

The Tail of Emily Windsnap

By Author, Liz Kessler

Reviewed by: Writisha 13

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

Emily Windsnap (12) is a normal middle schooler who lives with her mother on a little houseboat called *King of the Sea*. When she is offered an opportunity to be on the school swim team, she persuades her mother, who is terrified of water despite their living situation, to let her. But on the first day, as soon as she goes underwater, her legs freeze up. Her coach tells her it is a normal reaction for a first-time swimmer, but when she sneaks off her boat later that night and goes into the water, she is shocked to realize that her legs had combined into a tail as soon as they went underwater.

With the help of a new mermaid friend named Shona Silkfin, she discovers that there is a whole underwater world of mermaids, and she is one of them. Her father, a merman, had fallen in love with her mother, a human, but for some reason, her mom has no memory of her father or the merworld. As Emily tries to figure out why her mother can't remember who she fell in love with, she starts to realize that some of the people she trusts are the ones behind it all.

I think this is a book that anyone who likes mermaids and stories about true love will enjoy. Personally, I found the plot kind of boring, and none of the characters were very interesting or dynamic. It might have hooked me when I was little, but it will be pretty boring and predictable for anyone my age or older. However, it's a sweet story, and an overall decent read. I would recommend the Emily Windsnap series as a gift for younger kids who like mermaids, but otherwise, borrowing from the library is fine. There is no sensitive content, and the book's audience is mainly young kids, so I would say it is for ages 7 and up.

Recommended Titles:

- Emily Windsnap and The Monster from the Deep by Liz Kessler
- Maybe A Mermaid by Josephine Cameron
- Bad Mermaids Make Waves by Sibéal Pounder