

The Girl Who Swam with the Fish: An Athabascan Legend


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A young Athabascan girl wonders what it would be like to be a fish. Suddenly, she finds herself on a watery odyssey as she learns about the salmon's journey from stream to ocean and back again.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In this retelling of an Athabascan legend, a young girl embarks on a startling odyssey. She wonders "What it would be like to be a fish, to glide through cool waves hearing only the silence of the water? Where do fish travel? What sights do they see?" In an instant, the girl is catapulted into a long, watery journey that will answer her dreamy questions and teach her much about the ways of salmon. **The Girl Who Swam with the Fish** reminds us all of the sacredness of the natural world, its creatures and its cycles. Ages 7 and up.

From Publishers Weekly

According to this book's foreword, salmon have always played a part in the culture, symbolism and lore of the Pacific Northwest, and Renner's retelling of a traditional Alaskan tale celebrates the cyclical nature of life as evidenced by the salmon's yearly return to its spawning grounds. The story begins with an Athabascan girl keeping an eager lookout for the fish her family will catch and preserve for the coming winter. A mishap sends her into the river?and in a flash she's changed into a salmon. Her lengthy sojourn underwater gives her a fish's-eye view of salmon life, and her new knowledge proves helpful when she returns home. The crisp prose style of first-time author Renner is echoed in the clean lines of Cox's woodcuts, whose pale images often spill beyond their thick black borders. A worthwhile addition to the Native American folklore shelf. Ages 7-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 2-4?In this retelling of an Athabascan legend, a girl waiting for the salmon to return slips by accident into the river, and, changing into a salmon herself, is swept to sea. Living with the ocean kings for years, she learns about their preferences: the salmon will return only to families with clean racks, sharp cutting knives, and proper drying methods. When she has matured enough to journey up the river, she rejoins her family and tells them what she has learned, and they always have fish. The cultural importance of this story does not, alas, guarantee an exciting plot. The moment of the girl's return to human form is passed over in an anticlimax, and the narrative ends weakly. It is hard for non-Athabascans to see the point. The illustrations, competent and sometimes clever (e.g. the girl's salmon-shaped shadow in the last picture), also lack excitement. The artist's palette is limited to the palest hints of ochre, blue, and green. The quasi-woodcut style provides strong linear interest, but also accentuates faults of draftsmanship. This well-meaning but dull effort demonstrates that not every native legend offers transcultural wisdom.?Patricia (Dooley) Lothrop Green, St. George's School, Newport, RI

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Helen Sullivan:

This The Girl Who Swam with the Fish: An Athabascan Legend usually are reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The explanation of this The Girl Who Swam with the Fish: An Athabascan Legend can be on the list of great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple reading food but feed you actually with information that probably will shock your before knowledge.

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Eileen Williams:

This *The Girl Who Swam with the Fish: An Athabascan Legend* is great guide for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who also always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. This book reveal it data accurately using great organize word or we can say no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having *The Girl Who Swam with the Fish: An Athabascan Legend* in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no book that offer you world within ten or fifteen moment right but this e-book already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt that will?

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