



Poles Apart

Terry Fallis

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Overnight, Eve of Equality, a new feminist blog, becomes a sensation when a wildly popular TV talk show host stumbles upon it, Tweets about it, and promotes it on her show. The blog is smart, thoughtful, funny, and bold, brazenly taking on various injustices in the lives of women. But it's the blogger Eve's post about the controversial entrepreneur behind XY, a new chain of high-end strip clubs opening up across the country that sets off a firestorm. In a matter of hours, the Eve of Equality website crashes, its Twitter count jumps from a paltry 19 followers to nearly 250,000, and Eve is suddenly lauded as the new voice of feminism.

But who *is* the Eve behind Eve of Equality? Well... not who you might think. Meet Everett Kane, aspiring writer and fervent feminist. He writes his erudite blog in his apartment, at his kitchen table, conveniently but unexpectedly located right above one of the aforementioned XY strip clubs.

Hilarious and smart, and offering thoughtful commentary on a subject that is flooding our headlines, newsfeeds, Twitter streams, and society, *Poles Apart* is Terry Fallis at his best, confirming his status as a king of CanLit comedy.

Poles Apart Details

Date : Published October 20th 2015 by Douglas Gibson Books

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Author : Terry Fallis

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From Reader Review Poles Apart for online ebook

Karen M says

I can't decide on my rating. I loved the subject matter (a male feminist - YESSSS), but some of the dialogue felt a little wooden, and some of the plot points were a little too obvious so that there wasn't a lot of suspense... It was a quick, fun read though and it made me think a lot! If you're drawn by the synopsis, I'd recommend giving it a shot. :)

Melanie Baker says

I wasn't as big a fan of Terry's last one, but this was back on track for me being sweet and fun and funny.

Got to attend a reading last week where he explained how aspects of this book are autobiographical, and outlined his own journey to a "feminist awakening". It was a nice addition to my perspective while reading.

Kate Heron says

Terry Fallis manages to write an entire book mansplaining feminism and actually manages to not say anything substantive about feminism, sexism, or the sex industry (beyond vaguely shaming sex workers.)

Quite a feat!

Julie says

Terry Fallis' writing style is so completely disarming! At first you do feel like the characters in this book are a little flat but his mix of humour and appropriately predictable plot line ends up being much more than a sum of its parts. Like every other book of his I've read, Poles Apart was a charming, funny, light read. In this case, I read it on a 7 hour bus ride from Cat Ba to Haiphong to Hanoi, and found it compelling - especially in a country that speaks to the exact issues the book addresses!

Linda says

Just to tell you how much I love the books from this author I can say this; I have been reading the books on my ereader and I have two to go until I finish all he has written. I am going this afternoon to a book store to try to get my hands on all the hard cover versions of all his books.

This was an exceptional book with a message and a great story.

Everett, a dual citizen of the US and Canada and writer of magazine ads and other small things, has reached his thirties and has not been able to keep a relationship going. When his father becomes ill in his retirement in Florida, Everett sets out to be with him and spend time with him in the rehab hospital.

When he arrives at the hospital he thinks that he recognizes a lady and eventually he knows who it is. She is Beverly Tanner, an advocate for equality.

This is just the encouragement Everett needs to restart his career engine.

An excellent read.

VP says

I generally like Terry Fallis' linear, simple novels, but this one was torturous drivel. Linear, yes, simple, yes....but the content was even more pretentious than ever.

I'll keep trying, but I get tired of reading books featuring writers with over-inflated ideas of the skill of their own writing, especially when the writer of these characters is really not great either.

Deb says

This is Terry Fallis at his best and by far my favourite book of his. Is it somewhat formulaic and predictable? Yes. You could see every so called plot twist and turn from a mile away. But it was a fun and witty read. Almost like watching a really well done rom-com - you know how it's going to end up but you still enjoy the ride.

Mark says

Another great read by Terry Fallis. He never fails to deliver on wit and on humorous situations that typically involve a "fish out of water" while inserting an element of seriousness. The play on words with the title are just a small part of the genius of what I appreciated about this novel. The manner by which Fallis tackles an important topic yet weaves together elements of suspense and zany humour in the midst of the injection of a critical feminist perspective takes a sure and steady hand. Hell, any novel that leaves me wanting to seek out and read a classic such as John Stuart Mills' THE SUBJECTION OF WOMEN must have had a strong influence on me.

The novel is wonderfully uplifting, carries an important message, is consistently funny and at just the right moments is touching and poignant. Highly recommended.

Dawn says

This book was mildly amusing. It was a cute look at some feminist stereotypes but most of the story was incredibly obvious and there wasn't much substance.

Poetreehugger says

I like the humourous imaginative writing style. Entertaining. I'll be looking for more books by this author.

Jamie says

What a disappointment. Having read and enjoyed Terry's books in the past, this had potential to be another true pleasure. It ended up being anything but. For starters, it took nearly 300 pages before anything actually happened. By then my interest was all but dead. The characters are bland and mostly knockoffs of the characters from the thoroughly enjoyable *The Best Laid Plans*. As for the ruminations on feminism throughout the book, they varied from non-existent to trite. I expected so much more from this book and this author.

Kyle B says

I really wanted to like this book, the synopsis was so intriguing and sounded like something right up my alley. I am a male who has written for feminists blogs. I grew up right as Jezebel and similar blogs were starting and took off. It sounded like a perfect read to look at some important, contemporary discussions and do so in a funny way. Further, I actually quite like Terry Fallis..

Unfortunately, it may be one of the worst novels I've ever read. Three reasons for this, really.

1) Judged on the prose, I'm not sure if any editor looked at this book. There are pages and pages of nonsense that drag on for no reason. We do not need to read about the protagonist entering keywords into the backend of Wordpress, or here about the process of setting up an e-mail account, or have him tell us about the benefits of one airport over another. In short, this reads like a first draft, where you throw everything down - except, someone forgot to go back and trim the excess.

2) The dialogue made each and every character in the book sound the same. The protagonist, the feminist pioneer, the buff muscle and even the protagonist's father - they all talk the same, and they all talk unrealistically. No conversation has ever sounded like the ones in this book.

3) How is Everett so slow? There are parts where the reader knows of a "big reveal" about 50 pages ahead of the main character, who we come to understand is somewhat of a genius. You know the old saying of trust your reader, don't talk down to them? It needs to be applied here.

I guess there were some salvageable parts - few and far between. The book did raise some important issues surrounding inequality, and it did a strong job of ridding stereotypical gender roles. But overall, I'm sorry to say these messages were lost because of how poorly written the novel was.

lisa MacColl says

I adored "The Best Laid Plans" and "The High Road". I wasn't as fond of "Up and Down" or "No Relation" so I was a bit nervous starting this book. Happily, this book is in the vein of Fallis' first two works. There is a good story, great characters and the kind of clever word play that made me a fan of his writing in the first place. There are laugh out loud moments in the vein of The Best Laid Plans. Read it, you'll like it.

Teresa Reid says

I unabashedly love Terry Fallis. When I met him last week at an event, I fawned over him like some might over Johnny Depp. Anyhoo - this book is full of the wit and charm of his other books while tackling one of my favourite topics, feminism. If you think a man can't be a feminist, read this book and see if it changes your mind. Certainly, hearing Terry's impassioned speech on the subject, I believe it is possible.

Katelyn Lutman says

3.5 stars for me. It was as easy read - quick pace, accessible language and themes. The feminism was rather 101 and lacked an intersectional approach, but I recognized myself in the protagonist, and appreciated the family portrait this story included. Activist circles can be pretty serious places, so it was refreshing to read a light story that still centred around themes of gender politics and equality, even if I did find myself internally rolling my eyes at sections that felt a little "mansplained" to me. I'm willing to accept the possibility, though, that my immersion in feminist activism might affect my ability to just enjoy this for what it is: a nice story written by a man who sincerely believes in women's equality and wants to spread the word. Can't fault him too much.
