



Belzhar

By Meg Wolitzer

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Entertainment Weekly's Best YA Book of 2014

TIME magazine Top YA of 2014

"Wolitzer has imagined a world for young readers that **celebrates the sacred, transcendent power of reading and writing.**" —*The New York Times Book Review*

There's a place where the lost go to be found.

If life were fair, Jam Gallahue would still be at home in New Jersey with her sweet British boyfriend, Reeve Maxfield. She'd be watching old comedy sketches with him. She'd be kissing him in the library stacks.

She certainly wouldn't be at The Wooden Barn, a therapeutic boarding school in rural Vermont, signed up for an exclusive, supposedly life-changing class called Special Topics in English that focuses—only and entirely—on the works of Sylvia Plath.

But life isn't fair. Reeve has been gone for almost a year and Jam is still mourning.

When a journal-writing assignment leads Jam into a mysterious other world she and her classmates call Belzhar, she discovers a realm where the untainted past is restored, and she can feel Reeve's arms around her once again. But, as the pages of her journal begin to fill up, Jam must to confront hidden truths and ultimately decide what she's willing to sacrifice to reclaim her loss.

From *New York Times* bestselling author Meg Wolitzer comes a breathtaking and surprising story about first love, deep sorrow, and the power of acceptance.

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Belzhar By Meg Wolitzer Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #361147 in Books
- Published on: 2014-09-30
- Released on: 2014-09-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.55" h x 1.00" w x 5.90" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 272 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Devastated by the death of her first love, 15-year-old Jam Gallahue is having difficulty moving on with her life. After nearly a year of being mired in grief, her parents send her to a boarding school in rural Vermont that specializes in "emotionally fragile" teens. Once there, she is surprised to have been one of five students selected by the legendary Mrs. Quenell for a class called Special Topics in English. It seems that the entire semester—Mrs. Q's swan song before retirement—will be devoted to the works of Sylvia Plath, and the students are given special red leather journals in which to record their reactions to the assigned readings. Jam is unenthusiastic at first until she realizes that these are no ordinary journals. When she and her classmates, all of whom have endured debilitating losses, begin to writing in their pages, they are transported to their former lives, at least for a while. The teens bond over their experiences in what they call Belzhar, and are able to share their stories and look out for and protect one another. As the semester progresses and the notebooks begin to fill up, they must each confront some inner demons and make some tough choices about their future paths. Wolitzer spins a smart and engrossing tale of trauma, trust, and triumph. She is respectful of the intelligence and sophistication of the teens while acknowledging their vulnerability and lack of life experience. Their voices ring true and the emotional truths are authentic—even for those readers unwilling or unable to embrace the magical realism. Exploring the themes of self-reflection and the recurring notion that "words matter" make this title a perfect choice for book groups and discussions.—Luann Toth, School Library Journal

Review

Entertainment Weekly's Best YA Book of 2014

Publishers Weekly Best Books of 2014

***TIME* magazine Top YA of 2014**

NPR's Book Concierge 2014 Great Reads List

***Newsday* 2014 Best Books for Young Readers**

BookPage Best Children's books of 2014

Bustle.com Top 25 YA Novels of 2014

***School Library Journal* Best Books of the Year**

2015 CBBC Choice List

"It's been a long while since a book has pulled me in this way; I read it leaning forward, figuratively on the edge of my seat with my heart in my throat. I had no idea what was coming, but I was hungry to get there. So **subtly plotted and painfully beautiful**, I couldn't put it down. Meg Wolitzer is a an amazing storyteller."

—**Jacqueline Woodson**, winner of the National Book Award for *Brown Girl Dreaming*

"Wolitzer has imagined a world for young readers that **celebrates the sacred, transcendent power of reading and writing**." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"Expect **depth** and **razor sharp wit** in this YA novel from the author of *The Interestings*." —*Entertainment Weekly*

"A prep school tale with a supernatural-romance touch, from **genius** adult novelist Meg Wolitzer." —*Glamour*

“Basically **everything Meg Wolitzer writes is worth reading**, usually over and over again, and **her YA debut...is no exception.**” —TeenVogue.com

“Demonstrates the power of words to heal.” —*The Washington Post*

“A **riveting** exploration of the human psyche...Wolitzer's teenage characters are **invigorated, flawed, emotionally real** and **intensely interesting**. Even as readers fold back the layers of the story and discover unexpected truths and tragedies, **the plot maintains an integrity that has come to be hallmark of Wolitzer's novels.**” —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

“A **smart** and **engrossing** tale of trauma, trust, and triumph.” —*School Library Journal*, starred review

"A strong, original book." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“Wolitzer handles Jam’s increasingly complex psychological state **with delicate, nonjudgmental nuance** ...teen readers, especially rabid Plath fans, will relish Wolitzer’s **deeply respectful treatment of Jam’s realistic emotional struggle.**” —*Booklist*

“**Enlivened by humor, memorable characters and a page-turning mystery** only revealed in its final pages, *Belzhar* explores the role of trauma in young lives.” —*BookPage*

"But Jam herself is a fantastic portrait of a girl somehow younger than her own age, unable to cope with the hardships of being a teenager, and the final twist of the novel reveals an unexpected aspect to her character that makes her all the more heartbreaking." —The Daily Beast

About the Author

Meg Wolitzer’s novels include *The Interestings*; *The Uncoupling*; *The Ten-Year Nap*; *The Position*; *The Wife*; and, for young readers, *The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman*. Wolitzer’s short fiction has appeared in *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Pushcart Prize*. *The Interestings* was named a best book of the year by *Entertainment Weekly*, *TIME* magazine, and *The Chicago Tribune*, and named a notable book by *The New York Times Book Review* and *The Washington Post*. Wolitzer lives in New York City with her family.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Flynn:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled *Belzhar*. Try to make the book *Belzhar* as your buddy. It means that it can to become your friend when you really feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , let's make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

James Donofrio:

Often the book *Belzhar* will bring someone to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to

explain the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book to learn, this book very suited to you. The book Belzhar is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Norma Harrell:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a book. The book Belzhar it is quite good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book has high quality.

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