

The Mermaid's Sister

By Carrie Anne Noble

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Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award Winner for Young Adult Fiction, 2014

Realm Award Winner for Best Speculative Fiction of the Year, 2016

There is no cure for being who you really are...

In a cottage high atop Llanfair Mountain, sixteen-year-old Clara lives with her sister, Maren, and guardian Auntie. By day, they gather herbs for Auntie’s healing potions; by night, Auntie spins tales of faraway lands and wicked fairies. Clara’s favorite story tells of three orphaned infants—Clara, who was brought to Auntie by a stork; Maren, who arrived in a seashell; and their best friend, O’Neill, who was found beneath an apple tree.

One day, Clara discovers iridescent scales just beneath her sister’s skin: Maren is becoming a mermaid and must be taken to the sea or she will die. So Clara, O’Neill, and the mermaid-girl set out for the shore. But the trio encounters trouble around every bend. Ensnared by an evil troupe of traveling performers, Clara and O’Neill must find a way to save themselves and the ever-weakening Maren.

And always in the back of her mind, Clara wonders, *if my sister is a mermaid, then what am I?*

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The Mermaid's Sister By Carrie Anne Noble Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Set in 1870 on and around Llanfair Mountain, Pennsylvania, this delightful fantasy novel introduces the reader to Clara and Maren, sisters adopted around the same time by a woman (“Auntie”) known throughout the village for her cures. Maren came to Auntie in a conch shell, while Clara arrived via stork. Now, at sixteen, Maren is slowly turning into a mermaid, her fingers webbing and scales appearing on her sides. Clara wants Auntie to cure Maren, but that is not an option. Auntie responds, “There is no cure for being who you truly are.” As time passes, Maren’s body transforms more rapidly; it becomes obvious that it is time for Maren to be taken to the sea or she will die. Clara and a very close family friend, O’Neill, who also happens to be the object of desire of both sisters, decide to take Maren themselves. The story follows their adventure to the sea and the unexpected perils they face on the journey as their caravan burns down and they are “rescued” and then held captive by a group of traveling performers. This novel is widely appealing: there are elements of fantasy, romance, and adventure throughout. The book is a page-turner; the story pulls the reader in and the dynamic characters and plot twists keep interest levels high. The author’s writing style is very descriptive, helping the reader truly visualize the sights, sounds, tastes, and adventures of the characters. A must read.

From School Library Journal
Gr 8 Up—This lovely, lyrical fantasy takes place in a mythical Pennsylvania mountain setting and tells the story of three foundlings—Clara, Maren, and O'Neill. Clara was delivered to Auntie by a stork, Maren was found in a seashell, and O'Neill was placed beneath an apple tree. Clara and Maren have grown up as sisters with wise woman Auntie as their guardian, while the young man O'Neill is raised by Scarff the traveling peddler. When Clara notices that Maren is developing scales and needs to spend more and more time in water, she realizes that her friend is turning into a mermaid and that no potion or magic will halt the change. Because the only way to save Maren is to return her to her father, the Sea King, Clara and O'Neill place Maren in a tub of salt water in the peddler's wagon and journey toward the ocean. However, they are waylaid by members of a traveling show who enslave them and put Maren on display in a freak show. Clara must overcome her inner doubts about who she really is in order to save Maren, O'Neill, and herself from the wicked traveling players. Like all good fairy tales, this one touches on deeper themes of sibling rivalry, jealousy, insecurity, and questions of identity. Osbert the rambunctious wyvern is a particularly well-done character. VERDICT Noble's treatment of the mermaid theme is fresh and original, and even her minor characters are beautifully depicted.—Kathleen E. Gruver, Burlington County Library, Westampton, NJ

From Booklist
“Wishing gets you nothing,” starts off this classically told fairy tale, warning readers straight away that this fantasy isn’t one with a happy ending. Clara’s Auntie, something of a village wise woman, takes in odd and fantastic creatures: a wyvern, mysterious orphan girls, and Clara’s sister Maren, who is slowly but surely turning into a mermaid. Mermaids, however, can’t live on land, and as Clara and her best friend O’Neill set out to take Maren to a new home in the sea, Clara wonders and wishes to know what she is and what she’ll be without her sister by her side. This is as much of a mystery as the quiet romance between Clara and O’Neill, and it takes up much of the meandering of the story as their journey goes on. Adventure finds them when a traveling show kidnaps them all, and Clara must break out of her introspective shell in order to escape. Though the old-fashioned language might strike readers as a bit stilted, it works well to set the magical tone.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anna Yates:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for all of us. The book The Mermaid's Sister ended up being making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The book The Mermaid's Sister is not only giving you far more new information but also for being your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship using the book The Mermaid's Sister. You never feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Virginia Mack:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a reserve your ability to survive raise then having chance to endure than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading a new book, we give you this kind of The Mermaid's Sister book as beginner and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Ida Vanwormer:

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James Goldman:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always try and and must have the spare time or they will get lot of stress from both way of life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, typically the book you have read will be The Mermaid's Sister.

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