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Waterfire Saga, Book One: Deep Blue: A Mermaids Novel



Synopsis

Deep in the ocean, in a world not so different from our own, live the merpeople. Their communities are spread throughout the oceans, seas, and freshwaters all over the globe. When Serafina, a mermaid of the Mediterranean Sea, awakens on the morning of her betrothal, her biggest worry should be winning the love of handsome Prince Mahdi. And yet Sera finds herself haunted by strange dreams that foretell the return of an ancient evil. Her dark premonitions are confirmed when an assassin's arrow poisons Sera's mother. Now, Serafina must embark on a quest to find the assassin's master and prevent a war between the Mer nations. Led only by her shadowy dreams, Sera searches for five other mermaid heroines who are scattered across the six seas. Together, they will form an unbreakable bond of sisterhood and uncover a conspiracy that threatens their world's very existence.

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Customer Reviews

Purchased for my young daughter to read. We have spent time reading it together as it is quite a bit above grade level for her. As a note, it does have quite a bit of Italian sprinkled throughout. Some

words have been "mermaid-ized" making it a little difficult for my young reader, but I do not count that as a flaw. It has added to the experience. I have already ordered the next few books, including the pre-order.

Okay-actual rating is a 3.5. This was a decent underwater fantasy-adventure that has potential. And yet for all the good it is, there is also some head-spinning vocabulary. Seraphina is the heir the kingdom and her whole life seems set before her before an attack destroys her apparent path. But just before the attack she has a 'dream' of a prophecy she must help with. For she is one of 6 that must save the sea. This book's word choice and creation had me utterly overwhelmed at first. We are given a lot of made up words, terms, names and places. Seriously, every paragraph seemed to have at least 3 new words. This continues throughout the books but is a little less overwhelming thank goodness. But the beginning was so bad I almost DNFed this. Some were just a play on words (like Merlfriend instead of Girlfriend) . And then others are real words in all sorts of languages! We are given Italian, Qin, Arabic, Brazilian slang, Portuguese, Romanian, Greek...It gets worse... we also have several made up languages including Mermish, Dracdemara, Rurus, and more!! You know Scuttle from "Disney's The Little Mermaid" and how he calls a fork a dinglehopper? Well there is A LOT of that type of wording happening and it leaves us guessing what they are talking about. Sometimes I just gave up and went with it like I would a Dr Seuss book where it just isn't meant to make sense. Leaving all that aside, the adventure is quite good. Although I must say the attack on Seraphina's home had me sad. I always put mermaids in a happy place so reading about them dying left a pout on my face. Some of the imagery is pretty like when we hear about Seraphina's room or when they change her look to disguise her. Seraphina is a nice mermaid but very insecure to her role. Neela, her best friend and companion, is a stronger character that I really liked. We get other characters including Blu, Ling and many others. There is betrayal, death and action...a small dash of romance...loyalty and friends...all mixed together is a "Save the World" adventure. I will read the next one. I am curious how it ends but I do warn new readers, be sure to have patience and focus when you start reading this! I received a copy of this book from Disney-Hyperion in exchange for a fair and honest review. All opinions expressed are strictly my own.*

This was a really good book, and I plan on buying the others in the series too (although I think there should be six, one for each girl of the prophecy, instead of only the four that are planned). I really like the fact that they have their own languages, and depending on the region, they also use the

local human languages too. This book is a refreshing change, focusing on friendship instead of romantic entanglements. The book is really well written, descriptive wise, but the plot seems a little slow. I still read it in one sitting, and am hoping for more in the later books. I really enjoy the subtle hints for humanity to stop littering, by telling about the unique ways merpeople use our trash and turning it into interesting things. I also like the magical side of the story, and how Jennifer Donnelly gave the Atlantis storyline an interesting twist.

Book arrived in excellent condition. Someone suggested it as a great series if you love mermaids, and I do! However have had a hard time getting into it. My 1st impression is that this was written for a younger audience. Will try to get into it another time but not in a rush, just didn't grab my interest. We'll see. Ordered second book too, noticed it is promoted by Disney. Would suggest this series for a teenager that loves the idea of mermaids.

My daughter loves mermaids. When she DEEP BLUE by Jennifer Donnelly, she asked me to get it for her. I did. She read it (the first in a series), then wanted the second, ROGUE WAVE. I ordered it. And when I gave it to her, she handed me, DEEP BLUE, and asked, "Don't you want to read this one?" Truth was, I didn't. I am so glad I did. I would have missed out on some amazing story telling. Let me start with complimenting author Jennifer Donnelly. The narrative never broke mermaid narrative, from descriptions, metaphors and similes. Every detail was somehow underwater related, and seemed to have been written effortlessly. I am sure the writing was complicated. That is the mark of a pro (or pro editing team). One example was, that was sore "like a hook through the mouth." In this taut novel, (339 pages, includes 10 pages of necessary glossary words), Donnelly tells an almost clean, YA underwater Game of Thrones-mermaid style tale. It is complicated enough to make writing an engaging review difficult. As the Princepassa (princesses), Serafina tries not to let nightmares get to her. It is a big day. After performing a Songspell in front of all of Miromaran, she will take her betrothal to the next level and become officially engaged to Mahdi. The union of these young mermaids is coordinated to join two kingdoms, creating a unification that will make other kingdoms think twice about ever attacking either one. That is the plan. However, breaking a long-time treaty, the Ondalina launch a surprise and devastatingly deadly attack. Serafina and Mahdi's cousin, Neela, escape the immediate danger of the battle on Serafina's kingdom. Instead, they find themselves engulfed in a dangerous adventure that makes war seem more like ripple from a pebble dropped into a pond. The nightmares might be more of a foreshadowing. Serafina isn't the only mermaid having the dreams. Neela is, too. As are four other mermaids. Order of the lele

(Mermaid witches) is calling to them for help, drawing the six mysteriously together. War is one thing. The lele require six talismans to prevent the monster responsible for the sinking of Atlantis. The talisman's have been scattered across the oceans. No one knows where they are. Not even the lele. Even with the magical objects, the six mermaids working together might not be able to defeat the Abbadon --a beast that has once been defeated and caged in Antarctica. But without the talismans, they know they NEVER will. The action is non-stop. The danger is constant. There is no shortage of tension, or formidable enemies. From dark plot lines, to unexpected turn, after turn, after turn, DEEP BLUE was impressively gripping. I am now urging my daughter to hurry and finish ROGUE WAVE, because I want to read it next! Phillip Tomasso Author of Damn the Dead and Young Blood: The Nightbreed Saga

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