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Krystalyn Drown

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When sixteen-year-old Aileen Shay sees a dead girl floating in the bay during a midnight yacht party, she never imagines Jamie Flannigan, her new boyfriend, may be involved. The only thing she knows about Jamie is that he personifies the one thing she has been drawn to her entire life – the ocean. But as she grows closer to him, she realizes he knows more about the murder than he's telling. When another girl is attacked, and Jamie refuses to answer her questions, Aileen searches for answers on her own.

Aileen learns that Jamie's family belongs more to myths and legends than they do in the real world. They are selkies, and after the Flannigans threaten her family, Aileen suspects they are responsible for both attacks.

But they aren't the only ones in her small fishing town who can keep a secret. As Aileen uncovers the truth about the murder, the selkies, and her own family, she learns why her soul is bonded to the sea. But with that revelation comes a choice – to permanently sever her connection with the water, which comes at a painful cost, or embrace a legacy that just might get her killed.

Legasea Details

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From Reader Review Legasea for online ebook

Leah says

‘A sea of troubles...’

Who is the young girl whose body is found floating in the bay? Why have the Flannigan family returned to the neighbourhood? And why is 16-year-old Aileen’s mother so determined to stop Aileen from learning to swim?

YA fantasy is not my normal reading material for so many reasons. For a start it was way back in the last millennium that I could last honestly call myself a YA. But it’s fun to read something a bit different sometimes, especially when it’s as enjoyable as this book.

Aileen has always been drawn to the sea but after a childhood accident when she was nearly lost, her mother has been dead against her swimming or even going on a boat. Since they live on the shore, this is a pretty big deprivation for Aileen and she’s finding it hard to obey her mother’s strict rules. But when she sneaks off to a party on a yacht, she is horrified when they find the body of a young girl floating in the bay. Suspicion falls on several people in the small town, not least on Aileen’s own family and the families of both her ex-boyfriend, Ian, and her new one, Jamie. And Aileen is soon to learn a secret that her mother has kept from her all these years – a secret that finally explains her fascination with the ocean and the seals that live closeby...

Drown writes very well and Aileen is a believable, likeable sixteen-year-old, dealing with the normal things like school and family but also having to face up to the fact that she’s very different from her friends. With the arrival of the mysterious Jamie, Aileen is thrown into all the turmoil of first love and I thought Drown handled the romance aspect very well. Although this is a fairly light read with a lot of fun elements, it also has some dark episodes and on the whole this contrast worked well, although there was one incident which I felt was so dark that it was slightly out of tune with the rest of the novel. Overall, I found this an entertaining, light read, well written, with good characterisation and a nice blend of reality and fantasy. Recommended.

NB This book was provided for review by the publisher.

Jennifer says

Loved the book.

The choices a teen must choose between being a teen or following her mothers rules. Rules she does not even understand or makes sense to her. When she does follow what she wants and decides to forgo her mothers rules not only does she get caught but a dead body is mixed in with it. There are so many twists and turns that this book leaves you on the edge of your seat.

I hope there is a sequel to it because I cannot wait to see what happens with Aileen and the choice she'll have to make between Luke and Jamie. I am a little upset the grandma died so soon but it is what it is. It kept me wanting to read further to figure out who did what. Overall great book and cannot wait for the next one.

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Chelsea Rafferty, Courtney Young and Curiosity Quills Press.)

Jessa Russo says

I had the awesome chance to proofread this book, and let me just say that I loved it! (Disclaimer: I proofread many books for Curiosity Quills, but I only rate/review the ones I thoroughly enjoyed. So if I have rated it a 4 or a 5, you can rest assured that I truly did enjoy the book.)

I've never read anything about Selkies, so I don't know how much this book varies from others like it, but I loved the story and the characters Krystalyn Drown created, and I would definitely recommend LEGASEA.

Lottie Eve says

I find it hard to write this review of Legasea. I believe that Legasea is a beautifully written and unique debut that deserves to be read by many. There are so many things that Legasea excels in, but there was one thing that kept the book from being the best it could be.

One of the things that make Legasea so unique is the chosen mythology for the story. Drown chose to write about a very underrated legend: the Selkies. Creatures that live as seals, swimming in the ocean, but when they shed their skin they become human. Such an interesting concept but not many authors use it. But Drowning chose to write about the Selkies and she writes then amazingly well. The beauty and mystery that I always thought the Selkies had was in Drown's Selkies also. That made me very, very happy.

Aileen is a character that is easy to connect to. She is a girl that has to deal with the troubles of everyday life as well as trying to come to terms with the fact that she is different than most people. She is a smart, determined girl that makes good choices for herself most of the time, but there are the times when she doesn't do what her heart tells her to do and makes poor choices because of that. She felt real to me. Her narration felt real, comfortable which only made her feel more real.

The side characters were also written fairly well. The most remarkable group being Aileen's family and Jamie. I found Aileen's family to be very easy to understand and their struggles truly bothered me as if I was experiencing those struggles myself. Jamie is one of those "mysterious" love interest but he was also very sweet even though he is a bit misled sometimes.

Drown's prose is nothing short of excellent. It felt sincere to me, as if the words just came out naturally on the paper. The writing captures the quiet beauty of the ocean and the landscapes around it wonderfully well. Some passages, like the one below, even felt lyrical to me.

"Off in the distance, the black outlines of dozens of rock islands dotted the bay, like shadow puppets posing in front of the star-filled sky."(Pulled from an advance copy.)

The mystery is a great mystery. There are a lot suspects to choose from and many, many twist. I never knew where many of the characters stood. It kept me guessing and on my toes. The big reveal was done very well and it made my mouth drop!

Unfortunately, despite all the good things Legasea has within itself there is one thing that bothered me: some of the smaller events that took place in the book felt awkward when fitted with the main events. But that's just me. Some people may find nothing wrong with this events. In fact, they might even find those events fitting. I just didn't.

Legasea is a book that is a breath of fresh air. Filled with originality and mystery, this book will not be forgotten by me. I will keep this story with Selkies in my mind. I hope you decide to invite this story into your mind also

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Curiosity Quills Press and Netgalley.)

16-year-old Aileen is not allowed in the sea, or even in a boat without parental supervision. Ever since she went overboard during a storm when she was 3 years old, her mother has been totally mental about Aileen's safety around water, to the point where she would not even allow Aileen to learn to swim.

Breaking her mother's rules for the first time, Aileen goes out on a boat with friends, only to have the evening ruined when a dead body is discovered.

Nobody knows who the dead girl is, apart from Jamie, a boy new to town who claims the girl was his cousin. There is something a little off about Jamie and his family though, and Aileen can't help but think of the old Selki tales that the man who works in her father's shop tells her.

Aileen has more than Jamie and his family to worry about though, with a man in town who is determined to buy every shop in the high street and build a supermarket, including Aileen's father's bait shop. Who killed the dead girl? What is Jamie hiding? Can Aileen save her father's shop? And are Selkis real?

I enjoyed this book, it was an interesting insight in Selki folk-tales and history, and the mystery element was well done.

I really felt for Aileen, her mother was so rigid with her rules, and so over-protective of Aileen, and it seemed ridiculous that she wouldn't want to teach her daughter how to swim when she had the ocean in her back-yard! I thought it was really bad how Aileen had basically been lied to all her life about the Selkis, and the reasons she wasn't allowed to go into the sea. I was really glad that she had her grandmother there to support her, although her grandmother's help was minimal really.

I liked the romance between Aileen and Jamie, and I thought that Aileen deserved to have someone like Jamie in her life, even if only for a short time.

I thought that the Selki storyline was well done. I haven't read any stories exclusively about Selkis before, and I liked how the author had obviously gone to the trouble of finding out about Selki folk-law and had included it as part of the story, without it being an info-dump.

I liked how finding out who the Selkis were wasn't the only mystery to be solved, and I thought the other storylines of the dead girl, the man who was trying to buy Aileen's father's shop, and the appearance of Jamie's family in town were all interwoven nicely.

I thought that the ending of the story was done well, and I liked that although things didn't turn out quite the way that Aileen wanted, but there was still a satisfactory conclusion to the story.

Overall; a good YA Selki story.

7 out of 10.

Kristina Lenarczyk says

This was an interesting read, but still also managed to be predictable and cliché. I have never read a story that surrounded selkies, and was quite intrigued by the idea. I enjoyed the characters enough, but found a stronger connection to side-characters than the love interest. It was not a novel that was unique in its storyline, but it was a smooth writing style that led to a quick read.

Heather Langston says

Another awesome YA read that I'll be putting in my "keep" pile! Legasea was another read that I did not want to put down. So different. When I first read it was centered around selkies, I thought it'd be a nice change. I was right! It's a clean romance with a little who-did-it mystery to keep one enthralled. Will definitely be keeping my eye on this author and wouldn't mind a visit back to the Oregon coast to check in with Aileen! :)

Janeen Ippolito says

While I'm generally a fan of mythological creatures, Selkies definitely throws me for a loop. I think seals are adorable, but I don't automatically make the connection between a sleek, barking mammal scuttling along the sand and some handsome Casanova charming a lonely fisherman's wife.

Yet selkies are an established part of Irish and Scottish folklore, especially in stories of tragic, romantic love. Author Kristalyn Drown gives us a modern version of this story in Legasea.

First, a brief cover peeve. While the seals look cute and the suffused lighting is romantic, the girl looks about ten. This is a young adult novel, and trying to picture the image of that girl within the scenes does not work at all.

Usually I've found teen paranormal romance to be character-based. However, Legasea is focused more on plot, which is a refreshing change. While Aileen is obviously infatuated with Jamie Flannigan, that obsession doesn't rule the entire novel. Instead, three other plots—the murder of teen girls, her own connection with the sea, and her father's failing business—are woven together, with Jamie just being part of the show.

As a character, Aileen Shay is pretty well done. She displays the typical teen melodrama and mood swings,

without overdoing it. I didn't find her especially compelling, but I did believe she was a sheltered girl with a strange connection with the sea—and I liked how her actions progressed based on that background... finish reading at TheQuietPen.

Dianne Salerni says

A tragic accident at sea when Aileen was just a child resulted in her mother banning her from swimming or even boat trips. But at sixteen, Aileen is beginning to chafe under those restrictions, especially since she lives in a seaside town on the Oregon coast where fishing -- and tourism for sea and seal-lovers -- is a vital part of the economy. Breaking her mother's rule one time to attend a party aboard the boat of her old middle-school crush seems like a small infraction.

But the party ends in police sirens and more -- the discovery of a teenage girl's body tangled in the boat lines. Aileen is worse than in trouble with her mom; she's potentially a witness to the disposal of a murder victim.

Full disclaimer here: I don't usually read paranormal romances, so Legasea isn't my typical genre. But I was a beta-reader for this novel, and I loved it enough to read several draft versions and then read it AGAIN after it was published. I never got tired of Legasea.

Partly, it's the author's engaging style, but mostly it's because this is a mystery first, and a paranormal romance second. And I do love a mystery.

The dead girl is connected to the cute new guy whose family just moved back to town after many years away. They're a strange family, and while Jamie is adorable -- and may end up being Aileen's first real boyfriend -- his sister is rebellious and his father is strangely harsh and frightening. Aileen's old friend from middle school is also connected to the victim, due to circumstances that seem suspiciously coincidental. When another girl is attacked and nearly killed -- and when Jamie's family tries to cover it up -- Aileen makes a disturbing discovery.

Jamie's family is more than strange. They're straight out of legend -- and not nice legends, either. Worse, Aileen makes a discovery that ties her in with the girl victims and explains why her mother has forbidden her the sea.

A highly recommended mystery. And as a side note -- Curiosity Quills did a wonderful job designing the book. The Table of Contents is clever, and even the Kindle version is beautifully formatted -- which isn't the case with most e-books even from the big six publishers.

Farrah says

This review also appears on my blog at <http://www.thegoldenruleof666.blogspot...>

Unfortunately, this wasn't my favorite book. I really liked the idea, but it felt a little flat.

The characters in this book were kind of confusing. I was never quite sure where any of the character's stood.

I'm okay with having one character not be set in a role-in fact, I think that's a good thing since it adds drama and mystery to a book-but when I feel like every character is like that, it just throws me off. So, I felt confused during the entire book.

I liked the idea for this book, and it was explained okay, though it could have been better. The whole selkie thing was fascinating.

One thing bothered me in particular. Aileen, at the end of the book, decides that she thinks selkies are evil and manipulative creatures. However, someone VERY close to her is a selkie and she never thought bad about that person. Yet, she spent quite a bit of time hating on selkies. I just thought that was rather inconsistent. And Aileen was rather frustrating in general. She wasn't my favorite heroine. I found her to be obtuse and prone to complain. Obviously, with a less than likable heroine, it made it very difficult to like the book.

I really don't like having to say this, but I didn't really like Legesea. I thought the idea was excellent and that it could have been done so well, but, unfortunately, that didn't happen for me.

*Thanks to Netgalley and Curiosity Quills for a copy!

Alanna (The Flashlight Reader) says

Do not let the cover of this book fool you! It is not an overly cutesy middle-grades novel.(I was wrong!)

This was actually a solid mystery with several sub plots. The main plot centers around trying to figure out who is attacking the selkies and why. But of course, that would be too easy if that was the only thing to discover in a small fishing town. Enter mysterious new boy, Jamie. The instant connection between Aileen and Jamie starts of a romance that carries throughout the novel. Oh, but that's not all! Aileen's family has secrets of their own to resolve, and the family store (and Aileen's way of life) is teetering on a ledge. All of these story lines meet at the end with a very suspenseful climax! I thought it was really well developed, and I enjoyed it alot.

The characters were pretty good as well. They worked for the story, but I didn't really connect with them. I did notice, though, how well Aileen's character depicted a teenager desperate for more freedom and responsibility. She has some pretty clever one-liners and insights that made me smile. The author did a nice job of giving Aileen a believable voice.

I am a huge fan of mermaid books, but selkies kind of gross me out. I think it's the idea of peeling off skin and leaving it in a heap that makes my stomach churn. Luckily, though, Legasea didn't spend a lot of time focusing on the selkie qualities. Instead, it told a good story-- placing it high up on my list of merbooks. So, if you are like me and you enjoy mermaid/selkie stories, give Legasea a try!

Kay Glass says

Aileen has spent her life by the sea. It calls to her- but she's not allowed to answer. Forbidden to be near the water, on the water, in the water, Aileen has never even learned to swim, in spite of an accident that nearly drowned her as a child.

But that doesn't stop the pull- that doesn't stop the desire to answer the call of the sea- and Jamie, the interesting boy "next door" is another lure. Watching him from her window, she longs to venture out and learn more about him.

But there's more to Jamie's family than what meets the eye, and maybe, just maybe, there's more to Aileen and her family as well. Because just when you think you understand everything, you realize you understood nothing.

This was a well-written book that had me wanting more. More of Aileen and her family, more of Jamie and his family, and just more from this author in general. I'll definitely be keeping an eye out for future works from this author- she writes a fascinating tale that makes you truly care about the characters. 5 stars!

Roseanna says

Legasea is a fantastic book. There were so many twists and turns I just could never figure out what was going to happen until I read it happening.

Legasea is about a girl finding out truths about her family, new friends, and her town. Some truths were good, some bad. I could not believe who was behind it all, totally shocked me. I read this book in about a day, just could not put it down.

Get the book, you won't be disappointed!

This book was given to me for an honest review.

Crissy VA says

Legasea was a cute book. I really enjoyed the plot and the idea was so original and not something I'd heard of before. If this book turns out to be a series I will definitely be on board to read more to find out what happens to the characters. I loved the mythology, mystery & romance behind the drama that happens in this book.

I really connected with the main character but felt we could of gotten a little more on the other characters in the book. Again, I think the original idea is great and would definitely read more.

Joseph McGarry says

Good book about selkies, mythical seal-like creatures from Ireland. There are a lot of plot twists in this novel, so that you don't always know where it's going. Also, the ending sort of wraps up, but there is room

for a sequel.
