



Mermaids and Other Mysteries of the Deep

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The sea is full of mysteries and rivers shelter the unknown. Dating back to ancient Assyria, folkloric tales of mermaids, sirens, rusalka, nymphs, selkes, and other seafolk are found in many cultures, including those of Europe, Africa, the Near East and Asia. Dangerous or benevolent, seductive or sinister - modern masters of fantasy continue to create new legends of these creatures that enchant and entertain us more than ever. Gathered here are some of the finest of these stories. Immerse yourself in this wonderful - and sometimes wicked - watery world!

Mermaids and Other Mysteries of the Deep Details

Date : Published May 26th 2015 by Prime Books (first published April 19th 2015)

ISBN : 9781607014515

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Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Short Stories, Anthologies, Fiction, Science Fiction

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From Reader Review Mermaids and Other Mysteries of the Deep for online ebook

Laura Henson says

Paula Guran's name on a cover always catches my attention as I was a subscriber to her horror newsletter many, many years ago. The collection she edits here is eclectic and wide-ranging giving us visions of Mermaids both traditional and futuristic, although it does lean more to the darker side than some readers might be comfortable with. Still the stories invoke thought and can lead to an examination of both our relationship with nature, the unknown, and ourselves.

Babsidi says

As a fan of mermaids and other water-dwelling spirits, I found this collection delightful. Stories ranged from horror through fairy tale retellings, and hit interesting beats in between. The shorts were pleasantly diverse in terms of romance and gender, even offering a nice gender-fluid piece, and after a time it became a game to spot the mythical creature before the story explicitly introduced them.

Highlights include the body-modded submarine mermaid brigade, the eerie atmosphere of the selkie island, the aspiring singer and her dark mermaid tryst, and the wealthy Victorian scientist studying the merman her men found on the shore.

Rebecca says

A number of the stories in this collection are stellar. The only real problem is that it turns out there aren't actually that many mermaid stories to be told--while almost all of these would come off as thoughtful and creative in a less homogeneous context, when read back-to-back, the archetypes get a little threadbare.

A. Hunt says

So normally, I am not into a book of short stories. Why when I love Stephen King stories so much? Because I've come to love the full-length tales more- but with this book- I was not disappointed. There's nothing more terrifying than the things that may or may not lurk beneath the glassy surface of our oceans.

Picture

In Mermaids and Other Mysteries of the Deep, put together by editor, Paula Guran, popular authors like Neil Gaiman, Elizabeth Bear, Caitlin R. Kieran and so many more put together stories of sirens, nymphs, and various sea people. From shy to seductive; from benevolent to beastly- all holding tight to the tales that make Disney's Little Mermaid look like a walk in the park. No, my friends, these are more like the mer-folk of The Pirates of the Caribbean movie! So before I give a few reviews, I first have to mention this book cover.

I fell in love with this book cover the moment it popped up on my computer screen! I had to have it. Look at her eyes- doesn't she look real!? Mystical? Magical? This is what book covers are all about! I'd have been happy with this book on my shelf even without reading it, but then I'd lose the true treasures that make this

so great.

Her skin textures, her plica semilunaris (the pink corners of her eyes)- all of it screams to me. What do you think? Am I just crazy or is this book cover not amazing? You know it is- just say so!

To read the rest of this review, <http://tinyurl.com/pgkvwlk>

*Book provided by Paula Guran, for an honest review.

Bookgirlr says

I'm not really a fan of short stories. I generally enjoy a longer, more in depth story. Which is why I usually stick to novels. However this collection is about mermaids, and that fascinates me; and it has stories by a lot of well known (and many of my favorite) authors.

My favorites were: "Swell", "Miss Carstairs and the Merman"; "Each to Each"; "Salt Wine"; and "Forever, Miss Tapekwa County". However, there weren't any of the stories that I disliked. The writing is all very well done, and all of the stories are unique. I recommend Mermaids and Other Mysteries of the Deep for fans of mermaids, fantasy, science fiction and other speculative fiction; even if you normally shy away from short stories, like me.

Visit my blog for more in depth reviews, recommendations and more:

<http://www.bookgirlsbooknookblog.blog...>

Brent Soderstrum says

I won this book through GoodReads First Read program.

I would have loved to put a stringer through the mermaids gills and secured them to the bank while I looked for something better.

Not a big fan of short stories to begin with. If they were really good stories the author would convert them to a book. Also not a big fantasy fiction fan. Nevertheless, I thought I would give it a try. I read a story...didn't enjoy. Thought to myself, "That is the good thing about short stories is that the next one will probably be a lot better." Nope. I kept going with this for over 170 pages till I had just had enough. Now those last stories were probably awesome but life is too short and there are too many great books out there to read.

Greymalkin says

Overall an excellent anthology. A few clunkers but those were more than balanced by generally good stories and a few that had some really interesting twists on mermaids and ties to aquatic creatures. Some of the images were deeply disturbing and creepy.

Amanda Peterson says

Interesting collection of short stories, some more captivating than others, like Neil Gaiman for example. Not a bad way to pass the time and might look into Paula Guran's short story catalogue.

Marina Woollven says

Read this exclusively while in the bathtub and I can't imagine any other way to do it. Like any anthology, it's a big mixed bag of 'pretty good' and 'I can't wait until this story is done.' It's at least unique compared to 'other' mermaid fiction you find, takes advantage of the mythology it has and will, at times, subvert the tropes. It's at the least fun and worth a read if someone is so inclined for mermaid stories. I'll admit, I was sad when it was done.

Alicia says

I struggled with this book. Each of the short stories is truly a well-written masterpiece. I enjoyed each of them for their individuality. I'm also a marine biologist and I find that the mystery of mermaids is something I want to believe in. HOWEVER, it took me forever to get through this book despite the great stories. Simply put, it was too dark. I understand that selkies, mermaids, etc. all have some mysterious, dark origins, but they are also tied to many light-hearted romances and children's stories too.

I wish the book had included a mixture of light and dark short stories to break up the monotony. I usually just breeze through books, especially as well written as this was, but I had to keep putting it down for days at a time and switching to novels that were lighter. So read with the expectation of darkness and you will not be disappointed. Make sure you have a spot of sunshine for in between stories or you'll never make it through.

I received this book through Goodreads First Reads, but I was not required to review it.

Jaffa Kintigh says

Another excellent Paula Guran anthology! This time thoroughly exploring the breadth of folklore and mythos surrounding water-based entities: rusalka, selkies, mer, nereids, et al. Whereas vampires often personify passion and sex, and zombies claw at the very definition of humanity, these creatures often personify longing, dysmorphia and gender-dysphoria. Creatures with a foot in two worlds rarely fully sync with both and that discomfit makes for great story telling.

There are a few stories of science fiction in which humans have modified themselves to exploit the oceans, and not without consequence. Three give perspectives on the celtic lore of selkies, the seal people that can strip off their seal skin and appear as human. A couple tales highlight the slavic rusalka, water spirits born of the violence when a young woman purposely drowns herself. Many of the stories are haunting. Not surprisingly, many also contain a heavy queer element due to the dysmorphic nature of mer.

I've reviewed each story contained within. My favorites were:

Delaney, Samuel R.--"Driftglass"--5 stars
Lee, Tanith--"Magritte's Secret Agent"--5 stars
Monette, Sarah--"Somewhere Beneath Those Waves Was Her Home"--5 stars

Bear, Elizabeth--"Swell"--4 stars
Gaiman, Neil--"The Sea Change"--4 stars
Kiernan, Caitlin R.--"The Mermaid of the Concrete Ocean"--4 stars
Slatter, Angela--"A Good Husband"--4 stars
Taborska, Anna--"Rusalka"--4 stars
Valente, Catherynne M.--"Urchins, While Swimming"--4 stars
Wise, A. C.--"Letters to a Body on the Cusp of Drowning"--4 stars

Also included:

Barzak, Christopher--"The Drowned Mermaid"--3 stars
Beagle, Peter S.--"Salt Wine"--3 stars
Downum, Amanda--"Flotsam"--3 stars
Howard, Chris--"The Mermaid Game"--3 stars
Lanagan, Margo--"Sea-Hearts"--3 stars
Rambo, Cat--"The Mermaids Singing Each to Each"--3 stars
Wolfe, Gene--"The Nebraskan and the Nereid"--3 stars
McGuire, Seanan--"Each to Each"--2 stars
Sherman, Delia--"Miss Carstairs and the Merman"--2 stars
Valentine, Genevieve--"Abyssus Abyssum Invocat"--2 stars
Yolen, Jane--"The Corridors of the Sea"--2 stars
Hannett, Lisa L.--"Forever, Miss Tapekwa County"--1 star

I received my copy of the anthology directly from Prime Books. This collection is highly recommended.

Previously, I've reviewed two other Paula Guran anthologies:

After the End: Recent Apocalypses --4 stars

Extreme Zombies --4 stars

Travis says

Picked up in two separate bundles over the year, and you certainly get a lot of bang for your buck. Uneven, as most anthologies are, but several highlights - including a story by Jane Yolen that I read in high school and, despite being haunted by it, forgot the title over the years, so that was a pleasant surprise. Whole heap of female authors too, which is a plus.

Rebekah says

I love it!

Jenna Nov says

All of the stories in this book were well written. The ratings below are mainly based on plot and how interesting I thought they were. As a whole, I liked how the stories came together to create an eerie and mystical mood. But, obviously, some were better than others.

"Swell" ????

"Driftglass" ????

"The Sea Change" ????????

"Miss Carstairs and the Mermaid" ????????

"Sea-Hearts" ????

"The Drowned Mermaid" ????

"Abyssus Abyssum Invocat" ????????

"Each to Each" ??????

"Somewhere Beneath the Waves Was Her Home" ????

"Salt Wine" ??????

"The Mermaid of the Concrete Ocean" ??????

"Flotsam" ????

"The Mermaids Singing Each to Each" ??

"Rusalka" ????

"The Mermaid Game" ??????

"The Nebraskan and the Nereid" ??????

"A Good Husband" ??????

"Letters to a Body on the Cusp of Drowning" ????

"The Corridors of the Sea" ????

"Forever, Ms. Tapekwa County" ??????

"Urchins, While Swimming" ??????

"Magritte's Secret Agent" ????

Heather Romanowski says

This collection keeps you on your toes the whole time. Never knowing what the end will be
