boys and girls are paired up and have to ask a series of questions, and some of them are very personal. Rob and Eva get off to a

very rocky start in the beginning and I would place all the blame on Eva and the humungous chip on her shoulder. Rob noticed how she changed after she dated his teammate for a short while and suspects that she was raped and even when he confronts her about it and she denies it, he still believes there's something more to what happened between them.

I was starting to get beyond frustrated with both characters and was beginning to think that maybe I am just too old to relate to the trials and tribulations of today's teenagers, but then **BAM**, that ENDING!!! Totally not what I was expecting to happen, **AT ALL!!** And now the author has me sucked in because I just have to know what happens next.

FIRST AND GOAL is available now!

AMAZON US: <http://amzn.to/293eacB>

Jen says

OMG!! I loved this book and the cliffhanger ending has me biting my nails. Evie and Rob's story is so sweet. I couldn't put it down. It was so funny and heartfelt. Rob is such a cutie. I found myself another book boyfriend. I can't wait to see what happens. my stomach is in knots wondering wth? I hope they get their HEA..I'm counting the days for the next book...

Chele' says

I'm so torn on my rating for this book, while there's some parts I really loved there's also a lot of repetitiveness and unnecessary drama.

Shannon says

It's hard to believe this is the first book from Kata Cuic. First and Goal is an engaging and heartfelt look at teenage life.

All is not what meets the eye when it comes to Rob and Eva. Both have put up shields to protect themselves over the past year, and this book takes us on their journey as they learn to let those shields down and share who they really are with each other. Rob is the most transparent and I really enjoyed being in his head, seeing his deep-rooted and long held feelings for Eva. I don't feel like we really got to know Eva as well,

other than her snarkiness and blatant rudeness to Rob. Honestly, I had a hard time with her character through the majority of the book. Enough was enough when it came to her bitchiness, and there was a point I almost put this book down. It seems as if there's a very big piece of her story that is missing, something other than what we've been shown, to cause her to act like she has. I think we got a small glimpse at what it could be at one point, but it was never really expounded on and I can only hope we'll get the full story in the next book.

Rob is such a darling of a character, what teenage girl wouldn't be swooning all over him- and not just for his body! I would have loved it if he had come clean to Eva about his feelings for her much sooner than he did. When Eva let her guard down with him she was a very likable character. I really enjoyed their banter, their give and take, and how comfortable they were with each other. I think they are such a sweet couple and I wish there had been more time with them as an actual couple before the book ended. And what an ending that was!

***Arc received in exchange for an honest review.

Annie says

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a new book boyfriend and his name is Rob Falls.
Hands off girls and boys. I'm not sharing this one with you. Well, I have to share him with Evie because of reasons but you know what I mean.

Rob Falls has all the makings of an amazing boyfriend:

Hot: Check!

Smart: Check!

Fun: Check!

Sweet: Check

High School quarterback: Check!

Huge Co... err conversation skills (yeah, lets go with that): Check!

And yet Rob is not like any other jock you ever read about. Rob has layers and more layers and he hides it all so well among the popular kids, between the jocks and the cheerleaders but all that is just a cover. Or is it?
All the girls want him, except the one he wants.

Eva is not the same girl she was when she started HS three years ago. She is not the same girl she was last year either. Not after all the rumors. She has her reasons and no one really knows them. Luckily she has band to keep her busy. When she gets partnered with Rob, everything she thinks she knows is turned upside down.

This book will make you laugh out loud and want to smack a person or two. I'm not naming names. You read and figure it out.

It ends on a heart pounding, mind-blowing cliffhanger. Hanging on tight. Can't wait for the next one.

Michella says

This YA romance was an amazing read. You are vested from the first page. Rob is so sweet, shy and kinda geeky for a football player but that's what made him so endearing. Evie, had a wall up like Fort Knox and to watch it be chipped away piece by piece melted my heart. You won't want to put it down and the ending will have you wanting for more. I was given this arc from a new to me author and I'm so lucky to have been introduced to and look forward to reading more of her work. Highly recommend reading this book!

Amy J Romance Author & Reader Events says

3.5. Good story and even though the writing detracted from it I would definitely recommend this book. The overall series is bump worthy (move it up your TBR list!). I read the series in three days so regardless how I felt about book one I was obviously pulled into this world of angst!! Each book pulls you further into their world, the emotion palpable. The author fully coming into her own with each installment.

Jacqueline's Reads says

3.75 SUPER angst stars

I was looking for a cute little YA read and what I got was a lot of teen angst. Angst isn't really my thing, but I wanted to finish the book to see if the main characters finally figured out their shit.

Look, I'm all for strong Heroines, but Eva was a bitch until the 40% mark. It was a long 40% to read how mean and nasty she was to Rob. I felt like her actions were justified. Rob didn't do anything to her, but exist as a jock.

The book started out cute when Eva and Rob first meet and I wished I got a little backstory to why Eva was so horrible to Rob. I finally got the answer, but it really wasn't a good excuse in my book. The book is also very repetitive.

If I read one more time Eva telling Rob not to get into her pants I wanted to punch the girl in the face and scream, He doesn't want to have sex with you! Good grief she annoyed the fuck out of me.

I truly enjoyed Rob's character, although he frustrated me a lot in the second half of the book. Like I said a lot of angst! You know the kind of plot that could be cleared up if the two main characters just had a quick convo?

I do like that the book was more dialogued based because that is more of my jam and it was easy to understand. I also liked the side characters, even though Alex annoyed me and his book is next.

I won't rule out another Kata book, but if she write angst, I may have to move on to another author.

Rejane says

And because the third book is... well, disappointing I won't even touch the 1st book.

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Liz says

3.75 stars

I really enjoyed this book up until the cliffhanger, which I felt was out of the blue and changed the tone of the book for me. This book would have gotten a higher rating if it wasn't for the ending. Nevertheless, I still liked this book and would still read the sequel when it comes out.

Kristen says

Oh, man. Where to start with this new brand spanking new debut author? Well, how about the first book in her series, First and Goal. Y'all. Y'ALL. Stop what you are doing and buy this book? Yes, please. because you all need Rob Falls in your life. He's the epitome of a book boyfriend. He's sweet. Has a heart of gold, and crushes all of those dumb jock stereotypes.

Here's the thing. Rob has been crushing on Evie, a fellow student, since the 9th grade. Something about her gets to him. Flash forward to senior year and yep, he's still crushing. But each of them, Rob and Evie are different from their freshmen selves. They've grown up. In Evie's case she's put walls of brick, concrete, and barbed wire around her heart. But when you find out why, you can't really blame her. Rob has started to play into the stupid jock role, because he's mad. He thinks he's missed his shot with the girl of his dreams. When these two get paired up in biology, for a really cool project, we know that there is more than sparks flying between these two.

As their story unfolds, we get to know more about these two fragile people. The emotion in this book is going to hit you in the mother effing feels. Right in the heart. Because it's real, raw emotion that pours out of these pages and into your soul. As I'm typing this, I'm struggling to keep the tears at bay.

Finally when everything seems to get on track for Rob and Evie. Maybe they will make it, but that ending. Man on man. Now, if cliffhangers aren't your thing, wait until the next book comes out. Because this is a dozy. And my feelings on Alex, Rob's best friend, will forever be changed because of that ending.

Kata Cuic is a rising star. She's an author that writes about real people, real emotions, and pushes you to get to know the deeper feelings of all of her characters. Her words are beautiful and as I read each one, I want to know more. I want to know about these people that she has created, because they now feel real. Like friends. Like people I've met on the street. So, do yourself a favor and check out this book. It's amazing, gut wrenching, but so amazing and on point.

Jenny McIntyre says

I was very kindly gifted an arc by the author and boy am I glad she did. Reading the blurb I thought this book would be a bit young for me but I was wrong. Kata's writing style is so honest and believable and she portrays the high school seniors brilliantly. The story is the a great mix of romance, angst and humour and I loved it from beginning to end. I can't wait for book two. Everyone needs Kata Cuic on their radar, great novel from a fantastic debut author.

Katerina says

First and Goal

Rob has been in love with Evie forever, since freshman year and some part of me was proud to see a male hero who was a virgin because let's be honest, it's so damn rare.

The first chapter shows us how they met and overall he's a shy, handsome, tall guy.

The next chapter hops onto senior year. It has alternating POVs from Evie to Rob.

Evie annoyed me. I hated her. She was the biggest self-sympathising boo-hoo b*tch I've ever had the displeasure of encountering. She claims to have been severely bullied in chapter one, yet she's popular with a bunch of friends and apart of the main group. She thinks she's 'average', yet a ton of guys hit on her and give her constant validation that she's so beautiful and continuously the talk of the locker room yet she claims they are lying or think she's 'easy'.

Evie had a bad experience with a guy named Eddie the year before and the story wasn't even expanded on. Rob asks her continuously and she brushes him off like her secret mystery makes her appealing. It was never explained whether or not she was violated or abused and it should of. Her behaviour and reactions would have been much better understood. So stupid.

Rob shows her continuously how in love with her he is, to the point it was frigging bait and a snore of a read. She's beautiful blah blah blah. About 500 pages worth of bullshit where he's doing everything he can to show Evie he loves her but instead she thinks he likes some other 'Dream Girl' and she would be jealous of him spending time with her. It was so annoying that I started to skim read. It was such a long book for no reason other than her doing the 'I have no idea how amazing I am, he seriously likes me?' routine. She had a stick up her ass and was rude. She didn't deserve him.

Half the time she was disgustingly immature and rude to him because she hates him for no good reason. The other half she was stupid and moronic and I was bored. Apparently she liked him all along but didn't know if he liked her back, and was jealous of a date he went on with one girl last year so she hated him despite the fact she had a boyfriend (even if he was an asshole and did something to her which we don't know about). It was almost like he could sky-write he loves her with his fart and she still wouldn't believe him. Ridiculous.

This story has cliff hanger bait. Rubbish bore of a storyline completely stretched out the entire way until the last chapter which was explosive.
