

*Dog Driven* by Terry Lynn Johnson

*Dog Driven* takes you into a world of dogsledding. An opportunity has just been introduced. People can have their mail travel along a historical mail route with racing dogsledders, and afterward distributed to recipients. McKenna Barney is a dogsledder, and her younger sister, Emma, has Stargardt disease, which causes partial blindness in varying degrees. Not much attention is paid to Stargardt. McKenna has recently begun to develop Stargardt disease as well, unbeknownst to her family. Emma asks McKenna to enter the race, and carry a letter to a research foundation, asking them to pay more attention to Stargardt. McKenna is hesitant, but is soon persuaded. Soon we're off to the race, while McKenna struggles with her Stargardt, and who to trust with her secret. Will her Stargardt endanger her, her dogs, and her friends? Or will she rise to the challenge, stronger than ever?

*Dog Driven* is a fantastic read for fans of realistic fiction. The book is mostly a mishmash of adventure and emotion, and has a good amount of both. While it doesn't have many action sequences, per say, it does have intense moments when McKenna is dog sledding. For example, she is attacked by owls, caught in a heavy windstorm, and makes treacherous crossings over ice. The book also has emotional scenes. For example, it shows McKenna's love for her dogs, her sister, and family. It also gets into the heart of her complex relationship with her parents. Character development and trust are both major themes. Overall, the book is more emotion than action, and is a wonderful read for anyone who likes uplifting stories.

Review by Aditi Gopalakrishnan