

The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea

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Every year, a young, pretty lady is sacrificed as the Sea God's bride. To the townspeople, this is the only way to soothe the god and stop the yearly floods and storms. But to Mina, this tradition may alter her life forever as her brother's beloved is chosen as the year's tribute. In her first grasp of courage, Mina delves into the Spirit Realm in her place. However, she soon learns that the Sea God has been asleep all along, and she embarks on a journey not only to wake him, but to restore her lost soul. Accompanied by Lord Shin and his fellow guards, Mina must escape the Sea God's enemies while discovering secrets about the mystical land.

This is probably the first time I've seen a book marketed as "Ghibli-inspired" and it actually paid off. The entire thing feels like it could easily be an animated movie thanks to the very vivid scenery and magical aspects. It's based on Korean mythology, so the characters and environment already have a solid groundwork to build on, not to mention how magical the entire thing feels. It's sort of like living through a fairy tale. It's got the wonder and romance aspects, but it's also bittersweet and tear-jerking at times.

This book could work for just about anyone. It's great for teens and young adults who enjoy stories about magic and myths, but it could also be read to a younger child as any other bedtime story. It's fun and playful while also having that grand, big-story feel. "The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea" is a book for anyone who wants a little bit of sparkle in their life.

Recommended Titles:

Daughter of the Moon Goddess by Sue Lynn Tan

The Magic Fish by Trung Le Nguyen

Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones

Coraline by Neil Gaim