



**Title:** To Night Owl from Dogfish

**Author:** Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer

**Imprint:** Rocky Pond Books

**Publisher:** Penguin Young Readers

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**ISBN:** 9780525553243

**Format:** Paperback

**Age Range\*:** 10 and up

**Grade Range:** Gr 4-6

# BOOK RESUME: TO NIGHT OWL FROM DOGFISH

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

From two extraordinary authors comes a moving, exuberant, laugh-out-loud novel about friendship and family, told entirely in emails and letters.

Avery Bloom, who's bookish, intense, and afraid of many things, particularly deep water, lives in New York City. Bett Devlin, who's fearless, outgoing, and loves all animals as well as the ocean, lives in California. What they have in common is that they are both twelve years old, and are both being raised by single, gay dads.

When their dads fall in love, Bett and Avery are sent, against their will, to the same sleepaway camp. Their dads hope that they will find common ground and become friends--and possibly, one day, even sisters.

But things soon go off the rails for the girls (and for their dads too), and they find themselves on a summer adventure that neither of them could have predicted. Now that they can't imagine life without each other, will Bett and Avery (who sometimes call themselves Night Owl and Dogfish) figure out a way to be a family?

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Built on a foundation of absurdity, coincidence and the occasional rather good one-liner, the novel manages the difficult balancing act of using increasingly ridiculous, and often funny, situations to drill home the idea that every close relationship takes hard work, particularly when things start going south."

—*New York Times*

★ "This is a convincing and heartwarming look into the experiences of female friendship . . . An imaginative and compelling middle-grade novel depicting modern friendships and modern families." —*School Library Journal*, starred review

"A sweet and amusing tale that celebrates diversity while reinforcing the power of love and the importance of family." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Written entirely in emails and letters, this laugh-out-loud novel showcases the collaborative skills of bestselling authors Sloan (Short) and Wolitzer (Bellzhar) . . . Featuring a dramatic climax and a host of surprising twists, the novel affirms that families conventional and unconventional are families just the same."

—*Publishers Weekly*

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\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

“Even if the target readership eschews email these days, they’ll be hard-pressed not to be laughing out loud at the witty, clever email and letter repartee among the girls, their dads, and the rest of the supporting cast . . . Alternately heartwarming and hilarious.” —*Booklist*

“The book’s affectionately satirical take on our twelve-year-old heroines and their approaches to life is funny, and the epistolary format is an engaging way into the girls’ personalities and defenses.” —*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*

“While Bett and Avery’s non-stop comical high jinks prove entertaining, the girls symbolize a broader definition of family and experience real struggles . . . Educators and librarians seeking an interesting novel that promotes diversity and might appeal to reluctant readers will want to add this book to their shelves.”  
—VOYA

#### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- A CBC Young Adult Favorites Award selection
- An NCTE Notable Children’s Book in the Language Arts Award selection
- An ALSC El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children’s Day/Book Day) selection
- A New York Times Editor’s Choice
- A Junior Library Guild selection
- An Amazon best book of the month selection
- A *Publishers Weekly* Most Anticipated Children’s Book selection
- A Georgia Children’s Book Award selection
- An Illionis Rebecca Caudill Young Readers’ Book Award selection
- An Indiana AISLE Read Aloud selection
- A Maine Student Book Award selection
- A Massachusetts Children’s Book Award selection
- A Michigan Great Lakes Great Books Award selection
- A Nevada Young Readers’ Award selection
- A Vermont Middle-Grade Children’s Book Award selection
- A Virginia Readers’ Choice selection
- A Washington Sasquatch Reading Award selection

#### **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [TeachingBooks.net resources](https://www.teachingbooks.net)

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