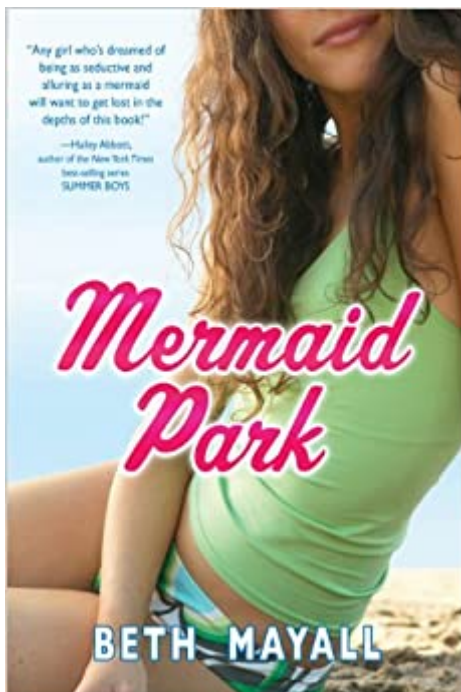


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# Mermaid Park



## Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Amy Rush doesn't expect much from her summer at the Jersey shore, until she stumbles on Mermaid Park, an old tourist spot where girls dress in fabulous costumes and put on underwater shows. Working at the park changes Amy's life in more ways than she could have imagined. She finds romance, a newfound self-confidence, and discovers breathtaking revelations about long-buried family secrets.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,801,047 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in Books > Teens >

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Social & Family Issues > Family > Stepfamilies #484 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up

& Facts of Life > Family Life > Stepfamilies

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 7-10 "Amy is not looking forward to a three-day vacation with her family at the Jersey shore, visiting her mother's godmother, Lynne, who owns a motel. The last thing the 16-year-old wants is to be stuck with her mother, with whom she has been fighting; her difficult stepfather, who picks on her; her pretty younger sister; and her sister's friend. But when they arrive, she instantly connects with Dylan, a local boy who does odd jobs for Lynne, and discovers Mermaid Park, an underwater spectacular that features teenage girls in mermaid costumes. Amy then stays for the rest of the summer without her family and vows to become one of those swimmers. Mayall realistically portrays a conflicted teen who thinks that the world is out to get her. Readers will identify with her struggle to find herself, relate to others, and get over her fears in the 36-foot-deep tank. The other characters, including a beautiful friend, a grumpy boss, and a jilted boy, are believable as well. The interactions

between Amy and her mother are painfully realistic, which makes the surprise ending concerning the girl's parentage even more meaningful. This is a good read that deals with real growing-up issues.â “Carly B. Wiskoff, Great Neck Library, NY Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 8-11. Fed up with her bullying stepfather and her own anger, 16-year-old Amy has miraculously received permission to spend the summer with a family friend, Lynne, who owns a seaside motel on the Jersey shore. Searching for work, she finds herself powerfully drawn to Mermaid Park, a fading tourist attraction with an underwater show. She talks her way into a cleaning job, and she imagines joining the girls costumed as mermaids, who perform underwater for the park audience. As the summer passes, she realizes her dream, meets a guy, and unravels astonishing secrets about her family. A few of the peripheral characters feel a bit like caricatures, particularly Amy's harassing stepfather. But Mayall deepens what could have been a routine novel with an evocative setting, magic, and authentically drawn Amy, who narrates in easy, compelling prose. Teens will easily connect with the story about young people learning who they are and how to grow past the faults they find in themselves and others. Gillian Engberg Copyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Spoilers are in my review, you have been warned!!!After reading all the reviews, I had big hopes for this book. I couldn't find it in any of the stores so I had to order it online. For the record I'm 29 years old and I find that I enjoy teenage books alot more than adult books.I have a few unanswered questions:1) Who was the mermaid she saw so late at night?2) Why was Lynn so against her going to the North side and hiding Mermaid Park from her? You'd think that she'd certainly tell her about the towns greatest attraction. So that lead me to believe that Lynn NEW about Skip.The book started off great, build up of characters, our girl is the classic spoiled teenager that is used to getting her way. She also has to deal with a stepdad that has no respect for her, thus she has no respect for him. I believe that if a parent or an adult wants respect from their child, they are to respect them in return. I don't think it's fair that your parent can sit there and cuss and yell at you all day long and all you can do is take it. They TEACH us to act this way... sorry getting off topic, I grew up with a strict stepmother and an abusive dad. Moving on. The build up of Dylan and her relationship was great, it reached the climax and just... dropped. I don't mean fell down slowly, it DROPPED. One min she was so into this guy, build up, build up, I do mean ALOT of build up, and BOOM, she gets

him to kiss her and the very next day she goes "oh wow.. his ears are to big". And she suddenly doesn't like him anymore. Her obsession with becoming an actor in the Mermaid act was exhausting. I found the scene where she fell threw the window, or pushed through it with her hand, a little hard to believe. I find.. the secret... I just don't get people like her mom. She keeps this huge secret about Amy being the daughter of another guy, finding out that Bruce was really her grandpa. How the heck is a teenager supposed to respect or trust their parent after this? Maybe I'm being to harsh. Overall, the book was so so. It reminded me of a time when I was a teenager and my family took me to a show just like this. Underwater mermaids and men swimming around, breathing threw tubes and so forth. I really don't believe that she learned anything, maybe to be more nicer? It would seem her sister learned more than our main girl did. I have 1 sister that's still a teenager and I can already say she wouldn't care much for this book, course right now, it's all about the vampires. But for other teenagers, I'd say give it a go. It's not a romance, it may have built up into one but dies, completely dies in the middle of it. The book is more about her obsession with Mermaid Park then anything.

When I got my kindle fire HD at Christmas, I looked at so many books and this book stood out. I got this book thinking that it was a silly book. Then I started to read Mermaid Park and realized that it is so much more than that. It's a story of a life that I would have loved to live. A perfect summer fantasy.

Both my daughter (age 12) and I enjoyed this book. It wasn't exactly what I was expecting, which means it was actually better. It includes good characters, not all likeable, but important to the storyline and did a good job of including realistic personality conflicts without going overboard.

Sixteen year old Amy finally catches a lucky break when she gets to spend the summer on the Jersey Shore with her mom's godmother who owns a seaside motel. That's when her road to self discovery and adventures begin. Amy is just your run-of-the-mill teenager who is far from Miss Popular at her high school. She has a brat for a younger sister, a nagging mother and a difficult new step-dad who is constantly bullying her. Thrilled to get away from it all, she busies herself searching for work. She stumbles across Mermaid Park which is an underwater display headlining teenaged girls in breathtaking mermaid costumes. Being a champion swimmer herself, Amy is immediately drawn and stops at nothing to become one of the "mermaids". As she tries to weasel her way into the show and squash her fear of the 36-foot deep tank, she discovers romance, inner strength and

unearths secrets about her family which were covered up for years. Readers will identify with Amy's battle to become more self confident and find it a truly pleasing summer read. This coming of age story is one not to be missed!

3.5 stars Mermaid Park is a story about Amy, a teenage girl who is sick of her family. Her mother never listens to her, her sister is a big phony and her stepdad is, well, a big jerk. She goes to vacation with her family at Jersey Shore. She ends up staying for the summer with her godmother and works at the Mermaid Park, where mermaids perform underwater in a huge tank. This is a coming of age story. We see Amy discover herself and learn to deal with the people around her. Even though this book isn't what I expected, I enjoyed it. Amy reminded me of some of the things I went through as a teenager. I think we all feel like the world is out to get us at sixteen, at least I did. I was dissatisfied by the romance. It set it up in the beginning for romance, but it fell short in the story. But like I said, this is a coming of age story. Amy can't be sure of someone if she is not sure of herself. The mermaid park is what makes this story. Dressing up as a mermaid and performing underwater in a huge tank is like the all time little girl dream job. The Jersey Shore was a fun setting to read about. I felt like I was on vacation again with my family while reading this. This is a great beach read, or a read when you are wishing for warm weather.

At first I was concerned about the geographical inconsistencies stated by another reviewer. Wildwood's bridge is actually a four-lane affair instead of two? The veracity of every book on my shelf was called into question. Can anything be real? Does this mean there's no Narnia? No Swiss Family Robinson? No -- gulp -- Winnie the Pooh? Then I realized it's just a novel - this kind of gaffe would be notable in a AAA guide, but in a fiction story? Please. "Mermaid Park" is a fast and pleasant read, full of fun characters and delightful twists. The lead character, Amy, is an excellent model for girls her age, struggling with romance, family issues, and her sense of self - and learning along the way that she's not perfect. Her time with the mermaids goes from fantasy to reality and back again, providing a fun journey for the reader while it propels the story forward. Girls in their tween to teen years will enjoy Amy's story and learn some valuable lessons. Readers of all ages will have a fun time visiting Mermaid Park.

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