



Belzhar

By Meg Wolitzer

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“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

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, living with a weird roommate, and signed up for an exclusive, mysterious class called Special Topics in English. But life isn't fair, and Reeve Maxfield is dead. Until a journal-writing assignment leads Jam to Belzhar, where the untainted past is restored, and Jam can feel Reeve's arms around her once again. But there are hidden truths on Jam's path to reclaim her loss.

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Belzhar By Meg Wolitzer Bibliography

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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

"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 heartbreakin." —The Daily Beast

About the Author

Meg Wolitzer's novels include *The Interestings*; *The Uncoupling*; *The Ten-Year Nap*; *The Position*; and *The Wife*. Wolitzer's short fiction has appeared in *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Pushcart Prize*.

About *The Interestings*, the *New York Times Book Review* said, "Remarkable . . . [*The Interestings*'s] inclusive vision and generous sweep place it among the ranks of books like Jonathan Franzen's *Freedom* and Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Marriage Plot*. *The Interestings* is warm, all-American, and acutely perceptive about the feelings and motivations of its characters, male and female, young and old, gay and straight; but it's also stealthily, unassumingly, and undeniably a novel of ideas. . . . With this book [Wolitzer] has surpassed herself."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Leonard Parnell:

Do you considered one of people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained within the straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This Belzhar book is readable simply by you who hate the straight word style. You will find the facts here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving even decrease the knowledge that want to offer to you. The writer associated with Belzhar content conveys prospect easily to understand by many people. The printed and e-book are not different in the information but it just different as it. So , do you continue to thinking Belzhar is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

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