



The Mermaid's Mirror

By L. K. Madigan

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A message. A key. A mirror. A secret world unlocked.

Lena has lived her whole life near the beach, walking the shore, breathing the salty air, swimming in the cold water, and watching the surfers rule the waves. As her sixteenth birthday approaches, Lena vows to learn to surf. Her father forbids it.

But something Lena can't identify at first—an ancient, powerful magic—keeps drawing her to the water. One day, she finally catches sight of it: a beautiful woman, with a silvery tail.

Now nothing can stop Lena from seeking the mermaid, not even the dangerous waves at Magic Crescent Cove.

And what Lena sees in the mermaid's mirror will change her life forever.

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The Mermaid's Mirror By L. K. Madigan Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Lena has always been drawn to the sea and has spent her life on the Northern California coast watching her friends surf. As her 16th birthday approaches, she decides she is tired of sitting on the sand and vows to take lessons despite the fact that her father forbids it. The lure of the ocean becomes overwhelming as she starts sleepwalking and waking up at the shore. Then she spots what appears to be a woman's head above the water's surface. Had Lena seen a mermaid? What compelled her father to stop riding the waves and never again set foot in the ocean? Braving the deadly breakers at Magic Crescent Cove so she can see the mysterious figure again, she wipes out and nearly drowns, but the mermaid saves her and slips a small gold key in her hand. Now Lena must find out what it unlocks and try to solve the mystery of her past. What she discovers is an amazing underwater domain seen through a magical mirror. Madigan's exquisite writing results in realistic characters and a compelling plot set in vivid scenery, making this tale extremely palatable. By the time Lena's secret world is revealed, readers are fully committed to her story and, while the culmination may disappoint, this is one fantasy worth reading.—Tara Kehoe, Plainsboro Public Library, NJ.
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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Lena, almost 16 and living in a northern California surfing community, has been forbidden by her father, a former surfer who suffered a terrible accident in the water years ago, from learning her peers' favorite sport. She is an excellent swimmer, though, and while spending time at the local beach, she begins to think she might be seeing a mermaid out in the waves. Being a practical girl, this of course strikes her as unlikely, but a host of subtle clues that include the discovery of her mother's true identity and fate lead her to an undersea world of mer-folk. Lena distances herself from her life on land as she takes up residence in her mother's community below the ocean, but eventually she must choose between her diverging destinies. Madigan does a stellar job of bringing readers inexorably from what at first seems like a realistic problem-novel plot of family issues to an enjoyable fantasy of a girl who finds that she is only half human. The characters, whether teen, child, or adult, are well-rounded and integrated into the plot. In addition to her parents, Lena must also consider the sensibilities of her younger brother and her best friend and figure out how she feels about her two boyfriends, one human and one mer. With highly imagistic descriptions and savvy dialogue, Madigan offers a rewarding and credible story that uses fantasy elements to bare truths about family ties. Grades 8-10. --Francisca Goldsmith

Review

"With highly imagistic descriptions and savvy dialogue, Madigan offers a rewarding and credible story that uses fantasy elements to bare truths about family ties."--*Booklist*, starred review

"Mixing supernatural elements with the types of family problems and growing pains she explored in *Flash Burnout*, Madigan introduces Lena, a girl obsessed with the sea and learning to surf . . . emotions at play feel very real, and Madigan does a good job of evoking the fog of uncertainty that envelops Lena as she uncovers long-buried secrets--she truly is like a fish out of water."--*Publishers Weekly*

"Be rewarded with a heartthrob of a merman, enthusiastic surfing scenes, and a well-integrated blend of magic and realism both on land and underwater."--*Bulletin*

Praise for FLASH BURNOUT

Fall 2010: New England Children's Booksellers Advisory Council's Fall Top Ten List

Winner of the 2010 William C. Morris Award

"With just enough humor to diffuse the tension and the art and science of photography as a backdrop, this rich romance explores the complexities of friendship and love, and the all-too-human limitations of both. It's a sobering, compelling, and satisfying read for teens and a promising debut for a new young-adult author."—*Booklist*, starred review

"*Flash Burnout* gets high marks from me in all categories. Voice? Check. Plot that matters? Check. Writing style? Flawless. I would say that this book could be described as Laurie Halse Anderson meets John Green, with a whole new set of humor and imagery that is all its own."—Holly, Annie Bloom's Bookstore, Portland OR

#4 on *Indiebound's* Top Ten List

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jessie Henricks:

This The Mermaid's Mirror usually are reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The main reason of this The Mermaid's Mirror can be on the list of great books you must have is usually giving you more than just simple looking at food but feed a person with information that possibly will shock your preceding knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed people. Beside that this The Mermaid's Mirror forcing you to have an enormous of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that could it useful in your day exercise. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

Betty Guinn:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray a person, why because this The Mermaid's Mirror reserve written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written inside good manner for you, leaking every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still hesitation The Mermaid's Mirror as good book not merely by the cover but also by the content. This is one guide that can break don't determine book by its deal with, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Theresa Kuykendall:

Within this era which is the greater particular person or who has ability to do something more are more special than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you should do is just spending your time little but quite enough to experience a look at some books. Among

the books in the top record in your reading list is actually The Mermaid's Mirror. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking upwards and review this publication you can get many advantages.

Debbie Yarborough:

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