



The Not-So-Great Depression

By Amy Goldman Koss

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A TIMELY, WARMHEARTED NOVEL ABOUT LIFE IN HARD ECONOMIC TIMES.

Jacki's ninth-grade teacher is always going on about the unemployment index and the recession, but nothing sinks in until her mom is laid off and everything seems to cost more than they can afford. Acclaimed author Amy Goldman Koss delivers a warm hearted and timely tale about the things we lose and the insights we gain.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6–9—The Great Recession has hit YA fiction. Jacki, a lovable middle schooler who dreads her piano recital as much as gym, is finally starting to see the effects of the financial crisis she keeps hearing about. When her Mom gets laid off, her family has to consider making some major changes by reevaluating Jacki's private schooling, her sister Brooke's college tuition, their big house, and even their presence in Los Angeles. While this background is serious, the story has a lot of humor and a bit of romance. Jacki's relationship with her supportive friend Emily is both realistic and admirable, but the interactions between Jacki and her family members take center stage. This novel offers readers likable characters and a personal narrative of economic woes. It will keep them turning the pages.—*Emily Chornomaz, West Orange Public Library, NJ*
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From [Booklist](#)

Fourteen-year-old Jacki and her two siblings live a chauffeured, private-school life with their executive mom in a rich Los Angeles neighborhood. Their father is more of a free spirit, and when they visit him, they are inducted into such delightful chores as vegetable gardening. The plot is a simplified version of the effects of the current economy on many households: Jacki's mother loses her high-powered, high-paying job, and they have to downsize. Jacki embodies a complex of credible traits: she is both spoiled and anxious to please, worried about her friends and family and about her own standing. Koss makes the economic reality accessible while giving readers a character with whom they can either identify or relate to a friend they might know. As ever, Koss' writing is smooth, and the dialogue keeps things moving briskly. Notably, this book might work well in a mother-daughter book group, as the relationship between Jacki's older sister and their mother is particularly realistic. Grades 5-7. --Francisca Goldsmith

Review

"Koss's timely novel manages to tackle difficult topics with sympathy, humor, and a lot of heart."
—*Horn Book Magazine*

"Delivers a cast of charming characters." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"This novel offers readers likable characters and a personal narrative of economic woes. It will keep them turning the pages." —*School Library Journal*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Matthew Venegas:

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