



# Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings

By Helene Boudreau

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**Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings** By Helene Boudreau

*Freak of nature takes on a whole new meaning...*

If she hadn't been so clueless, she might have seen it coming. But really, who expects to get into a relaxing bathtub after a stressful day of shopping for tankinis and come out with scales and a tail?

**Most. Embarrassing. Moment. Ever.**

Jade soon discovers she inherited her mermaid tendencies from her mom. But if Mom was a mermaid, how did she drown?

Jade is determined to find out. So how does a plus-size, aqua-phobic mer-girl go about doing that exactly? And how will Jade ever be able to explain her secret to her best friend, Cori, and to her crush, Luke?

**This summer is about to get a lot more interesting...**

*"Absolutely fresh and sweet, a quirky coming of age story."*

**-The YA-5**

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### Editorial Review

#### From School Library Journal

Grade 5–8—Jade, 13, has enough problems. Her mom drowned a year ago, she's overweight, and her crush can't even remember her name. Then, she gets her period for the first time while trying on bathing suits for her best friend's pool party. At home, a relaxing bath in Epsom salts turns into a nightmare. She nods off in the tub and, upon waking, finds that her legs have been replaced by a scaly mermaid's tail. Her father doesn't seem surprised, only sad, and he reveals that she inherited this trait from her mother, a "Pesco-sapien," part fish, part human. The combination of salt water and the onset of puberty apparently triggered the change. Luckily Jade is able to return to her human state after some time out of the water. During a walk by the pier, she discovers that her mother is actually still alive and trapped in the lake by some not-so-nice mer-people. This leads to a frenetic, sometimes confusing, attempt to save her. Jade's father, who never seems to be able to get to his cell phone, is well-meaning but bumbling, leaving Jade mostly responsible for her mother's rescue. Flat characters and cheesy moments require the suspension of disbelief. Readers looking for an entertaining mermaid tale will be better served by Tera Lynn Child's *Forgive My Fins* (HarperCollins, 2010).—Mandy Lawrence, Fowler Middle School, Frisco, TX

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#### From Booklist

Jade's fourteenth birthday means more than just an extra candle: a soak in a warm Epsom-salted tub of water exposes a mermaid's tale—attached to her! She also discovers that her mother wasn't drowned after all but is a mermaid who is being held hostage by rogue merfolk intent on discovering the secret of changing into human form. Can Jade get the right kind of help to bring her mom back home? What begins as a coming-of-age story becomes a mildly suspenseful chase-and-rescue mission. There are subplots involving classic adolescent moments like Jade's first serious crush, a semi-serious third-wheel threat to a long-standing best friendship, and a single dad coping with his daughter's first period. The first-person narrative brings Jade's experiences up close and personal for readers who know what it's like to have secrets and feel like a fish out of water. A quick read, at times a little flat, with touches of humor; give this to girls not quite ready for snogging. Grades 6-9. --Cindy Welch

#### Review

""Jade is pretty certain that she has just experienced the most humiliating moment ever: when she gets her first period in the mall, she has to enlist her dad for help, since her mom disappeared a year ago.

That's nothing compared to later that night, though, when she sprouts a tail in the bath, and her father explains to her that her mom is a mermaid who petitioned to become human. No one was sure how their offspring would develop, but Jade's tail growth pretty much cinches her mermaid status. She quickly decides to hide her condition from her hunky new crush, but she will use her new abilities to find her missing mother, who was abducted in hopes that she would tell imprisoned merfolk the secret of her conversion so that they might follow suit. Despite the jocular title, there's a hefty dose of darkness in the fantasy, especially surrounding Jade's mother's savage kidnapping and the physical torments of her transformation. On the other hand, Jade's tone is an accessible mix of bluster, insecurity, and sincerity, and the story makes menstrual embarrassment, mermaid abductions, and true

(pesco-sapien) love all simultaneously plausible and deserving of reader sympathy. In true young-teen fashion, everything is exclamation-point-style dramatic, from the horrific change from mermaid to human to Jade's emphatic assertions about trying on bathing suits.

Offer this quirky novel to readers who love mermaids but wish that they were occasionally less flowy and

perfect and more . . . real. " -Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books" - **Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books**

""This is one book I would definitely recommend for tweens. It's a fun, charming, witty story and one teen girls and women can definitely relate to in some sense. Not many books can deliver the humor of the "you know what" all girls get and deal with for the first time, like Helene did with Jade. I hope I get to read more about Jade. Her voice is one that will be hard to forget. This is a coming of age story with humor." - Mundie Kids Reviews" - **Mundie Kids Reviews**

""This was a quick and easy read and I managed to read it in one sitting as I was curled up on the couch one afternoon. The day I read it was over cast and dreary out. Your typical winter day so it was nice to imagine being somewhere nice and summery.

This is a great middle grade book for girl readers." - Cindy's Love of Books" - **Cindy's Love of Books**

""This was a short cute book, and I loved the mermaid explanation. That was really original and it almost made me believe it could be true. So here the author really thought about how and why there are mermaids.

Recommendation and final thoughts:

A yes there, this is something young girls would enjoy. First there is mermaids, cool, the crush, and issues with friends. The paranormal and the down to earth things all young people go through." - The Book Girl of Mur-y-Castell

" - **The Book Girl of Mur-y-Castell**

""Everything about Hélène Boudreau's latest release was wonderful. The characters were likable, the plot was somewhat unique, and the outcome, although slightly predictable, was completely satisfying. I was hooked from the first page, and pleased when I flipped over the last one.

Overall, this is one book you just can't miss. Its a fun and quick read, and even comes with Jade's recipe for scrumptious 5-Minute Chocolate Mug Cake in the end!" - Icey Books" - **Icey Books**

""Helene Boudreau's Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings surprised the heck out of me! It was funny with snappy dialogue, poignant in its quirky coming-of age portrayal, and totally engaging in its frank yet corny depiction of the protagonist's struggles with puberty, relationships, and dealing with her mother's loss.

Even though this novel is geared towards a middle level female audience, it is a very engaging and an immensely entertaining romp. The ending was almost as fun as the start, with an unexpected twist that left me smiling and completely satisfied." -Eating YA Books" - **Eating YA Books**

""...an absolutely charming book...[Jade's] 'voice' was well articulated, strong, and often comical." - I Just Wanna Sit Here And Read" - **I Just Wanna Sit Here And Read**

""Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings is absolute brilliance in one of it's most humorous and touching forms, making me not only laugh-out-loud several times but I also teared up on occasion! ...both a delightful and moving blend of clever wit, action, adventure, family, and friends. Seriously, this book had it all, and Boudreau was able to pull it off without making the book seem cluttered. Throw in Jade's little journey of self-discovery and you've got the perfect coming-of-age story." - The Book Pixie" - **The Book Pixie**

""What I most loved about this book was the main character. She just felt like a completely real person, like

someone you went to middle school with. And her voice was hilarious. When I finished the book, I put it down with a contented sigh. It was an incredibly fun and satisfying read." - Anna of First Page Panda" -

""Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings had plenty of humor, action and a mystery. Younger girls will especially eat it up and wish for more of Jade's story." Michelle and Leslie's Book Picks" - ***Michelle and Leslie's Book Picks***

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### **Jeffrey Thompson:**

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each book has different aim or goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They may be reading whatever they take because their hobby is reading a book. Think about the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will require this Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings.

#### **Eva Ammons:**

The book Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make reading a book Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings to get your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You may know everything if you like open up and read a guide Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this publication?

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#### **Ellis Arnold:**

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