



At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel

By Jamie O'Neill

Download now

Read Online ➔

At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel By Jamie O'Neill

Praised as “a work of wild, vaulting ambition and achievement” by *Entertainment Weekly*, Jamie O’Neill’s first novel invites comparison to such literary greats as James Joyce, Samuel Beckett and Charles Dickens.

Set during the year preceding the Easter Uprising of 1916—Ireland’s brave but fractured revolt against British rule—*At Swim, Two Boys* is a tender, tragic love story and a brilliant depiction of people caught in the tide of history. Powerful and artful, and ten years in the writing, it is a masterwork from Jamie O’Neill.

Jim Mack is a naïve young scholar and the son of a foolish, aspiring shopkeeper. Doyler Doyle is the rough-diamond son—revolutionary and blasphemous—of Mr. Mack’s old army pal. Out at the Forty Foot, that great jut of rock where gentlemen bathe in the nude, the two boys make a pact: Doyler will teach Jim to swim, and in a year, on Easter of 1916, they will swim to the distant beacon of Muglins Rock and claim that island for themselves. All the while Mr. Mack, who has grand plans for a corner shop empire, remains unaware of the depth of the boys’ burgeoning friendship and of the changing landscape of a nation.

↓ [Download At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel ...pdf](#)

At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel

By Jamie O'Neill

At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel By Jamie O'Neill

Praised as “a work of wild, vaulting ambition and achievement” by *Entertainment Weekly*, Jamie O’Neill’s first novel invites comparison to such literary greats as James Joyce, Samuel Beckett and Charles Dickens.

Set during the year preceding the Easter Uprising of 1916—Ireland’s brave but fractured revolt against British rule—*At Swim, Two Boys* is a tender, tragic love story and a brilliant depiction of people caught in the tide of history. Powerful and artful, and ten years in the writing, it is a masterwork from Jamie O’Neill.

Jim Mack is a naïve young scholar and the son of a foolish, aspiring shopkeeper. Doyler Doyle is the rough-diamond son—revolutionary and blasphemous—of Mr. Mack’s old army pal. Out at the Forty Foot, that great jut of rock where gentlemen bathe in the nude, the two boys make a pact: Doyler will teach Jim to swim, and in a year, on Easter of 1916, they will swim to the distant beacon of Muglins Rock and claim that island for themselves. All the while Mr. Mack, who has grand plans for a corner shop empire, remains unaware of the depth of the boys’ burgeoning friendship and of the changing landscape of a nation.

At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel By Jamie O'Neill Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #281255 in Books
- Brand: O'Neill, Jamie
- Published on: 2003-03-04
- Released on: 2003-03-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x 1.30" w x 5.25" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 576 pages

 [Download At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

You may have read the hype. Irishman Jamie O'Neill was working as a London hospital porter when his 10-year labor of love, the 200,000-word manuscript of *At Swim, Two Boys*, written on a laptop during quiet patches at work, was suddenly snapped up for a hefty six-figure advance. For once, the book fully deserves the hype.

In the spring of 1915, Jim Mack and "the Doyler," two Dublin boys, make a pact to swim to an island in Dublin Bay the following Easter. By the time they do, Dublin has been consumed by the Easter Uprising, and the boys' friendship has blossomed into love--a love that will in time be overtaken by tragedy. O'Neill's prose, playing merrily with vocabulary, syntax, and idiom, has unsurprisingly drawn comparisons to James Joyce and Samuel Beckett, but in his creation of comic characters (such as Jim's pathetic but irrepressible father) and in the sheer scale of his work, Charles Dickens springs to mind first. But Dickens never wrote a love story between young men as achingly beautiful as this.

In the character of Anthony MacMurrough, who is haunted by voices as he pursues his illegal and dangerous desire for Dublin boys, O'Neill has created a complex and fascinating center to his novel, rescuing the love story from mawkishness, and allowing a serious meditation on history, politics, and desire. For as Ireland seeks its own future free of British government, so Jim, Doyle, and MacMurrough look back to Sparta to find a way to live. As Dr Scrotes, one of MacMurrough's voices, commands:

Help these boys build a nation of their own. Ransack the histories for clues to their past.
Plunder the literature for words they can speak.

In this massive, enthralling, and brilliant debut, Jamie O'Neill has indeed done just that: provided a nation for what Walt Whitman calls, in O'Neill's epigraph, "the love of comrades." --Alan Stewart, *Amazon.co.uk*

From Library Journal

Published last year in Great Britain, this novel has been compared to works by James Joyce (or Flann O'Brien, whose *At Swim-Two-Birds* the title plays on), but it has more in common with the film *Chariots of Fire* in its painterly depiction of male athleticism and relationships. The sheltered son of a pro-British shopkeeper, 16-year-old Jim develops a doting and eventually homosexual relationship with Doyler, a bright boy from an impoverished family, as the two train for an ambitious swim across Dublin Bay on Easter 1916, a date that happens to coincide with a planned Republican uprising. Both become entangled with McMurrough, scion of wealthy Irish gentry, who is back in Dublin following imprisonment in England for indecent behavior. Jim is too naïve and Doyler too politically sophisticated for their years, while McMurrough is typecast as an Oscar Wilde figure. Still, these are rich characterizations, and together with the playfully rendered Irish dialect they outweigh the book's imperfections. O'Neill also offers gorgeous descriptions of the Dublin environs and remarkable details of the period. Recommended for most fiction collections. Reba Leiding, James Madison Univ. Lib., Harrisonburg, VA
Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review This powerful debut novel, which took Irishman O'Neill 10 years to write, has a truly exhilarating style as the author rhythmically bends language that is, at times, of his own making. It is the story of two boys--scholarly, reticent James and cocksure, poverty-stricken Doyle--and their tragic

involvement in the 1916 Easter Uprising. Despite the novel's broad canvas--it tackles class, religion, and patriotism--at heart it is a deeply moving love story. James and Doyle strike up a friendship at Forty Foot, a local beach, and make plans to swim to Muglins Rock far out in Dublin Bay on Easter Sunday a year hence. As the two draw closer and eventually fall in love, they must contend with disapproval of their relationship from peers and from the church and the jealousy of upper-class Anthony MacMurrough, who has served time in jail for sexual misconduct. James plans to attend college on scholarship and become a schoolteacher, but Doyle, bitter over his own lost chances, is hell-bent on revolution. Over the many pages of his novel, O'Neill creates a stunningly vivid world ("a strange land of rainshine and sunpour") in a language all his own. (See the Read-alikes column, opposite page, for other examples of high Irish style.) *Joanne Wilkinson*
Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Katherine Lee:

This At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is definitely information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This specific At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel without we know teach the one who reading through it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't always be worry At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel can bring any time you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even cell phone. This At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel having fine arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Jennifer Walker:

This At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel tend to be reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The main reason of this At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel can be one of the great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple looking at food but feed a person with information that might be will shock your before knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it almost everywhere and whenever your conditions both in e-book and printed kinds. Beside that this At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel giving you an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you trial run of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day pastime. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

Evita Young:

The reason why? Because this At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book include such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were being you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Timothy Grill:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray a person, why because this At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel book written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written within good manner for you, dripping every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still question At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel as good book not just by the cover but also by the content. This is one guide that can break don't determine book by its protect, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Download and Read Online At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel By Jamie O'Neill #T4EI3LX9NQK

Read At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel By Jamie O'Neill for online ebook

At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel By Jamie O'Neill Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel By Jamie O'Neill books to read online.

Online At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel By Jamie O'Neill ebook PDF download

At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel By Jamie O'Neill Doc

At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel By Jamie O'Neill Mobipocket

At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel By Jamie O'Neill EPub

T4EI3LX9NQK: At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel By Jamie O'Neill