



To Night Owl from Dogfish

Holly Goldberg Sloan, Meg Wolitzer

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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 the two girls (who sometimes call themselves Night Owl and Dogfish) figure out a way to be a family?

To Night Owl from Dogfish Details

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From Reader Review To Night Owl from Dogfish for online ebook

Julie says

This is a funny and heartfelt story told exclusively through letters and emails between two tween girls. Avery Bloom and Bett Devlin live on opposite sides of the country and are polar opposites in personality. However, when their single dads fall in love, they begin a relationship at first via emails and then in person. This is a wonderful story that captures the essence of friendship and family.

Emily says

Really, really charming.

Sally Stieglitz says

To Night Owl from Dogfish by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer is a delight! Entirely through emails and letters (those proto-email communications), the reader is introduced two tween girls, Bett Devlin from California, a sporty animal loving free spirit, and Avery Bloom, a nerdy and neurotic New Yorker, when their impetuous gay dads decide, after a whirlwind romance, to send the girls to summer camp together to foster a sisterly bond between them. Bett and Avery want no part of this insta-family, and join forces to oppose it (and by opposing, end it), but, of course, along the way, the girls find tolerance, friendship, and virtual sisterhood, only to be dismayed when their dads split up.

Funny and sweet and engaging, Bett and Avery are characters who complement (and often compliment) each other after being thrown together and pulled apart by well-intended parenting (is there any better or worse kind?).

To Night Owl from Dogfish is love story about friendship and family and, I think, a classic middle grade novel in the vein of some of the best books of my childhood - From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, Harriet the Spy, and The Mysterious Disappearance of Leon (I Mean Noel). Here's hoping that these two authors will write together again for the benefit of readers everywhere.

Thank you to Edelwiess+ and Penguin Publishing Group for the Advance Review Copy.

Raquel Sandoval says

It was too cute and I just love it so much

Ariana says

3.5 stars

Samantha (WLABB) says

Rating: 4.5 Stars

I knew from the very beginning I was going to love this book, and Goldberg and Wolitzer kept me smiling from page one to the very end. I am just in love with the idea, that we can be different, and we can embrace these differences. The book also had a lot of beautiful ideas about family in there, and seriously, Avery and Bett were a great pair. Fun, heartwarming, and full of the sort of honest commentary you expect from pre-teens. Loved it!

Full review to follow.

*ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

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Chance Lee says

This epistolary novel from two authors I've never read before tells the story of two young girls, Avery and Bett, who reluctantly become friends and are then put into a situation where they have to fight for that friendship.

From reading the blurb, I expected the whole book to take place at summer camp, but the plot moves much more quickly than I thought it would and takes many surprising turns. Even though the story is primarily told through the girls' point-of-view, we get many richly detailed supporting adult characters, like Bett's grandmother (called Gaga), Avery's birth mother, and the two gay dads.

I like reading books for this age group because there's not a romance, but with this book I appreciated the girls being romance-adjacent as their dads (view spoiler). Because the romance plot was between adults, it felt painfully real. The adult characters are as well-drawn as the girls -- difficult, complex, occasionally making sense, and other times making bad decisions. The dads really frustrated me!

The two girls have unique voices and often make blunt observations that are funny or profound or both. Parts of the book made me laugh out loud and other parts brought tears to my eyes. The book's third act felt a little rushed and contrived, plus it gets into preachy "it's okay to have a gay dad" territory that the rest of the book avoided by simply having everyone within the book's world accept it as normal. I wasn't sure why that subject got brought up at the *end* of the book, as it doesn't affect a thing with the plot, and any readers who needed convincing would have given up by that point anyway.

Those minor flaws don't stop this from being a great read for kids and adults. One to look forward to in 2019!

Bookishfolk says

I heard this book once described as, a modern parent trap and that's really what it is! A fun, YA read that will be sure to bring a smile to anyone's face.

Emily Grace Dusin says

I went into this book without high expectations, and I was definitely blown away. This is such a light hearted happy book about friendship and family- and what those words can mean. I laughed a bunch. I enjoyed reading about how the main characters Avery and Bett grow and change over the course of the book. I definitely recommend reading this book when it is released, and I'm so glad I got the opportunity to read this book before it comes out.

Hannah Greendale says

An epistolary retelling of *The Parent Trap* with modern flair. Adventurous Bett Devlin and overcautious Avery Bloom have no interest in being friends, but their dads have fallen in love and are sending them to the same summer camp to get to know one another. Bett and Avery reluctantly unite to keep their dads apart and, before long, their exchanges glimmer with the first inklings of friendship.

A humorous and heartwarming tale of sisterhood, adventure, and finding family in unexpected places.

*A very traditional summer camp could be right for us. After all, everyone tells us we don't live in "traditional" households even though my papa is about as conventional as they come. A lot of people don't realize a dad is a dad is a dad.**

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*Note: Quote taken from an Advanced Reading Copy.

Stefanie says

?I just adored To Night Owl from Dogfish! This story, told in emails & letters, has a beautiful message about friendship & what it means to be a family. Bett & Avery's mission to get their dads together will make you LOL & warm your heart. ?

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

this is literally Parent Trap—with-gay-dads and I don't tend to read MG but come on.

Trisha says

Affectionate, warm, authentic.

Janet says

Thanks to the publisher for the sneak preview copy. Fun middle-grade fiction about found families. The girls are smart, funny, neurotic, and brave.

Neha Thakkar says

Loved this middle grade novel written in emails and letters. Funny and well developed characters, gay dads and happy kids. Each daughter is smart in her own way, and the 2 learn and grow together. I received an ARC from Barbara's Bookstore, all thoughts are my own.
