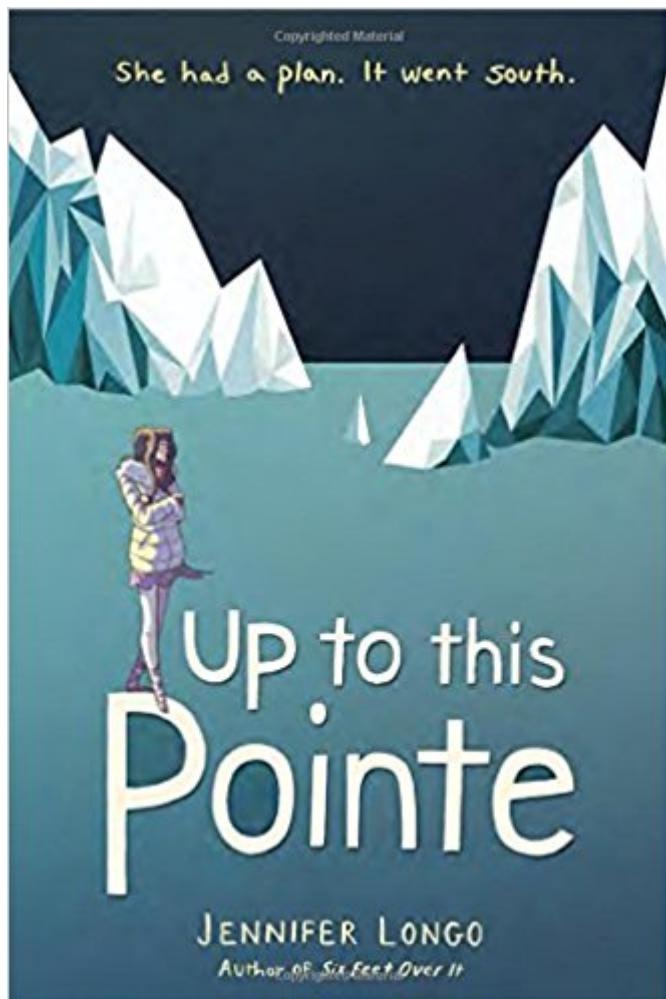


The book was found

# Up To This Pointe



## Synopsis

Harper had a plan. It went south. Hand this utterly unique contemporary YA to anyone who loves ballet or is a little too wrapped up in their Plan A. (It's okay to fail, people!) Harper Scott is a dancer. She and her best friend, Kate, have one goal: becoming professional ballerinas. And Harper won't let anything—or anyone—get in the way of The Plan, not even the boy she and Kate are both drawn to. Harper is a Scott. She's related to Robert Falcon Scott, the explorer who died racing Amundsen and Shackleton to the South Pole. Amundsen won because he had a plan, and Harper has always followed his model. So when Harper's life takes an unexpected turn, she finagles (read: lies) her way to the icy dark of McMurdo Station . . . in Antarctica. Extreme, but somehow fitting—apparently she has always been in the dark, dancing on ice this whole time. And no one warned her. Not her family, not her best friend, not even the boy who has somehow found a way into her heart. It will take a visit from Shackleton's ghost--the explorer who didn't make it to the South Pole, but who got all of his men out alive--to teach Harper that success isn't always what's important, sometimes it's more important to learn how to fail successfully. A Kids' Indie Next List Selection "Longo makes Harper a standout character of fire, commitment, and sass." •The Bulletin, Starred Review "A stunning love letter to ballet and San Francisco, Jennifer Longo's (*Six Feet Over It*) quirky sophomore novel, *Up to This Pointe*, is the perfect meld of adorable and heart-wrenching." •Shelf Awareness, Starred Review "One of the most breathtaking explorations of navigating heartbreak that I've ever read. This is one for the ages." •Martha Brockenbrough, author of *The Game of Love and Death* "Longo's book brings the reader intimately into Harper's heartbreak and healing in a way that will speak to readers of all ages." •Anna Eklund, University Book Store, Seattle, WA "Incisively written. Longo makes it easy to commiserate with Harper as she tries to move past disappointment and envision a new path forward." •Publishers Weekly "A moving love letter to dance, dreams, and San Francisco." •Kirkus Reviews "Harper is a well-developed, relatable character. Her inner monologue is witty and dominates most of the novel, giving a unique perspective. . . . A recommended read for determined teens with an interest in following and exploring their dreams." •School Library Journal "Harper's temporary Antarctic life is evoked with as much vivid, fascinating detail as her 'second home,' the ballet studio. . . . An affecting, memorable examination of disappointment and loss." •The Horn Book Review "Longo's fabulous depiction of McMurdo and the winter residents captures the beauty, humor, and danger of such an isolated existence. An adventure story with lots of heart." •Booklist

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: HL650L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 368 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers (January 19, 2016)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-0553537673

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #441,385 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Dance #263 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance #573 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up  Harper Scott had one plan, a plan devised in sixth grade to live the life of a ballerina with her best friend, Kate. She dedicated her life to ballet, yet after her plan defaults and Kate is offered her dream, Harper, a descendant of Antarctic explorer Robert Falcon Scott, follows in her ancestor's footsteps and ventures to the Antarctic to heal and figure out where her future lies. With alternating narratives set in her hometown of San Francisco and Antarctica, Harper's clear voice will resonate with teens struggling to obtain their dreams while being comfortable with their abilities, even if their initial plans go south. Harper is a well-developed, relatable character. Her inner monologue is witty and dominates most of the novel, giving a unique perspective on how her relationships with secondary characters, as well as apparitions of Antarctic explorers, influence her decision-making. Relationships with a possible love interest, Owen, and new and old friends are well crafted. VERDICT A recommended read for determined teens with an interest in following and exploring their dreams.  Briana Moore, School Library Journal

"Six months in an isolated Antarctic research station give Harper, a recent high school graduate, time to reflect and heal after the painful end of her ballet aspirations. Withdrawn Harper Scott arrives

at the McMurdo station, having pulled strings because of her family relationship to the famous Antarctic explorer Robert Falcon Scott. Her tale of loss slowly unfolds through flashback chapters describing her life back home in San Francisco...A moving love letter to dance, dreams, and San Francisco, and a look at how embracing personal passion leads to fulfillment (even if it wasn't part of the plan)." - KIRKUS A REVIEWS A "Harper and her best friend Kate have dreamed of becoming professional ballerinas in the San Francisco Ballet ever since they were small, but after their plans go awry, Harper finagles her way into a six-month stint in Antarctica. Harper is a member of the Scott family (as in explorer Robert Falcon Scott), which makes her Antarctic "royalty," and she'll be one of three students sent to "The Ice" via a National Science Foundation grant...Harper's passion for dance, jealousy over Kate's success, and heartache when she realizes her own dancing dreams may not come to be are incisively written. A "Your love is evident," her instructor tells her. "But, darling, sometimes ballet does not love us back." Longo (Six Feet Over It) makes it easy to commiserate with Harper as she tries to move past disappointment and envision a new path forward."- PUBLISHERS WEEKLYA A stunning love letter to ballet and San Francisco, Jennifer Longo's (Six Feet Over It) quirky sophomore novel, Up to This Pointe, is the perfect meld of adorable and heart-wrenching. A A Shelf Awareness starred reviewA A "The book isA A savvy and detailed about the Antarctic and life on the ice, with McMurdoA A 's combination of industrial site and summer camp vividly conveyedA A| Fans of McCaugheanA A 's The White Darkness will definitely want a look; even determinedly frost-free readers, though, will sympathize with HarperA A 's upheaval at failing to become one of the chosen few.A A A A BulletinA A starred review A A A A moving love letter to dance, dreams, and San Francisco, and a look at how embracing personal passion leads to fulfillment (even if it wasn't part of the plan).A A A Kirkus Reviews A A A A "An adventure story with lots of heart.A A A Booklist A A A A "Longo (Six Feet Over It) makes it easy to commiserate with Harper as she tries to move past disappointment and envision a new path forward.A A A A Publishers Weekly

For anyone of any age who's had to make new plans. For anyone who's had to face uncomfortable truths about themselves. For anyone who's needed to know that they're not alone. This is a wonderful story--unique settings (well, Antarctica's unique; San Francisco not so much) that live in glorious detail and reality; realistic characters who live and breathe on the page; and a fine eye and ear for emotions and relationships. I love stories that can take you on a journey without contrivance

and without evil characters. Everyone in this tale is essentially a good person, but even those who aren't 100% on our heroine's side have honor and responsibility (maybe one guy isn't quite a happy camper, but he's relatively harmless). Harper's joys and pains are our joys and pains, and it's worth getting to know her as she grows over the course of her six-month journey. I highly recommend this and, if you haven't done so already, read *Six Feet Over It!*

An idealist meets reality, she gets knocked down, and what happens next is worthy of a YA read. Longo explores a teen protagonist who must reboot her goals when what she expected to do with her life doesn't match a hard reality. It is not always common that we read a book where the protagonist comes from such a supportive family who stands back and allows the young person to mature. Background to the characters is a sweet love letter to San Francisco and the late LucasArts.

*Up to The Pointe* is a well written book by Jennifer Longo... She is a new writer and her development of her characters is remarkable... This book will take you through a young girl's life. Ballet is a very important part of her life. As she is trying to figure it all out, her story takes the reader to the Antarctic... A very intriguing story... I highly recommend this book. I didn't want the story to end...

great story and writing, perfect for a teenage dancer.

I really enjoyed the mixture of science dance and romance in this book. It was very smartly written. It was enjoyable from the beginning to the end and I didn't want to stop reading. I recommend this book to people who enjoy young adult fiction, romance, and dance.

This is a young adult novel for ages 12 and up, as clearly states. Ballet, Antarctica, San Francisco and young adult romantic situations are explored with a lot of snow and glitter and penguins.

A great book that is impossible to put down! If you want to stay up too late reading, here's your book.

I received a free review copy of this book through Netgalley. Harper is passionate about ballet. She's always worked hard in class, and even teaches children in order to afford dance herself. She and her best friend Kate have a plan, and Harper will do anything to see it out

and become a professional ballerina. When The Plan begins to change, Harper convinces her mother to help her get to Antarctica. Robert Falcon Scott-an explorer who Harper is related to-died while trying to reach the South Pole, but Harper knows that if she can make it there, she can do anything. I had a strangely difficult time getting started reading this, which feels surprising looking back. I put it on hold after one chapter, then after three chapters and then I read the rest all in one sitting. Once I got into the story, I couldn't put it down. This book was so unique, especially in setting. The chapters alternated between present day in Antarctica, and the past in San Francisco. The Antarctica chapters turned this into the perfect winter read, especially as the writing was so descriptive. I felt the cold (and the heartbreak!) right along with Harper. A huge reason for this was Harper's voice. Her inner monologue made me laugh a number of times, and had me near tears at others. Her thoughts felt true and real, and made her so easy to relate to. Harper was also just an awesome character overall. I felt so much for her. She was so sad throughout the book, but also strong, and I definitely admired that about her. And her ambition was incredible as well-first she took on ballet, then Antarctica! One of my favorite aspects of the book was that I ended up falling in love with so many aspects of Harper's life, even those that weren't shown that much on the page. Many things were subtle-the family, the friendship, the romance-yet by the end, they felt like huge parts of the book. Overall I really loved this one, and can definitely see myself rereading it in the future. It was an easy five stars for me, with its emotional plot, a vivid, unique setting, and fantastic main character.

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