



## Between the Land and the Sea

*Derrolyn Anderson*

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# **Between the Land and the Sea**

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**Between the Land and the Sea** Derrolyn Anderson  
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Marina is a privileged girl who's had an unusual upbringing. Traveling the world with her scientist father, doted on by her wealthy and glamorous neighbor Evie, Marina's life seems perfect.

Everything changes in the summer of her sixteenth year when she is sent to live with her Aunt Abby and Cousin Cruz in the lovely seaside town of Aptos, California.

Only a few weeks after arriving, sixteen year-old Marina has nearly drowned twice, enchanted the hottest guy in high school, and discovered a supernatural creature. If she can manage to survive some increasingly dangerous encounters with unpredictable mermaids, she might be able to unlock the mystery of her past and appease the mysterious forces that want something from her...

And maybe even find true love along the way.

## **Between the Land and the Sea Details**

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Author : Derrolyn Anderson

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## From Reader Review Between the Land and the Sea for online ebook

### Sarah says

**Summary:** Mermaids. Surfing. Romance. Danger. All wrapped up into one exciting YA series. Sixteen-year-old Marina has been traveling the world with her father her entire life, but when he is stationed to work in Afghanistan for a year he leaves her at her Aunt's house. He hopes she will finally be able to live a normal life and have the teenage/high school experience. She feels at home right off the bat and even meets a good-looking surfer named Ethan. Marina is just settling in when strange things begin to happen to her--she meets a mermaid who looks all too familiar and Marina cannot stay away from the sea. She discovers secrets pertaining to her past and encounters some life threatening situations.

**My Thoughts:** I have not read many stories about Mermaids and this one really had me hooked. It was refreshing to read a new concept on mermaids and Anderson's take on it. This is one of those fast paced books since you're so caught up between the characters, mystery, and plot.

Lets start with the characters: I loved the characters that Anderson creates, they are realistic and funny. I liked how Marina was really just a sixteen-year-old girl; she was strong, but also needed to ask for help from her friends and family and that made it genuine for me. The side characters are great, I loved the relationship she had with her cousin Cruz and Megan and I would want them as friends. Of course we have Ethan, the love interest in the story and I liked how their relationship played out. They didn't rush into it and there was some tension lingering between the them. Anderson does a great job writing the characters because I empathized with them and was rooting for them throughout.

Now onto the writing: The writing style was fantastic and it kept the story going; there was not a dull moment and there was always something there to peak my interest. The story is told in first person (by Marina) and we get a sense of her emotions and how she personally deals with the conflicts in the book. Another thing that I enjoyed was dialogue--I found myself lost in their conversations at times.

**Conclusion:** I would say this story is a fun summer-read-type book and I would recommend it to those who are into YA romance books (with a bit of supernatural element added in). There are not many YA mermaid books that I know of and after reading this, I want to pick up some more. Anderson's take on the mermaid mythology was unique and I definitely want to learn more about the mermaids in this book and I hope that she elaborates more as the series progresses. I enjoyed this book and I am already on the next one in the series: The Moon and The Tide. Check this book out!

*Source: Received from Author, Derroyln Anderson.*

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## **Wei Cho says**

*Marina is a very lucky girl. She has a renowned scientist as a father, she travels a lot, she has a rich "aunt" who pampers her with high couture clothing, accessories, shoes, etc., she lives with an aunt and cousin who care a lot for her, she meets a handsome surfer who is going to fall in love with her. Besides that, she is part of a mystery, an adventure that envelopes her. This is the story of Marina, a girl who has everything she wants and so easily conferred upon her.*

*It was far too easy for Marina: meeting Ethan, looking good with all her high-end clothing and shoes, being strong as she is and fending off the "mean beach girls" who bully Cruz and Megan. Marina is the archetype of every teenager's dream: rich, talented, beautiful, mysterious, and the hottest surfer after her. It was sickening...slightly.*

*I found myself rolling my eyes whenever Marina spoke with such eloquence about what she was wearing and the accessories that came with it. Honestly, I didn't care. The author made Marina seemed like she didn't care about fashion too, but her actions and descriptive words pointed to a different direction. Marina did care and that score a point against her in my eyes.*

*Ethan, the stereotypical handsome surfer who falls in love with the new girl in town. He is unlike the rest of the surfers he hangs out with and he is deeply concerned about Marina. I just wished there was more dynamics to the romance stories nowadays. This "love" story between Marina and Ethan has been told and regurgitated so many times that is getting old. I just wished the author had come up with something entirely different for both of them. Or have Ethan be something else than a hot surfer. In a sense, I felt the author was also stereotyping California as being the land of hot surfers and beautiful, but bitchy, beach girls with short bikinis. It was all so annoying. I live in California and that is not true.*

*As I mentioned before, everything came so easy for Marina. It is almost unrealistic.*

*As for the plot, the mystery was alluring, but I was hoping for more mystery as to Marina keeping the secret for herself instead of telling everybody she knew about it. It just killed the suspense. I got bored when Marina was drowned so many times and rescued as well. I believe that was what I read most of the time. In the last part, when she was pulled into the ocean by the group of mermaids, she got turned into one. But Naida relinquished on Marina giving her a period of 50 moons to decide if she wanted to give up immortality. I think the mermaids let her go way too easily despite the fact that the mermaids wanted to get her into the ocean so vehemently. I just think there are serious inconsistencies in the plot.*

*I also thought it was all very predictable. I wasn't surprised at the twists (if there were any that is). And wasn't surprised at the characters' attitudes and personalities among each other. I knew those type of characters because they're all stereotypes repeated over and over again in supernatural, young adult fiction!*

*As for the way the book is structured and where the writing style is concerned... I think the author used way too many words that could've been expressed in less. Translated, that means that this book was unnecessarily long. There were a lot of needless descriptions that only showed me Marina's shallowness. To be honest, I skimmed over some paragraphs of the book and in the end, I felt I understood the essence of the story without reading those paragraphs. The dialogues were what I aimed to read the most because I discovered so much through them. I honestly didn't need to know every single detail of their action. Sometimes you have to let the reader wander off with details.*

*The mermaids are nice creatures in the book. But mythology says that they lure and drown sailors (like Peter Pan). This wasn't the case. They were nice creatures. I was a bit thrown off by this part because the author twisted the mermaids to make it conform to a typical young adult novel. It was like having a vampire who doesn't die in the sun, but sparkles in it. Utter nonsense. It would have been more thrilling to have the mermaids wanted to threaten Marina's life than being all innocent about it.*

*Last but not least. The romance. Ugh. I've read this type of romance all over again. Sacrifices? Love beyond everything? To sacrifice eternal life for someone you love? This is a noble act of love, but I've read about it in almost every supernatural, young adult novel. It just doesn't change, does it? And to top it off, a surfer had to be included in the picture. Not just any kind of surfer, but the "good" type of surfer guy. I found myself hating Ethan rather than loving him for his gentleman-like personality and warm attitudes. Every girl's dream? I don't think so.*

*I hope all the best for Marina in the second installment.*

*On a final note, I would not catalog this as fantasy.*

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### **Kat (Kindred Dreamheart) says**

I was given a copy of this book from the author for an honest review.

I am at a loss for words. The Little Mermaid of Disney is not the end all of imagination concerning this mythological creature. The fiction world has been mighty quiet for so long, one would assume mermaids were just for little girls and babies to marvel over. When I initially got this request, my mind was whispering a constant mantra of "? ?ImpressMe- ImpressMe- ImpressMe ....LordPleaseDon'tLetThisBookSuck.? ?" Well people, I am officially sockless! I just want to hug my Nook until the inner springs sequel in protest. I'm stuck in a dilemma between spoiling the story and keeping all the warm goodness feeling this book gave me all to myself! At last I'll share a little \*pouting\* because that was the deal.

Between The Land And The Sea is such a complex story.

- ♥ First there's the pretense of Marina moving to this new town.
- ♥ She crosses paths with a mermaid,
- ♥ meet the guy of any girl's dreams,
- ♥ meets an Asian local talking in philosophical riddles,
- ♥ has a super rich aunt showering her with gifts and psychic premonitions,
- ♥ confusions with jealous locals females,
- ♥ and on top of all that, her parents were harboring a secret of their own!

One thing that completely sold this book were the characters. I have never been more in love with the supporting cast in all my reading life!

Aunt Evie and Cruz \*sigh\* are my kindred spirits! These characters were colorful and very entertaining.

**Aunt Evie**-the neighbor and family friend, Hollywood starlet, living life rich and oh so fabulous!

*Aunt Evie had been a celebrated fashion model in her younger years and remained a style icon, traveling the globe in a relentless pursuit of luxury and pleasure. She possessed the devastating combination of wit and*

*beauty that made people from all walks of life shamelessly fawn all over her. When Evie focused her attention on you, it felt as though you were the most important person in the world.*

**Cruz**-the Goth boy cousin and aspiring fashion designer!

Mermaid and kickassness sounds funny in the same sentence, but is a justifiable adjective to use for Marina.

*“Hey Cruzie boy,” a girl’s voice called out as we passed by, “Who’s the new hag?”*

*I spun around, uncharacteristically confrontational. Startled, most of them looked away or down.*

This was my favorite scene. Of course this is only a teaser of the building animosity between the villain and our heroine. I've literally bookmarked and/or highlighted every other paragraph throughout this book for memorable breath stealing moments. I can go on for days talking about it, but I like to keep my reviews short and sweet. Besides if I type anymore, I'm afraid I'll ruin the book for you! I honestly did not see this coming but I rate this book EPIC! I keep clicking, but I can't give more than 5 stars...lol! Mermaids are the new "IT" supernatural!

Books 2, 3, & 4 of this tetralogy, here I come!

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**Sarah {Literary Meanderings} says**

♥ Find my reviews on Blogger ~ Reviews by Bookish Sarah

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Ah, what a pleasant surprise! I'll admit, when I read books that aren't somewhat "widely known" - I have a preconceived assumption that it won't be great. Well, I feel like a jerk now, because this book blew me away. Don't go into this expecting something like *The Little Mermaid*, because you'll be sorely disappointed. This story is much more than a silly fairy tale.

Between the Land and the Sea is about Marina. Her father (a single parent) is going away to Afghanistan for a year (for work) and plans to leave Marina to live with her aunt Abby and cousin Cruz in Aptos, California. This is where she is to attend her senior year of high school. Marina has *never* attended actual school, public or otherwise; she's had tutors. High school is intimidating enough, but after nearly drowning in the sea, Marina misses the entire first week of school - and is automatically pegged as a "freak" and turns out to be the subject of numerous rumors. Needless to say, she isn't feeling very excited about the next year of her life.

The good news is, Marina is hitting it off really well with her cousin (whom she hasn't seen in years) and his friend Megan. Marina also meets the gorgeous surfer, Ethan, during her first week in Aptos. Only, when Ethan first lays eyes on her, he flips out - acts as if he's seen a ghost and all but runs away! What's up with *that*?

One morning while Marina is taking in the view of the sea from the pier, she sees a mermaid. She thinks that *surely* her eyes must be deceiving her. Only, she soon discovers this mythical creature is anything but a trick of the eye. Not only that, but mermaids are nothing like the stories say. Finding and talking to this creature

soon becomes a near-obsession for Marina - for various reasons. An obsession that becomes very dangerous and potentially deadly. The mermaids want something from her, and she needs to find out what that may be.

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There are so many elements to this story. It's very hard to tell you how amazing it is without giving away too much!

First of all - the way the author has described Aptos just makes me want to go live there right now. If there is truly a place like this, I *need* to be there. It seemed magical, and not just because the water is laden with mermaids! An extremely clear picture was drawn, and it was easy to imagine yourself inside the story.

I had no difficulty what-so-ever getting lost in this book. I read it in less than a day. I *needed* to know what was around the next corner. It was like a drug. "JUST ONE MORE CHAPTER!" I even stayed up well past 5:30 in the morning because I just couldn't stop. That's a big deal, considering I am usually asleep by midnight!

The character development was fantastic, and I loved each character personally. Marina was realistically portrayed. She was 16, going on 17. She was petty at times, and strong-willed at others. She wasn't overly-mature for her age like you often see in YA books. I appreciated greatly that her personality and demeanor fit the age she was supposed to be. Marina's cousin, Cruz, was a very fun character! I think he brought a lot to the story, as did her aunt Addy. A very cheerful and upbeat person. She also fit the image of what I would imagine your average California mom to be like. :) Ethan was more than just your average high school pretty boy. He has the hot, tan, surfer thing going on, but he wasn't shallow by any means.

I think the romance was realistically spread out, but also very intense. I loved Marina and Ethan together. Ethan was every gal's dream.

The mermaids were so different from what you normally read about. They weren't plucked out of your average mermaid fairy tale. They had a feral air to them, and I could never decide if I wanted to *like* them or not! Even though they kept referring to themselves as "sisters", their world seemed to have a form of hierarchy, but the small glimpse we got of that wasn't built upon very far. I am curious to see more of their strange ways as the series progresses. It was a nice taste that left me anxious for more!

I was never bored with this book. It had surprises and plot twists. Oh, and the epilogue/book 2 teaser was a jaw-dropper. Like, I absolutely *have* to know what is going to happen. I plan to begin reading book 2 very very soon!

I recommend this book to anyone who loves a good fantasy tale, or a book that strays a bit from the "norm". It is a very unique story. Truly a diamond in the rough!

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This book was received directly from the author for review.

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## **Darth J says**

4.5 Stars

I first have to say that I was a little wary of picking this title up because I saw that it had romance in it, and I usually try to steer clear of those types of books. *But* I was glad I gave this novel a chance. Not only is the romance not the "be-all, end-all" type that is filled with drama that usually accompanies these books, it's only a part of the plot and not the main focus.

One of the things that really struck me about this novel was the initial atmosphere of Aptos. Reading about it really brought on the nostalgia of when I used to go on family vacations to beach towns along the California coast. I can't remember the last time a book was able to stir up those kind of memories, but it was something subtle yet masterful in the prose that allowed it to evoke that same feeling. To me, the locales were written in that same dreamy way that accompanied the setting of the movie version of *Practical Magic*.

I also have to say that the characters felt real. The conversations were not stilted, and it really sounded like things normal teens would be talking about. I especially liked all the "that's what she said" jokes that were peppered throughout.

Marina is a self-aware character and the depth of her understanding of human nature not only expressed in opposition to the shallow people she encounters at her new school, but by the magpie-like nature of the first mermaid she meets.

What impressed me was the little things like the detail that went into the mermaids' culture. They don't have the same concepts about time as humans do, and I thought those differences and language barriers are subtleties that other stories seem to skimp over. It's just some good world buildin' in my opinion.

I do have to say that there was some obvious research done, it seems. The 10 year old geek in me that wanted to be a Marine Biologist applauded that the detail of the shark closing its eyes before it bit something was added in, but the fact that it wasn't aware that a mermaid was tailing it (pun intended!) when it can sense electrical twitches of muscle movements felt overlooked. That and the fact that there were a few minor spelling errors were why I took off the half star from this review.

Overall, I was pleasantly surprised by this book and found it to be quite

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## **Karlyflower \*The Vampire Ninja, Luminescent Monster & Wendigo Nerd Goddess of Canada (according to The Hulk)\* says**

*Karly's Authors Who Rock Challenge*

Buddy-read with my girls, Heather & Jess, for sometime in August.

As Jess would say, "I'd rather be a mermaid".

### **The Review**

#### **2.5 Stars**

Full disclosure: Yes, I am friends with Derrolyn Anderson here on Goodreads and no, that isn't going to affect my review of this story in any way. If you think it would (or should) back away.... back away **VERY** quickly.

I feel very mid-ground about Between the Land and the Sea, there were a number of elements present that annoyed me beyond belief and yet it was an easy, fluffy read that hit me at exactly the right time. How to review, how to review?!

#### **The Good:**

I enjoyed the *concept* behind the love interest, Ethan. He was a refreshing break from all the brooding, anger riddled, angsty bad boy types you generally come across in this genre. Ethan was kind, considerate, driven towards an achievable goal and he had none of those stalkery vibes so common in today's YA.

A serious LACK of instalove! Thank you, thank you, thank you!! I found that Anderson separated the concept of instant attraction to a person from instantly **loving** a person and I have to applaud her for that, it is a rare thing in YA today to differentiate between the two.

**THE MERMAIDS!!!!** I love mermaids, guys, and I loved the way Anderson portrayed the mermaids as a mix of both wizened and childish. I also enjoyed her interpretation of how they would look, with scaled, pale flesh rather than the Disneyesque green tails and shells look. The ferocity of these mythical creatures was a lovely touch, as well, it made them feel like the mythical creatures of sublime beauty I have always viewed them as.

#### **The Bad:**

While I enjoyed the *idea* of Ethan quite a bit I found the actuality of him terribly boring. He was like a rock (Oh goodie, now I have Bob Seger stuck in my head!!) in the least appealing way, in the he is just kind of 'there' and unmoving way. He had his own passions and goals but they were never really explored, it was ALL about Marina.

The parental figures, while somewhat present and nice, were pretty absentminded and forgetful. I found Abby's choice to just pawn the taking care of Marina off on Ethan highly unbelievable especially considering the near-death accidents that occurred early in the story. (view spoiler)

And, finally...

#### **The Ugly**

**SPESHUL SNOWFLAKE ALERT!!!** Marina was such a precious snowflake, it frustrated me so much. It was ALL about her, in the worst possible way! She was the new, super-uber pretty girl with the rich 'Aunt' who spoiled her completely rotten. OF COURSE the new boy and other boys would fawn all over her.... Marina is sooooo special and unique and fashionable. Blah de blah blah.

**GIRL-ON-GIRL HATE, over a fucking boy!!!** This is one of my biggest pet peeves, I loathe that so many YA novels use this tactic. The other girls were just evil, window dressing for how precious Marina and Ethan's romance was. Why do writers do this?! It's so frustrating! There are plenty of reasons to add an antagonist without making it dreary and overdone this way but it seems to always come down to some 'perfect' boy that all the girls love (because girls are all fucking lemmings, after all) and then our MC wins his attention and gets shit on for it. Bleh.

I would call this book a fluffy, fun beach read. It doesn't have a lot of meat to it but it is quick to read and Anderson's style of writing is enjoyable.

#### **Category: A Popular Author's First Book**

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♥?€σσ?ι?♥? (Krystle) says

*You can read this review and more on my blog:*

**I received this book for free from the author in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.**

I think Mermaids may be my favorite mythical creatures. They spend most of their time in the water surrounded by all the aquatic animals that enjoy learning about on the Discovery Channel. They have mischievous and playful personalities. And they don't have an unquenchable thirst for blood. And everything that I like about mermaids was magnified in this book.

The story revolves around Marina, and she has a pretty fantastic life. Her father is an agricultural scientist who allows her to go with him as he travels the globe in an effort to feed the world. He makes sure that she is educated by the best tutors, and teaches her how to be self sufficient and independent.

When she and her dad aren't traveling, they just so happen to live next door to a benevolent, rich fashionista named Evie who makes it her business to spoil Marina with the finer things in life. I think Evie was my favorite character because I want someone like her in my life. I don't only like her because she buys Marina so many fancy things and allows her access to a garage full of luxury cars, mostly I like her because of how much she loves Marina. Evie always encouraged her to follow her heart and find ways to get the most out of life.

The fun begins when Marina's father reluctantly sends her to live with his sister for a year while his job

forces him to travel to a dangerous part of the world. He wants his daughter to experience what it is like to be a “normal” teenager and attend high school, and Evie wants her to fall in love and have the adventure of a lifetime. Of course Marina hates the idea of this, but as soon as she reconnects with her aunt and fashion loving cousin and meets a few new people, she warms up to the idea of living in the small seaside town.

To make things even better one of the people she meets is a cute surfer, Ethan. And Ethan gives her a giant dose of what it feels like to be a “normal” girl because she develops a huge crush on him.

They have the same type of cute romance, that I have come to expect in a Derrolyn Anderson novel. If the guy was being a massive jerk all the time and the girl was playing mind games, I would wonder if the author actually wrote the book because so far, she doesn’t write those types of relationships. Thankfully!

Sometimes, Marina did bug me with her extreme need to be independent. She had grown up with no one but her dad and Evie to depend on, and while they loved her well, it was impossible for them to be there for her whenever she needed it. She had to learn to work through so many things alone, and now that she has a larger support system, it is difficult for her to let go and allow them to help. But she is learning.

This is yet another story that would be spoiled if I revealed too much. I think it is safe to say that Marina is not just an ordinary girl. She has a connection to the sea that is greater than most humans, but so does everyone else in the town of Aptos. It has a magical feeling that is hard to describe, and very enjoyable to read.

I love the way this book ended. It let me know that I plenty of story to look forward to in the next books, but it didn’t leave me hanging. Marina and the gang are all in wonderful places in their lives, and I’m glad I get to go along on their journey and watch them grow.

If you are in the mood for a YA fantasy with beautiful imagery, a likable heroine, a sweet romance, and well crafted action sequences, this book will wet your appetite. (I spelled “whet” wrong on purpose. I had to get one water pun into this review. lol)

*This book is clean, but I would recommend the reading level for ages 13 and up.* This review was originally posted on Kookie Krysp Reads

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### **oliviasbooks says**

If this book was a muffin I would say that it contained too much topping and that it dripped with artificial aroma. If this book was a muffin I would be nauseated after swallowing 30% percent of it and I would be craving a simple scone after letting the rest drop into the bin. I do love muffins, but there has to be some dough besides all the fudge and the fruit and the icing. Do you know what I mean? If not, you are invited to read the rest of my review:

Between The Land And The Sea is a mermaid book. It starts with a prologue in which a surfer is saved from “*an efficient eating machine, emotionless and methodical*”, a vicious shark “*on a lethal mission*”, by a powerful, otherworldly beautiful mermaid and precedes to tell the story of Marina, a girl with “*water in her eyes*”, who spends her last year of school in a small town by the sea with her father’s sister and her cousin in order to catch up on the social experiences a normal teenager indulges in – like dances, romance and friendship. Before the school year has started Marina has become friends with the social outcasts of her

grade – her cousin and his best friend –, a homeless lady, a mysterious Asian-looking fisherman with “ancient eyes” and Lorelai, a mermaid whose face mirrors her own on the dot, who speaks a language only Marina can understand, who calls her sister and who has not been detected by anyone yet in spite of her habit to frolic around with the sea lions under a tourist attraction ship wreck. In addition, the heroine is overcome by a severe case of instant attraction to the school’s top catch, surfer and gardener Ethan. Hunky Ethan falls backwards into a rosebush, when he first catches sight of Marina, and the oracle with the fishing rod mumbles “*Very good match, Earth and Water*,” concerning the heroine and her love interest. So, if I got this right after almost a third of the book, Marina has been conceived in a harbour (therefore her name), when her father was overcome by a mermaid’s inhuman screeches, whereas Ethan has to be the offspring of an earth-bound troll or garden gnome. His smell certainly backs up that theory.

So far, so good. This is sadly standard Young Adult Paranormal Romance and nothing to complain about. As a mermaid book lover I still might have enjoyed the story and the mercreature-related scenes to come. Even a muffin from the supermarket can melt on your tongue with the help of some Earl Grey. But there is that unfortunate case of topping overflow:

Marina’s Dad is a university professor who develops new kinds of crop - rice or wheat which thrives under bad weather and water conditions in less optimal soil. Marina has accompanied him all her life to the various countries where he researched and planted his stuff. Marina is supposed to be a girl who places family before a plush living, someone who knows the world and its customs, someone who recognizes from which part of Thailand a dish is and who bows, palms pressed respectfully together, saying “*Kob kun kup*” when necessary. She is super-smart and super-educated: “*The private tutors I’d studied with had put me beyond American high school level in most areas. Traveling with my father was an education in itself, and I’d read so many classics that there wasn’t one textbook on the syllabus that I didn’t already know.*” On top Marina excels in art, because she “*had taken art lessons at museums and galleries in the city*” and has an art studio in her San Francisco apartment. The private tutors, the art studio and also the immediate effect a threat to contact her apparently well-known father had on her teachers made me wonder *how much* money an US university professor, who is into third world research, earns. German professors are surely well-fed, but I doubt that they could afford a San Francisco penthouse apartment next to a wealthy widow, who owns an underground car park full of vintage Rolls Royces, has her own chauffeur, spends her days shopping for designer clothes and financially boosts startup artists, designers and pop-stars. Said widow, former super-model Evie, is the artificial crutch that lets sophisticated and seemingly down-to-earth Marina be a rich kid without being rich herself: Every piece of cloth inside of Marina’s extensive wardrobe has been provided and chosen by “Aunt Evie”, who has an eye for fashion and never goes wrong. Marina’s father does not mind his neighbour spending hundred thousands of dollars on his daughter’s look. And Marina is now a best-dressed girl and fashion expert, who can entertain her new class mates with tales from the dressing room while laughingly denying to be loaded or snobbish. And when Marina mentions her desire to learn to surf, her personal tooth fairy sends two boards and a designer wetsuit. Because of being daily immersed in Gucci and Pucci Marina sees at one glance that her cousin Cruz has a glowing future in fashion design. And certainly it goes without saying that the other outsider Marina befriends, pudgy Megan of the gorgeous hair, is “*incredibly talented*” in song-writing, has a voice that makes the heroine “*blink away tears*” and needs to be introduced to Evie. I really thought that more talent and more specialness was not possible to integrate in such a small place as Aptos, but I was mistaken: Wise-eyed fisherman Lue Khang turned out to be a former CIA agent who had been working undercover in Vietnam. \**Yuck*\*. My virtual teeth really hurt when biting on that final frosted violet on the plate. Too much is too much. The book had to go unfinished.

I deeply apologize to my brave and disciplined read-along buddy Teccc, who said that he came to hate Aunt Evie as the plot progressed, for persuading him to read the book with me. The next book *will* be better, Teccc. Promise.

And I thank the author, Derrolyn Anderson, for sending me a free Smashwords coupon in exchange for this honest review.

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### **Courtney says**

This is not a Disney book about the Little Mermaid! Between The Land and the Sea is so much more than a sweet little fairy tale! This is an enchanting story of mermaids with a unique perspective of their lives.

Between the Land and the Sea is about an eccentric young girl who gets sent to live with her Aunt Abby and her cousin Cruz while her dad is away on business for the year. Her dad wants her to experience a "normal" teenage high school experience but being in Aptos turns out to be anything but a normal experience. Marina is new to the idea of going to school and struggles to fit in. She is so drawn to the sea and actually almost drowns twice, most all the people around her start calling her a freak. She meets local hunky surfer Ethan right when she moves and he is the best thing in her new life in Aptos.

I have read only one other story about mermaids, called Forgive My Fins and while I loved that story, I also loved this one even though they were nothing alike! This is a unique plot that I've never heard of about mermaids. You think of mermaids as being all sweet and enchanted but not all mermaids in this story are sweet, some are very dangerous! This story flows beautifully throughout, with Marina learning how to fit in to school and her sudden eagerness to learn more about the sea and its creatures.

One thing I loved about this book was the characters! They were all really well developed and my favorite would have to be the main characters Ethan and Marina although the secondary characters were all amazing also. I connected right away to the life of Marina and you can't help but to root for her to succeed right from the beginning, she is such a sweet selfless young girl and I loved her! I also loved the eccentric Cruz, and all that he brought to the story with his fashion! And Marina's Aunt Evie was a hilarious typical rich designer!

The dialogue is great and the relationships that develop are all sweet and genuine! The romance that blooms is realistic and so sweet. There is some kissing involved but it is all sweet and done tastefully! I loved that Derrolyn keeps it clean yet passionate! There were a few touchy language moments but nothing bad and it didn't take away from the story at all.

My only complaint is that I felt like things got off to a bit of slow start and I wanted to speed things up a bit. The slow start is worth the wait though because this story is so intriguing, unique, suspenseful, humorous and sweet that I think most YA fantasy lovers would love this story! I finished the first book and instantly started on the second book because I was so drawn in to Marina's life!!

I received a copy of this book to read and review from the author. My review is not biased by the fact that I was given this book. I HONESTLY read and review any book whether bought or given to me. If I did not like the book I would definitely not give a rave review or recommend it.

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### **Heather \*Awkward Queen and Unicorn Twin\* says**

Buddy read with Karly and Jess set for August.

## REVIEW

I'm not sure how to talk about this book. I liked it better than Anderson's *The Athena Effect*, though both have Mary Sue protagonists. Still, it wasn't terrible, and better written than many debuts. It was very similar to many YA supernatural books that have proliferated the market in the last few years.

My main problem was the MC, Marina. I guess it wasn't her fault I didn't like her, since she was a pretty nice character, although idiotic at times. (view spoiler).

Her relationship with her former neighbor Evie was the issue. Infinitely wealthy Evie had no problem showering Marina with designer clothes, surfboards, letting her borrow expensive, rare cars, and offering up her connections to the fashion world. Basically Evie existed so Marina wouldn't have to struggle for any material thing. When she wanted to learn to surf, the boards appeared. When she wanted to learn to drive, a car appeared. When she wanted to present a fierce image to the mean girls at school, expensive clothing appeared. When her friend showed musical talent, Evie suddenly had clout in the music industry. Since Marina didn't ask for any of this and was grateful, I guess I was supposed to be okay with it all.

Speaking of the girls at school, they were awful. Why do girls have to be characterized as hanging around the popular love interest in skimpy clothes, shooting glares at the MC? Making fun of her and being mean just because the guy they want likes her? WHY IS THIS STILL HAPPENING? None of the male characters in the book were rude to the MC for no reason. No, it was only the girls who apparently had no life other than to make themselves visible to this one guy. It wasn't necessary at all.

The romance wasn't quite insta-love, but it did happen seemingly out of nowhere and with little substance. It was the same thing we've seen time and time again in YA PNPs. At least this guy wasn't as controlling as some, although he did get all up in Marina's business when he had no call to do so.

All in all, this wasn't the worst thing I've ever read. But it was predictable and suffered from many clichés of the genre.

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### Nicole Peterson says

Marina normally travels with her Dad as part of his job. This time her Dad has to go to Afghanistan for a year and doesn't feel that it is safe for her to travel with him. So she dejectedly moves in with her aunt and cousin, in a small coastal town.

She goes down to the shore and happens upon a mermaid who calls her "sister". She falls into the water and between the mermaid and popular surfer, Ethan, they rescue her from drowning. Ethan then is asked by Marina's aunt to give Marina swimming lessons and thus the romance starts.

Meeting up with the mermaid again, she comes to find out that her mother was a mermaid. The mermaid

wants Marina to follow her to get Marina's birthright, inherited when her mother passed away giving birth to her. Now she has a choice to make that will affect her whole future.

This was a really good read. It flowed smoothly and was easy to follow. No distracting typos.

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### **Alana ~ The Book Pimp says**

Delightful, engaging YA Mermaid Story.

Marina has traveled the world with her father, but when he is headed to Afghanistan he refuses to allow her to join him like usual. Instead, she must spend her senior year with her aunt and cousin and attend public school for the first time in her life. She leaves behind San Francisco, and heads to Atpos, a much smaller town by the sea. Is drawn to the water, and quickly sees hauntingly familiar eyes in the water, almost as familiar with her own reflection. Could it have been a scuba diver or a surfer playing tricks? High School is hard enough without having already humiliated herself in front of the hottest surfer at school, let alone worry about mythological creatures....

Overall, I REALLY enjoyed this book. I even stayed up late the final night I was reading just to find out what happened. The ending seemingly buttoned up a little more quickly than I would have liked.

Foreshadowing to the sequel was good, almost too good- I was expecting a few "revelations" during the first book that did not come to pass. Sweet and innocent, but does *not* suffer, in my opinion, from the "love at first sight" syndrome; the story allowed time for the romance to begin and grow at a normal pace. As it is a YA story, don't go into this expecting hot and heavy romantic action; but there is still romance aplenty. This is a book you can give to a teen without worry of inappropriate or too adult themes.

I liked the variety of characters. Just because it had surfers and on a beach, they were not *all* blonde, ripped magazine cover teenagers. The main character was brunette, there was even a 'plumper' redhead friend... there was not an over-use of stereotypical, cookie-cutter characters. I really appreciated the diversity.

I would definitely recommend this to anyone that enjoys YA, likes a mermaid story, or even just paranormal/urban fantasy in general. It was a charming book definitely worth reading, and I will most definitely look at getting the sequel see how it continues...

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### **Jess \*Harbinger of Blood-Soaked Rainbows\* says**

#### **Read a popular author's first book**

August is mermaid month!

Buddy read with my fellow sea creatures, Karly and Heather set for August.

Because really, everything is better under the sea.

So, I have been looking forward to reading this because a: mermaids and b:Derrolyn Anderson. Though I am not friends with Derrolyn, I have many friends who are friends with her, and I have heard nothing but praise about this amazing lady. So, in light of my brilliant friend Karly's idea to have an "Authors Who Rock" month to celebrate those fantastic people who write and who also love and respect their readers and reviewers, I thought this book would be a perfect start to that little challenge.

And I cannot say that I loved this book. It is a solid three. There were parts I thoroughly enjoyed, some parts I found annoying, and other parts I could definitely do without. I will try and cover each one in this review.

First off, mermaids. Duh! I mean, this is ME we're talking about here. I really really enjoyed this author's take on my mythological doppelganger. The mermaids depicted within this novel are a delightful blend of savior of the sea and killer sirens which is how I love my mermaids to be. They are watchful of the humans who tread their waters and save them from shark attacks and storms. However, they have violent tempers and are remarkably strong creatures. Not to be taken lightly. They are beautiful but definitely in an otherworldly way with shimmering, not so human skin, translucent scales, and webbed hands. Reading about them was delightful. On the downside of the mermaid plotline, I found their childish behavior somewhat annoying and I wish that their characters were more fully developed and that they were in the story more. I am still holding out hope for the rest of the series on that front.

Second, though everyone knows I am not a fan of romance, I do have to admit that the romance in this YA novel was handled better than most I've read. There was no instalove, and Marina and Ethan developed a pretty solid friendship first before a relationship was ever explored. This was a breath of fresh air. Now with that being said, Ethan was on the boring side, and I think this has to do with his character never really being explored more than just references to things he's done or experienced. It was a major case of show rather than tell, and I hope I get to know Ethan more in the coming novels.

The writing is decent, especially for a debut, and this novel is immensely readable. The pages practically turned themselves, and barely took any effort to get into or to keep going. I also have way more of a desire to continue with the series. More urge than I felt with Twilight and the Vampire Academy series. This book was light and breezy and kinda what I needed. However, some of the bad needs to be mentioned.

I still got big big gulps of this:

which was really really annoying. And Marina really reminded me of a more likeable Bella Swan which didn't win her any popularity contests with me. New girl, kinda bland, always seems to get herself in trouble, catches the eye of the hunky popular senior, he saves her life time after time, they fall in love. Ok. Been there. Done that. It's called Twilight. I don't want to re-read Twilight.

I also wish some of the secondary characters were more dynamic. I really enjoyed Marina's cousin Cruz, an androgynous outcast with immense talent in fashion design. Oh yeah, Marina was also conveniently raised across the hall from a rich and famous fashion icon who constantly buys her designer clothes, surfboards, anything she wants. So Marina never wants for anything. To, me this plot device was just a little too convenient and very worthy of some eye-rolls from yours truly. Evie (the fairy fashionista godmother) was also one of my least favorite characters. She was bland and one-dimensional, and I didn't really like any scenes she was in. I wish the Cruz, his mother Abby, and his best friend Megan become more dynamic as the series continues because the potential for some great meaty supporting characters is totally there.

The thing I hated the most was the girl-on-girl hate between Marina and Ethan's "groupies," the skinny blonde beach girls who are in love with Ethan and follow him around. I understand this does tend to happen

in high school, but it was so ridiculously over-the-top and unrealistically portrayed in this book it made me crazy. It became a cliche stereotype and one that I loathed reading about.

Basically, I liked this book but didn't love it. Marina's secrets about her family and her mother were kind of predictable, but with that being said, I still enjoyed getting to them. It also ended neat and tidy and clean so I'm looking forward to where the story goes from here.

2.5 rounded up to 3.

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### ♥ Sarah says

\*\*free on amazon!!

<http://www.amazon.com/Between-Land-Ma...>

**WARNING:** This book is HIGHLY ADDICTIVE! Make sure you don't have plans before reading this, or you'll end up like me – SOL. I skipped class today, missed a quiz, & my friends officially think I'm nuts.  
\*\*

**CONFESION:** my experience with 'mermaid lore' is limited to my countless viewings (ages ago) of: *The Little Mermaid*; an 80s film I once watched on cable starring Tom Hanks, in *Splash*; and my most recent read: *Of Poseidon*. So, although I don't have much to compare this story to, I was really impressed.

**BACKGROUND:** Marina's life is anything but ordinary- travelling around the world with her scientist father, homeschooled all her life, with an extremely rich and beautiful neighbor whom she calls, "Aunt Evie." But, her already unorthodox life turns more bizarre when she relocates to Aptos, California – without her dad, for a whole year. Marina uncovers life changing secrets and revelations about her heritage, while dealing with the pressures of high-school, bonding with a tight-knit group of quirky friends, and her growing attraction for the enchanting, blue-eyed surfer, Ethan.

**CHARACTERS:** Basically, I was yet again, thoroughly impressed with the character development. I loved how multifaceted and unique each character was; it hurts to know that they aren't real. I wish I had a cousin like Cruz, and there needs to be more boys like Ethan. I loved each and every character, and I could see myself forming attachments to all of them already. YIKES.

Also, *Between the Land and Sea* offered a very original and unique take on mermaids. I was just as intrigued, curious, and mystified with Lorelei as Marina was! And I loved that **UNLIKE** *The Little Mermaid*, the mermaids weren't subjected to any form of patriarchy. They were beautiful, strong, fierce, and free.

**LOCATION:** I live minutes away from the beaches in Malibu, so I loved the details of the ocean, the waves, the surfing culture, and even the high-fashion! My cousin goes to UCSC, and though I've seen some beautiful Facebook photos of the beaches there, I'm thinking I need to plan a visit... I also loved how the author incorporated the Hmong – which added another unique perspective/take on mermaids.

**OVERALL:** I'm still kind of scratching my head as to why the *Of Poseidon* series has so many more followings than the *Marina Tales*. It's absolutely unbelievable. Although they're different stories, there are some similarities, and in my humble opinion, this one reigns supreme. The romance between Ethan & Marina flows so naturally. I noticed that this author can write some really good romance. Also, the mermaid

aspect was fresh & unique. The characters are all lovable, and impressionable. There's a lot of adventure, good conversations, genuine friendships, Mean Girl/HS drama, and captivating imagery.

5/5 stars.

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### **Midu Hadi says**

I got this book, from Making Connections for free, in exchange for an honest review. Get your copy [here](#).

A book about a half mermaid, half human teenage girl with a difficult choice to make.

What I liked:

Both the male and female leads were sensible characters and it was like a breath of fresh air.

The humor in the story, mostly because of Cruz and Megan made the story more fun.

What I didn't like::

The same ol' trope about the hottest guy in the school falling for the new girl has been done too many times.

If you want to read a sweet, funny YA book without love triangles (or vampires), check this one out.

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