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Ripple



Synopsis

Lexi is cursed with a dark secret. Each day she goes to school like a normal teenager, and each night she must swim, or the pain will be unbearable. She is a siren - a deadly mermaid destined to lure men to their watery deaths. After a terrible tragedy, Lexi shut herself off from the world, vowing to protect the ones she loves. But she soon finds herself caught between a new boy at school who may have the power to melt her icy exterior, and a handsome water spirit who says he can break Lexi's curse if she gives up everything else. Lexi is faced with the hardest decision she's ever had to make: the life she's always longed for - or the love she can't live without?

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Customer Reviews

What I Liked: 1) Lexi was a personable character, very easy to get to know and understand. It was not hard to follow the story from her point of view. And I definitely felt for her back story. After the events of her 16th birthday, she has isolated herself from everyone that she cares about and has been living her life basically in solitude, other than her Grandmother. I definitely felt for her. 2) The

Siren. I liked Miz Hubbard's version of this mythological creature. The typical aspects of sirens were there, with the water, and the singing, but there were unique things going on too. I'm always excited to see how authors can put their own spin on myths. 3) Happy ending. Not so much ending, but there are at times where you can see Lexi's life getting back to at least a shadow of what it once was, and she is feeling happy again. It always good to see the main character happy, especially when she has spent a lot of her time seemingly miserable.

What I Didn't Like: 1) While it was easy to get to know Lexi, and to feel sympathy for her, I just didn't like her very much. She was kind of whiny, of course I guess you can be whiny when you are always alone and there isn't anyone to call you on it. 2) The ending was too....easy. It was a lot of build up and then I was like, that was it? That was the answer all along? It's kind of like the ending of *The Wizard of Oz*, where she's had the ruby slippers the whole time. Well, why didn't you tell me that in the first place?

Overall Thoughts: As far as Siren stories go, this one was good. It was a simple story to follow and added some unique aspects to a mythological creature that seems to be getting a little more attention. The ending was a little too easy for me, kind of like the answer was right in front of her all along, but I did appreciate the creativity and the lightness to the story.

Those of you looking for *The Little Mermaid* or something like it, turn back now. *Ripple* is anything but. It's dark and somewhat frightening, harkening back to the sirens of old. The ones who would drown a man sooner than kiss him. Lexi discovered that she was a siren two years ago, and she's understandably having trouble coping with what that means for her and how it will affect her life. One person has already died because of her and she's not about to let it happen again. She closes herself off to the world, keeps people who used to be her friends at a distance, and has removed herself from the ocean entirely, retreating to a lake deep in the forest where no one could be in danger. But one boy is encroaching on her territory and her life. Cole is determined to help the girl he used to know resurface, and he won't let her go easily. In a school full of tormentors, Cole is the only one she can turn to but letting him in could be dangerous, if not deadly.

Mandy Hubbard weaves a careful mesh of fantasy and reality, crafting a melancholy tale about a single secret with the power to destroy families, friendships, love, and lives whether it stays secret or not. Uncovering the story behind the cursing alongside Lexi was one of my favorite parts of this story. Instead of asking us to believe whatever she told us was going on, Hubbard showed how the curse came to be through diary entries in which she tells the story behind the story. Through those entries, Lexi also gets the chance to learn about her mother's past. Cole is the friend who wants to be more to Lexi. I fell in love with him myself for the way he's always looking to slip through a crack in Lexi's glacial

facade and obliterate the wall she's put up over the years. He wants her to take comfort and confide in him, and he doesn't back down even when she tries to drive him away. Okay, I won't say too much, but Cole isn't the only boy in this story. (Of course not, right? It's modern YA!) Erik transfers to their school and tells Lexi that loving him is the answer to all her problems. Naturally she's wary, but she'd try anything to get her old life back. And forcing yourself to be with a guy who looks like a Greek god can't be all bad. Their relationship intrigued me because it was a classical case of "we look good on paper" syndrome with a paranormal twist. You know, Boy and Girl share common traits and similar lifestyles so it's not hard to imagine the two of them dating, getting married and have 2.5 children and a dog. But as much as you want it to work, there's no chemistry. No spark. If you're searching for steam, you won't find it in Lexi's love life. The love triangle in this book is admittedly tepid, but watching Lexi decipher her relationship with Erik and her feelings for Cole really gripped me. There are a few very poignant moments where Lexi realizes that no matter who she chooses she'll have to sacrifice. I feel like a lot of people missed the boat with Ripple. Early on it seemed that people were excited and then the buzz just died off. I can only guess that people expected a pretty, paranormal mermaid novel and not the emotionally wrought story of a murderous siren plagued by her own existence. Regardless, I'd like to see this well-written, engaging piece of fiction get noticed for more than the scales on the cover.

The author opens the book with Lexi, the heroine, admitting to killing her first love. The book description alerts the reader to this so it was no surprise. Before the tragedy, Lexi was in the "in-crowd", on track to be valedictorian and well-liked. Afterwards, Lexi becomes an "Ice queen" and avoids contact with everyone but her grandmother. So much so that her old friends treat her terribly and she does nothing to defend herself because of the guilt. Two years have passed since the tragedy and Lexi is completely ostracized by everyone at school. To the rescue is Cole, her first love's best friend. He starts to talk to Lexi in English class on the first day of school her senior year. The beginning of romance happens here... Cue the new guy to the school. Lexi pushes Cole away and in walks Erik. Insert eye roll. Darn another love triangle, does anyone else ever wonder why the nice guy never gets the girl? This one however is not really what you think it is and the author actually did surprise me. Best thing about this book- there is an ending. No cliffhanger, no waiting until the second and third book to find out what happens. Don't get me wrong I HEART BOOK SERIES. But sometimes you just want to read a book that has an ending instead of a continuation.[...]/

I wasn't sure whether or not I would like this book with all the mixed reviews, but I honestly couldn't put it down because I felt drawn to Lexi's world just as she's drawn to the water. I loved the ups and downs of Lexi's struggles for her feelings for Cole and Erik. I liked the slow paced mode with Erik whereas Cole everything was so fast and intense. I think it showed a lot about Lexi's interactions with these two different guys. If anything it made me want to learn more about all of three of them. I would recommend this book to a friend who's into fantasy/ YA novels. I think it's a must read.

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