



Home to the Sea

Chester Aaron

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Strange changes begin for twelve-year-old Marian as she starts to understand a secret her mother and her grandmother already know. Why don't they tell her?

And how a couple of years later, can Marian, who has never had a swimming lesson, be known world-wide, wooed by college swim coaches and Sports Illustrated for their cover as a world-class Olympic swimmer?

Why does she hear inhuman voices calling her to the sea? What on earth is happening to her?

In this enchanting story of her transformation from a girl to a myth, readers who love mermaids and the sea and adventure will join Marian going Home to the Sea.

Home to the Sea Details

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Author : Chester Aaron

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From Reader Review Home to the Sea for online ebook

Randi (The Artist Formerly known as Guitar Chick) says

I'll admit that this isn't the best book on mermaids out there. It's clunky, short, and gets a little bit too much into it's message. But it's also sweet and sad and unique. I enjoyed it to a point. It's a guilty pleasure.

When I say too into it's message, I mean shoving it in your face the last half of the book. Aaron worked in a rescue center shortly before writing this book apparently and eventually put out that saving the seals would be more important than the fantastical elements, even reading this book. It was so distracting and I really would've liked to see more fantasy.

Second, the doctor neighbor friend in this book might be a pedobear. No joke, the relationship is almost scary. I know it's definitely not and that this book is just a little older, but it comes off that way.

Third, I don't like the ending all that well. Marian finally goes home to the sea, but it's leading all these animals out of an earthquake disaster zone in Alaska. She doesn't say goodbye to her family which is a bummer on the catharsis (or at least poignant touching moments level, which number maybe one or two in this book).

Fourth, this book dragged a lot around the middle and just became very vague. We know very little about Marion's condition and how she feels and all the elements of magic in the book seem to get lost in the mix. She goes and visits her grandma in Maine and hears and does all these weird things that never fully explained or thought out and it just leaves the reader wondering what happened. Maybe he intends to write a sequel.... Altogether creepy but I still take it off the shelf and read it from time to time. It's like Plan 9 From Outer Space, one of the worst films in history but it kind of sticks with you.

Emory says

Horrible book not understandable to say the least as well as flat characters in a short story with no purpose

Jenny says

Marian is a teenager who has suffered a mysterious illness twice in her life. Suddenly she can swim like an Olympian, even though she has never had a single lesson. Now she feels a mysterious attraction to the ocean, and she can hear voices calling to her. What exactly is she turning into?

Michelle says

Skip it; there's nothing worthwhile in here. Not good enough to be enjoyable, not bad enough to be entertaining. Just blah.

The author is technically decent, nothing special in the prose either way.

There are some weird implications in here. We go beyond "save the animals," a message I can agree with, to "animal life is more important than human life." Seriously. Marian, on her first trip into the ocean, hears some screaming, and the next day she finds out it was people drowning in a sinking ship. Her reaction: Nothing. She doesn't speak, doesn't even think "I heard members of my own species (well, temporarily)

dying." Then a humpback whale gets stuck upriver. "Gasp, we must must must go save it, immediately!" Also, someone else flat-out tells her "I don't want to put human life above animal life." If the author realized what he was doing here, I am very worried. There's also the fact that, going by traditional mythology as Mr. Aaron does regularly, Marian may well be sinking ships herself. That's what mermaids do, and she never even hints at trying to rescue people, only frolicking with the fishes.

Marian is a complete and total Mary Sue. She's at the top of her class, an instant super-swimmer that Sports Illustrated wants to interview--but she's too humble for that, everyone treats her like a saint for saving that Humpback whale, whose gender she instantly knows. But do you know where my suspension of disbelief snapped? Marian understands bridge in seconds. Yes, bridge. What does this have to do with being a mermaid? Nothing. The author just can't bear for Marian to not be perfect at anything she tries.

Then, in that same scene as the insta-bridge, a literal voodoo shark appears. The creature is only there so Marian can save her "overprotective" mother from it, thus getting her permission to be all mermaid-y. Everything else is tepid. The dialogue is bland, the plot is predictable, the characters are placeholders, and the execution of the premise is repetitive. You are missing nothing by reading this book that you could have guessed by reading the back cover.

Elizabeth says

This story about a girl named Marian who is slowly turning into a mermaid is rather unsettling, if not downright creepy.

- Marian's male doctor, Dr. Longacre often tells her how much he loves her, kisses her, and jokes about adopting her, sometimes right in front of her parents.
- The books takes place over six years, and the childish way Marian and her best friend Kathy talk when they're 12 is the same way they talk when they turn 18 later in the book
- Animal life takes priority over human life
- Marian doesn't seem to care about all the pain and illness she is subjected to, and the knowledge that she will eventually have to leave her family doesn't phase her

In the end Marian doesn't get to say goodbye to her family, and instead ends up forgetting the human language, her own name, and her life on land. She happily snuggles in the sea with some sea lions while her family is left grieving. Overall just... really weird. Didn't leave me with a good feeling at all.
