



A Mermaid's Kiss

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The angelic Jonah has been battling the Dark Ones for centuries. But his noble spirit has begun to tire with the weight of war - allowing a Dark One to strike a blow that severs his wings and knocks him into the sea.

Anna is a Daughter of Arianne - a direct descendant of the mermaid of legend. Anna's longing for love compels her to risk her very life to protect and hide the fallen Jonah. And the longer Jonah delays his return to the heavens, the more Anna's secret passions are tempted.

But as she falls more in love with him, Anna wonders if she's destined to lose her heart and her dreams to save Jonah's soul?

A Mermaid's Kiss Details

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From Reader Review A Mermaid's Kiss for online ebook

Ashley says

Joey W. Hill proves herself to be a master storyteller in 'A Mermaid's Kiss'. Her lyrical prose is nothing short of magical in it's ability to be both superbly dark and richly erotic while retaining it's fairy tale essence. As a long time fan of the Disney version of 'The Little Mermaid', I've also been aware that the true tale foretells a much more tragic ending whereby the mermaid doesn't marry her prince but instead perishes cursed and broken-hearted. Ms. Hill expands upon this darker original with tragedy destined to fall upon all descendants of Arianne.

Jonah, Angel and Prime Legion Commander of the Goddess, has lived a long life drenched in destruction, death, and blood. Having survived a war-torn millennia, Jonah's soul has slowly tarnished with the very darkness he's been fighting and thereby corrupting his faith and love in the Lady. After being mortally wounded in battle, Jonah plunges into the ocean with a sigh of relief; grateful that he can finally find some peace in death. His hopes are thwarted though by a brave and beautiful little mermaid.

Anna, a Daughter of Arianne and therefore doomed to tragedy, is still a woman of hope and love. Cursed with the ability to shapeshift into a human, she's lived the life as a being with no true place in the world, an outcast, but one capable of compassionate love and fierce loyalty. Unlike the female ancestors before her, Anna accepts her fate in life to live without reciprocal love while at the same time yearning for it above all else. Given her self-sacrificing nature, it is no surprise that she risks her life from the very beginning for an angel bent on his own destruction.

Despite having lived for a 1000 years, Jonah has never truly sought to understand his own soul. The consuming thoughts of war have blotted out the light of the Lady, leaving his heart to ponder and question his own existence and role in the universe. Humans, the Lady's to protect and therefore Jonah's to protect, cease to be nothing other than rats destroying everything in their path. The evil doings of humans call to the Dark Ones, thus rising the armies of angels; guarding them despite the fact that it's this very evil, festering within the human soul, that makes the Dark Ones very existence possible. Jonah is tired of fighting for those that continue to call to the Dark Ones and suffer the inevitable deaths of his sons for the guilt of their loss weighs heavily upon his conscience. He has lost all hope and all reason to fight and to exist.

Recognizing the darkness within Jonah, Anna makes the decision to help him at any cost, even her own death. She enlists the help of the seawitch, Mina, and with her guiding visions, Anna convinces Jonah to embark on a journey that will lead her further and further away from her beloved ocean.

Jonah decides to accompany Anna and her pursuit of the healing powers of a human shaman not because he wishes to eradicate the poison within him, but because he has found some measure of contentment with Anna. Jonah, though an angel, is not noble. Selfishly, he chooses to drift along on this journey with a self-sacrificing little mermaid because it relieves him of having to think beyond the now. Anna provides for him a route of escapism and monetary respite for his ugly thoughts. He truly feels that a shaman, a human no less, can not heal his rotted soul and there are several points throughout the journey where Jonah tries to drive Anna away from him and their mission. Some readers may a bit put off by Jonah's evil and the pain he inflicts upon Anna without apology. Yet, what readers must remember is that Jonah is existing in the darkest time of his life. He's the most cynical of cynics. He is a man lost and resolved to never put forth the effort to find his way back into the arms of light and love. When considering his dry well of love filled with bitterness, one can only expect him to lash out and protect his already wounded soul. Jonah no longer holds

the belief of goodness and it's Anna's complete embodiment of that which he now shields himself from in any way possible without completely loosing his view of her. Instead he'll follow along with Anna because what's a week to his thousand year existence in which he can put off his own demise? It is this that makes Jonah the anti-hero, but a hero none the less.

Conversely, Anna has already conquered the blood of the past and the terms of her Fate. She stands before Jonah untainted and pure of light and love. Her hope for future love is not crushed on the weight of her predestined fate. Anna is by far the most self-sacrificing creature in Hill's world. She gives repeatedly of herself to Jonah in an unflagging hope that he'll once again see how important and how needed his is on Earth and in Heaven. Anna believes in Jonah so much that she literally gifts her heart to him in a very literal sense. By sacrificing her essence, her blood, and ultimately her heart to Jonah, she in turn gives him back his reason to be and live once again. Now that's love.

I feel it's necessary to point out that 'A Mermaid's Kiss' features a variety of sex scenes that call for an openmindedness within the reader. I must admit that I was a bit skeptical about the scene involving Jonah making love to Anna in her mermaid form but Hill pulls it off with such vital realism that it just comes across as natural for the characters to experience that activity in that way. There is also very light BDSM. Not with regards to the whips and chains version but more in the way Jonah and Anna address one another. Jonah is constantly "my lord" while Anna is "little one". I interpreted this as Anna giving Jonah the respect that his Dominant position called for while her being dubbed "little one" a reminder of her submissive role. There was also the fact that Anna became aroused when Jonah demanded she do something a certain way underlying once again the D/s relationship. Again though, these were the only references to Hill's revered BDSM knowledge.

'A Mermaid's Kiss' is definitely my first favorite of 2009. It's a shining example of Ms. Hill's amazing talent and I look forward to picking up it's sequel 'A Witch's Beauty'.

Katie(babs) says

A Mermaid's Kiss is about Anna, a lonely mermaid of twenty, who expects to be dead by twenty-one because all her other female descendants, her mother included, died by that age. While Anna is swimming along in the ocean, she finds angel, who has fallen out of the sky, hurt and bleeding. Anna is able to save this heavenly creature and bring him safety before the dark ones try to do away with him. Jonah is a very special angel because he is the Prime Legion Commander for all the angels in Heaven. Jonah is tired of the constant battling of the dark ones for the past thousand years. When he is finally attacked, he hopes it will be the final end to him. Unfortunately for him, it is not his time.

Anna is able to help him recover somewhat by giving him magic through intercourse, called the Joining Magic. Even though Anna is a virgin, she willingly gives Jonah her innocence because she was taught that angels are to be obeyed in everything. She even calls Jonah, "My Lord", and offers her body, and essentially her heart and soul to him. But even with the magical sex they have, it is not enough to cure Jonah and fix one of his wings that has been torn. In order for Jonah to heal, he and Anna must go away from the ocean and toward the desert to find a Shaman who can fully heal him. Anna and Jonah soon take their journey to the road where Jonah's enemies are tracking their every move. During the day, Jonah is human, since Mina, an octopus sea witch, and friend of Anna, gave him a spell to make him so. At night he is able to be in his angel form. Poor Anna can not be too far from the ocean, but because she is willing to sacrifice herself to save

Jonah, she will do what it takes to help him.

As for the “icky sex”, I found it to fit in and wasn’t as shocked as I initially thought I would be. Even when Anna is in mermaid form and Jonah and she are intimate, I wasn’t turned off. There is also another sex scene that may raise some eyebrows because Anna can also change into a pixie-fairy, which reminds me of Tinkerbell. Jonah and Anna have some interesting love play in her fairy form. Jonah really appreciates Anna in this form and tells her so:

“Rub yourself on me. Ride me, little one. Put me between your thighs and let me feel the tiny stickiness of you.” Jonah always makes sure Anna finds fulfillment with him.

I would have to say, that some of these sex scenes are a bit purple prose and graphic in their telling, but keep in mind, this is an erotic romance. Surprisingly, I found *A Mermaid’s Kiss* to be a well written story that has a bit of a fairy tale feel. The dialogue between the characters, including that of Anna and Jonah is very lyrical. Those who enjoy road romances, will especially like this one.

Jennifer says

As a fairly new Joey Hill fan, I decided to branch out and read the first in a trilogy of her *Daughters of Arianne* series, where mermaids and angels are the main love interests. I've read lots of paranormal, even with the odd angel or two, but mermaids were a stretch for me. I came in a skeptic, but Joey Hill's writing can't be denied and I did love this book.

Just a few comments...The cover should not scare anyone off. It's very beautiful in its own way, but 1: impossible to read in public (def would get some looks!), which I feel almost encourages ebook purchases and 2: does not reflect the darkness of the story in the least. The plot is about the love between a warrior angel, Jonah, and Anna, a mermaid destined to die before her 21st birthday. Jonah, injured in a battle with the Dark Ones, falls into the ocean and into Anna's care. His poisoned wound allows his already doubtful mind to begin to pull him to the darkness of evil. He feels he is unworthy of his station and has doubts about continuing on as the Prime Legion Commander of the angels who fight for the Goddess, the deity of goodness. The story tells of his redemption and salvation through love. But yep...it's very dark and at its core is about Good vs Evil with a very unique mythology that weaves in some concepts of modern religion. It's filled with bloody battles and self sacrifice. Very beautifully written, even if the philosophical discussions were a little over the top for me. I didn't enjoy it as much as the *Vampire Queen* books, mainly because it was slightly less character driven (which is all relative, because it's a lot more than most books) and its such a fanciful world that I had a hard time getting a grip on it sometimes. Oh, and less sex than her other series for sure, less erotic and more romance.

Haley says

I want to give this 5 stars for the LOLs it gave me but I'll be serious. There's some terrible writing here. All the usual sexist/misogynistic crap found in romances. But also some spectacularly accidentally hilarious sex scenes. When the mermaid transforms into a pixy and humps the Angel's enormous penis like its a tree, I nearly died laughing.

Barbara ★ says

Anna, an outcast mermaid cursed to die young.

Jonah, an angel fighting a darkness inside himself.

Jonah plunges into the ocean after a fierce battle with The Dark Ones. Anna finds and saves his life. Jonah is despairing over the darkness inside as he has been fighting this battle for 1000 years and it is finally overcoming his goodness. As Jonah recouperates, Anna falls in love and tries her best to help him regain his strength and goodness.

This is basically a tale of good versus evil and a strange coupling between a mermaid -an ocean dweller, and an angel - a sky dweller. Kinda like apples and oranges mating. A very well written story that forces you to think about your own goodness or darkness.

KatiD says

Reviewed by Kati Dancy

3 stars

There is a war in heaven, led by Jonah, the Prime Legion Commander for the Goddess. Daily, he battles to Dark Ones for supremacy. Jonah is over 1,000 years old and has led countless angels to battle. Frankly, he's exhausted. He feels he's lost the heart for battle, and his spirit seems to be failing. And in a moment of inattention, he is struck by a Dark One, severing one of his wings. He tumbles into the sea, to what he believes will be his death.

Anna is a Daughter of Ariel, a direct descendant of the fabled mermaid who gave up her voice for her love. Sadly, the story is much darker and tragic than the fairy tale known to humankind. Her predecessors have all died alone at the young age of 21.

Anna finds both Jonah and his wing tumbling into the sea, with his enemies in hot pursuit. She rescues him, taking him to shelter and pulling him and his wing from the sea. Anna is fully aware of the war in heaven, and knows well that angels are leading the fight. When she first sees Jonah, she is immediately attracted, but of course, realizes that they can never have a relationship – he is an angel, after all. When Jonah comes to, he is in need of joining magic to reattach his wing. Though Anna is a virgin, she's fully aware of what joining magic is, and is completely willing to help an angel warrior to heal, though she senses Jonah's wish to die. They make love and Jonah is partially healed. Anna then seeks out her friend, Mina, who is the sea witch (complete with tentacles like an octopus). Mina advises Anna that she must take Jonah to land, and they must find their way to a shaman located in the Mojave desert who can fully heal Jonah's wing, which though attached, carries infection. Anna agrees, as she has no wish to leave Jonah's company, and she and Mina work together to get Jonah to land.

Once they reach land, Jonah and Anna go to her cabin, and spend time together making love and growing closer. Jonah loves Anna's sweet nature and her willingness to help, and Anna admires Jonah's leadership, strength and his strong will. The story then turns into a road romance, with the two of them working together to make their way to the desert so that Jonah might be healed.

The story is a strong one, with two compelling characters. Their attraction is palpable and they have a lovely chemistry together. So why 3 stars? Well, Jonah is an angel, and Anna is a mermaid. This leads to some sexual encounters that strongly exercised my “squick factor.” At one point in the story, Jonah is in human form and Anna is in mermaid form and they have sex. The scene made me very uncomfortable and was enough to have me put the book down and walk away for a few minutes. I am all for pushing the envelope, and I generally enjoy reading erotic love scenes in paranormal romance. But I had a very hard time moving past this and another scene where the couple is not in human form. And that was enough to have me grading the book down.

I think that Joey Hill is a tremendous talent, and I have really enjoyed her books in the past, but this book is one that I struggled with. The book sets up a sequel which will be between David, a lesser angel and Mina, the sea witch. I believe that I’ll pass on that one, and wait for the next idea that Hill’s fertile mind brings to light.

*REVIEW ORIGINALLY POSTED AT ROMANCE NOVEL TV

Camille-Dhark Nytmhare says

I wanted to stand and applaud this book after I finished reading it. This story is about an angel named Jonah who has lost his faith and a mermaid named Anna who slowly restores his faith.

A Mermaids Kiss begins with a fantastic action scene that sucks you right in and is the perfect example of an intriguing beginning. An intimate connection is established between the characters and you want to know more about these characters and how their worlds will fit together. .

The descriptive writing places you front and center in the story. You are privy to the intricate thoughts and feelings of the characters. Anna is a very brave and adventurous soul even with fear beating at her. She is a courageous heroine without being a kick ass heroine. She maintains her feminine charm. Anna’s character can be a little too perfect, but combined with a great story who cares!

The sex scenes were presented early on the story. It seemed naturally progressive as opposed to forced and nonsensical. The timing of the sex scenes are well understood given the circumstances of the story. Some of the sex scenes were the most tender sex scenes I have ever read. No fireworks, clenching wombs or throbbing members but such a deep and complete connection that is exquisitely written. At one point, I was worried that they would not make their destination because of all the sexual activity.

The author builds a world where there are not only angels but subsets of angels. Each subset having a different purpose to ensure the safety of mankind. At one point the philosophical ramblings got to be a bit much, but there were a lot of truths to the dialogue. It was refreshingly that pleasure was found in the simplest settings,. There is no opulence or untold riches. Just a barren home and empty caves.

Many characters have a mysterious air about them and you wonder whose side are they really on. The storyline challenges your idea of what is good and evil. It really is captivating and pulls you further into the story.

A Mermaid’s Kiss is not only beautiful but it’s such a sensual story. The fairy tale writing style is a step above the simple writing of children’s fairy tales. The layers of the story are peeled back one scene at a time.

They are complex and magical. This story touches on mythology, legends, fairy tales and religious dogma to bring a riveting story with a twist on angels and mermaids

What an awesome climax to the story!

Cindyg says

OMG...I wish I could give this book more than 5 stars. I absolutely loved it, I actually cried and that doesn't happen often. Ms. Hill can weave a world so intense that you feel things in your gut. I could not put this one down. You will absolutely love Jonah and Anna, both are beautiful creatures. So without further delay I'm off to start the 2nd book in the series; A Witch's Beauty.

Run don't walk to your nearest book store and get this series.

Leontine says

All I can do is sit here and ride the last emotional waves of my first experience with a novel from Joey W Hill? At the beginning of *The Mermaid's Kiss* I had to get a feel for the author's voice, I didn't instantly "get" what she was going for with Jonah and Anna. Jonah was "My Lord" and Anna was "Little One" and it confused me until I picked up on a subtle and oh so natural Dominant/submissive synergy going on between the two main protagonists. It is never defined, nor explicitly described by Hill but for me suddenly things fell in to place and I could surrender myself to the story as it is told.

Because with each chapter read I fell more and more for the characters and world this author created. *A Mermaid's Kiss* is not a story you would want to read for the extensive thrilling action, nor for the rich abundance in world building, and I will honestly say that this kind of storytelling is an acquired taste. Still, the love story is of such an exquisite quality it just knocked me off my feet with its ending. What I received was two people thrown together where the circumstances lead them to go on a quest of the heart and soul. I cannot see it any different way. Jonah is the tormented, wary Prime Legion Commander of the Lady and when wounded in a battle with the Dark Ones he falls into the ocean to escape them. Anna finds him sinking to the depths of the ocean and rescues him and brings him to a cave so he can heal from the wing torn from his shoulder.

Familiar fairytale story up till now, right? Still, any resemblance of a Disney story ends right there because *A Mermaid's Kiss* is far more dark since Anna is destined to die at the tender age of twenty-one. A curse bestowed upon her by Arianne, the original mermaid who loved her prince but never got him in the end. It is far more intricate as Jonah battles his inner demons. The journey Anna and Jonah undertake on land not only speaks of the erotic pull between them with the Joining Magic but also of faith, perception, wisdom, healing and the knowledge of their impossible love. These aspects give the romance such depth and it grows with each moment spent together, with each conversation and with each page I read. Every separate thread would lead to a conclusion that would make this an unforgettable read for me.

Because the story was so condensed in a character and emotion driven aspect I really connected with Jonah's internal struggles. The questions why he still battled the Dark Ones after so many centuries? Why did he still wanted to fight for the Lady when it was a never ending cycle. What was the point in the end? All his

emotions came across with a desperation that made him feel so real and made him so realistic in his actions. The quest revolved around the salvation of a powerful angel and this is where Anna comes in to play.

Opposite Jonah there is Anna. She is haunted by the knowledge she will die at a very young age. It makes her wise beyond her years but it does not prevent her from finding beauty in the oceanic world. An outsider from the mer-people but not without an unusual friendship with Mina, another outcast. She is gentle, kind, loving, inquisitive and has a backbone when she needs to stand up for her beliefs. Where Jonah is lost and feels desolate, Anna counters it with such a belief within him, such joy and living in to the moment. She emanates such faith that he will do what is righteous and all she wants is for him to soar the skies again in all his angelic power and splendor.

Two very strong characters in their own way and with the lyrical and poised prose it often just threw me in to the emotion of the moment. That is the true strength of this author; the ability to touch upon such a range of emotions. Another hallmark essence of this author is the provocative sensuality which at times gave my imagination a stretch in the erotically charged scenes. Though never overly explicate in the descriptions she can conjure a very vivid carnal picture in the mind's eye. I loved Jonah and Anna together in human form, Hill made the passion between Jonah and Anna in mermaid form believable but I had a bit of trouble picturing Anna as a pixie riding herself on the hardened male flesh of Jonah. That moment gave my imagination a stretch and I was glad it only happened once.

With the larger part of the story focused on Anna and Jonah there were just a few supporting characters who were equally well drawn. Mina is Anna's best friend and a result of a coupling between a Dark One and a mermaid. On various occasions Mina's choices are very important to tell the story and there is a frail but undeniable connection between her and David. David is the human made angel, Lucifer is the Lord of the Underworld and along with the Lady they established a solid perception of Heaven and Hell. Combine it with the Dark Ones, the human world, the lore of how everything came to be and it all connected to give credibility to a religion where Hell is a place for redemption and atonement rather than a place for eternal damnation.

As the journey on land continues for Jonah and Anna they meet various people who each have something to say, which in the end has an underlying wisdom to it. The journey as a whole, the healing of Jonah's wing, the conversations and experiences that they both have, the love they create, it all leads to a conclusion that struck a chord with me. Every aspect of this tale, from the dark and erotic fairytale vibe, the intricate characters to get to know, to the mesmerizing writing I can say Joey W Hill already did it for me. What lifted it to greater heights was the ending, those last 60-70 pages. Throughout the story my emotions were engaged on a steady level, keeping me involved in all aspects of the romance and internal struggles of the main couple. But I found out that was just to prepare me for such an emotion steeped ending it constricted my throat with the intensity of my feelings. All the individual storylines came together; whether or not Jonah could restore his faith within himself and what he was, Anna not wanting to die without hope, Mina whose friendship is as quirky as her persona, to a battle between the Angels and the Dark Ones that made them risk it all.

While the solution to Anna's problem wasn't inventive it disintegrated in the whirlwind of the emotions I felt. Every emotion felt by the characters translated in to the actions that transpired in that final battle. It spoke of everything I wanted to see victorious in a erotic paranormal romance; The good clashing with the bad, the love risking it all, the friendship aiding for a good outcome and where a higher purpose is served. I gained it all with the unique characters, world and storytelling of Joey W Hill.

A Mermaid's Kiss; what started out with the love for a cover and the interest piqued with its synopsis turned

out to be an enthralling and emotionally powerful read.

Quote Anna:

At last she understood, in a way she hadn't before, why doing the Joining Magic by herself left her with such an empty ache in her heart. Bringing together their bodies brought together the elemental wish of every being, to be fully inside the heart and soul of someone else. It was divinity and mortality all at once, the searing regret and joy that could hold a soul suspended in time.

Lynette says

This is what was going through my head as I was reading this book! This conversation in no way reflects actual conversations between Ms. Hill and her editor both of whom I never met. LOL!

Editor: Umm, I need a book, so what are you working on next?

Author: I have an idea I'm playing around with. Its The Little Mermaid meets the angel Jonah

Editor: I didn't know there was an angel named Jonah.

Author: There is now.

Editor: So if you're using Angel's this is a biblical reference.

Author: Sort of, but of course God, or the Goddess as I call her is a woman.

Editor: Naturally all the best people are. But, you do realize that your write erotica. I'm not sure I'm going to be able to market a biblical, children's story.

Author: Trust me theirs going to be plenty smexing going on.

Editor: Cool. So who is Jonah what is the conflict.

Author: Well, I'm glad you asked. Jonah leads the army of angels who battle against the Dark Ones.

Editor: Dark Ones?

Author: Yeah. Think Dementors with mad fighting skills.

Editor: Cool.

Author: Yeah, anyway Jonah is fighting The Dark Ones, gets hit and falls from the sky and slams into the ocean—

Editor: Where he's saved by the Little Mermaid I presume?

Author: You're good.

Editor: Yeah, that's why I make less money than you and have to wear these crappy black clothes all the time and buy a book called 101 Things to Do With Ramen Noodles . However, you might want to hold off on The Little Mermaid reference; Disney is pretty fanatical about that stuff.

Author: Really that blows. Umm, wait, how about instead of Arianne, I'll make it one of her descendents. I'll call her . . . Anna. Anyways, Anna carries Arianne's curse to where she is destined to save a man, never find her true love, and die at twenty-one.

Editor: Good girl. Way to make your character's suffer. You got to give her something cool to make up for this misery.

Author: Well she's a shape shifter. She can transform into a human, mermaid, fairy—

Editor: Wait, fairy like Tinkerbell fairy.

Author: Yup. An actually pint sized fairy with wings.

Editor: Girl, you totally have to put in a smexing scene with her as a pint sized

Tinkerbell getting her groove on with the full sized Jonah!

Author: Really you think.

Editor: Totally.

Author: Hey, I can have her rubbing up against his ding dong and they're both getting off.

Editor: Eww. WTF. That image is going to be seared in my mind forever. I'll probably have to wash my eyes out with acid to get that freaky image out of my head. DO IT! DO IT!

Author: You don't think it'll freak my readers out?

Editor: Hey you write for Berkley, let's freak them out. But you gotta make it hot.

Author: I'll DO IT.

Editor: So how are we going to overcome this curse thingy migeey?

Author: Well Jonah is you're typical wounded warrior with post traumatic stress syndrom. He doesn't know what he's fighting for anymore and wants to die. Anne always knows she's going to die early and finds value in everything. They meet go on a journey where she tries to save his soul. They fall in love. At first he thinks that she is the only thing worth fighting for and it would take so much crap that is full of spoilers and readers will be like WTF, I can't believe she's actually going there before Jonah realizes his value and what he's fighting for. I mean this guy is really a lost soul and the world is nearly destroyed because of his actions and we still won't know if Anne will survive her fate or not until the very end.

Editor: That's freaking beautiful man.

Author: I thought so to. Can I write it then.

Editor: Of course. I can't wait!

Author: Thanks, I'll talk to you later!

And people that is the end of my review of A MERMAID'S KISS by Joey Hill. I hoped you like my review as much as I liked the book!

? BookAddict ✍️ La Crimson Femme says

I LOVE MERMAIDS! This is one of the few mermaid stories I've read that has sexy sexy scenes. I consider this erotica because of how well Ms. Hill weaves the sex scenes into this paranormal romance. WOW. This is definitely a different take, generations after the "little mermaid". I like how Ms. Hill spun that bit of the story.

Ms. Hill's interpretation of the Angels and how humans came to being was fascinating. The Dark Ones have a right to be pissed. It just goes to show, once again, no good deed goes unpunished.

Jonah is a sexy angel and I'm glad he's with Anna. This world created by Ms. Hill is amazing and so clear, I can almost believe it is true. Or maybe, I wish it were true. The part I loved best was the epic battle at the end. Anna's surprise form was a thrill for me since I also love that type of form. All around wonderful new series from Ms. Hill.

Penny Watson says

A Mermaid's Kiss by Joey W. Hill (Read Jan 2009)

My good friend Michelle once gently suggested that I check out an author named JR Ward, not knowing that I would turn into one of those (slightly) deranged fans who actually joined The Black Dagger Brotherhood message boards on this author's website. Point being, Michelle is chock full of excellent recommendations. This past weekend she told me to check out Joey W. Hill and offered me her copy of A Mermaid's Kiss (which, let's face it, she's never getting back!). I am in love! What an amazing author, what an amazing book...it has the perfect combination of lusty sex and that emotional love connection I crave in romances. It also has an awesome paranormal world with angels, demons, witches, mermaids, fairies, dragons....you name it, she's got it. Jonah (an angel who is the Prime Legion Commander for the Goddess) is the kind of tortured hero I cannot resist. As he struggles with his inner demons, Anna (an innocent and loving mermaid) reawakens his will to live. Hill is one incredible writer...I was sucked into the story from page one and totally forgot I was reading a book until my kids got back from school and ran screaming into the house. (Then I set them up with a snack and locked myself in my bedroom until I finished). I am now going to Amazon to order the next installment, A Witch's Beauty. Thank you, Michelle...I owe you one! Grade: A+

With happiness in her heart, Penelope

new_user says

Okay, I take back what I said. After giving some thought to all the interspecies I can say there's new love play (LOL), and also some elements of control on the part of the hero (albeit not enough to warrant a BDSM label). At any rate, I enjoyed *A Mermaid's Kiss*, and I think that had more to do with the characterization than anything else (although there were some steamy moments, LOL).

In fact, I would probably classify this as one of those darker romances, similar in its bleak tone to Anna Campbell's *Courtesan* because, just as in *Courtesan*, in *A Mermaid's Kiss*, the heroine is a martyr, a woman who suffers with her man -and sometimes suffers her man's abuse. He's a gamma. I was reminded (again) of Coulter's heroines, who live anything but romantic lives, constantly suffering at the hands of her heroes. The heroine here, Anna, is not nearly so battered, but needless to say, she's returned little for her devotion and compassion. This is not inconsistent with the storyline. In fact, considering the hero's conflict in the book (that of a warrior angel who can no longer fight for a deity he believes has let him down), it makes sense that he would not open his heart to "her" creations, as well. However, his denial of Anna does detract somewhat from the romance; it is decidedly one-sided at points.

That said, the characterization of these two characters was very well done, *surprisingly* well done in fact, considering I came into this expecting a fluffy romance (well, you've seen the cover, all bubblegum pink) and not much else, and on the romance count I have already been proven wrong. I was also wrong about the depth of this story. I have seen much less convincing portrayals of the main character's conflict in many romances, and they much less grave and solemn than a man struggling with the loss of his core beliefs, his faith and the very purpose to his life. This conflict is not a weak obstacle inserted to propel the plot, no Big Misunderstanding or the tired old fear of commitment, etc. His struggle is not romanticized either. He never spins off into long, flowery internal dialogues waffling back and forth. Instead, we find a character who has long since lost the beliefs behind his duties. I really admired the author's skill in portraying Jonah's pain and his break from his faith with key scenes, for example, when Jonah cannot accept his deity's touch. That was heartbreaking.

Likewise, Anna is convincing as the passionate, pure-hearted, innocent "little wanton," as Jonah calls her. He also calls her "little one" for those who like that. Fortunately, she does not have any TSTL (too stupid to live) moments or any annoying hiccups like stubbornness or shrewishness, etc.

The author also goes to great lengths to create the worlds of the mermaids and mermen and the angels, building interesting cultures for these peoples. I particularly liked learning about new angels, the hierarchy, and the unique touches to every angel.

I also liked the explorations of the secondary characters, who are as fleshed-out as the main characters so that I came to think of them as the main characters too. I hope to learn more about them in coming novels.

As to the plot and villains, the baddies are "Dark Ones" who are partly metaphor for the darkness of mankind and partly vicious otherworldly monsters. However, most of the story does not take place in battles or fighting. The story is told mostly in journey form, as Jonah and Anna journey to reclaim Jonah's soul. So it's not precisely fast-paced and the climax has more to do with struggles of soul and character than any fighting- - The Journey in fiction's not quite my preference, but since it was delivered very convincingly and without cheese (LOL), I enjoyed it, especially the last harrowing scenes.

So, in summary, I would recommend this book to someone enjoying a good, heartrending conflict, a novel

about characters and a soul more so than romance. I will look forward to the next book with David, the consummate gentleman (and angel), and the bitterly hurt, guarded seawitch in January. For those wondering at these interspecies relationships, there are no female angels so the angels have to find love elsewhere, LOL.

Update: I've read the second book, and it's even better. Though she gives every appearance of being a hostile, unwelcoming recluse, Mina is very strong emotionally and physically. Despite her very real, very human resentment of those who have hurt her because of her heritage, Mina is strong enough to endure without inflicting the terrors on her people that she might. David is the strong, faithful hero with, ahem, an alpha, take-charge attitude in the bedroom, much to the heroine's delight. Their relationship has been full of tension since their first explosive encounter, when the hurt, rebellious, too-powerful Mina first met the only angel to show anything more than hatred for her-- and fought him. The heartrending emotions continue, as well as the fascinating play of good and evil. You also see Anna and Jonah again.

Samantha says

I don't know what is going on but I didn't care for this book. Don't get me wrong, there is some good parts and then there are the bad parts. I know the H got on my nerves with "little one" and I threw the book several times. I don't like that nickname. He said it so much I almost DNF it. I'm going to stick with her other stuff.

Bitten_by_Books says

Can angels in all their glory lose hope? Or the will to live on? Jonah is the Prime Legion Commander and whenever the Dark Ones try to attack, he and his men are the first to defend the world. But immortal does not mean invulnerable to pain...

For the entire review please go to the Best Paranormal & Urban Fantasy Review site on the web, Bitten By Books for the review of A Mermaid's Kiss in it's entirety. You won't be sorry.
