



## **Firefly** **A Middle Grade Novel by Philippa Dowding**

ISBN 9781770865983

Price: \$13.95

Ages: 9+

Rights available: World ex-Canada and US; Audio;

**Winner, 2021 Governor General's Literary Award for Young People's Literature - Text**  
**Winner, 2022 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award**  
**Nominated, 2022 Forest of Reading - Red Maple Award**  
**Nominated, 2023 MYRCA Northern Lights Award**  
**Nominated, 2023 Rocky Mountain Book Award**

If you lived in a shop with seven million costumes, what would you choose? Firefly lived in the park across from her mother's home. It was safer there. But after the bad night happens, and her baseball-bat-wielding mother is taken away, social services sends Firefly to live with her Aunt Gayle. She hardly knows Gayle, but discovers that she owns a costume shop.

Yes, Firefly might be suffering from PTSD, but she can get used to taking baths, sleeping on a bed again, and wearing as many costumes as she can to school.

But where is "home"? What is "family"? Who is Firefly, for that matter ... and which costume is the real one?

### **Reviews**

"With poetic prose, a memorable character and evocative settings, Philippa Dowding deftly handles challenging subjects in this emotionally honest story. Supported by a unique cast of characters, *Firefly* will shine for readers and resonate long after they close this quietly powerful book." — *Governor General's Literary Award Peer Assessment Committee*

"Philippa Dowding is better known for her speculative fiction like *Oculum* ... but I think her first foray into realistic fiction has demonstrated that she has important messages to share and she doesn't need to dress them up in the fantastical. Reality can be just as powerful and colourful, even if stitched with anguish." — Helen Kubiw, *CanLit for Little Canadians*

### **The Author**

Philippa Dowding's previous children's books have been nominated for numerous literary awards in Canada, the U.S., and Europe, including the SYRCA Diamond Willow, OLA Silver Birch, OLA Red Maple, and Hackmatack awards. Her novel *Oculum* was a finalist for the 2019 SYRCA Diamond Willow Award, was nominated for the 2020 Forest of Reading Silver Birch (Fiction) Award, and is currently being adapted into a television series. The sequel, *Oculum Echo*, will be published in Fall 2022.



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