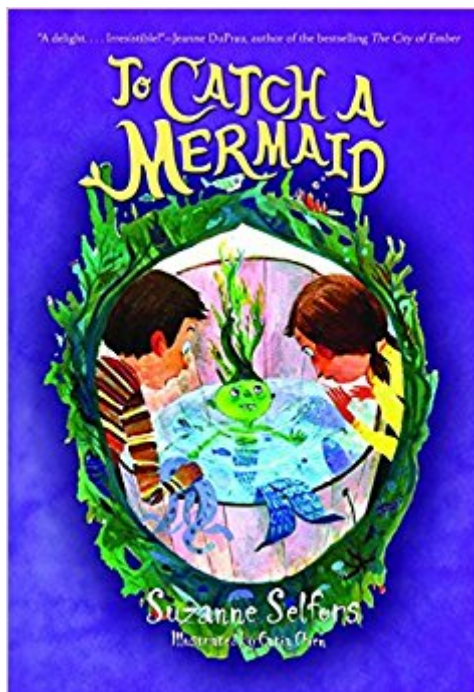


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To Catch A Mermaid



Synopsis

Boom Broom doesn't think his life could get any worse. Ever since his mother was swept away by a twister, his family has gone crazy. They refuse to leave the house and Halvor, the Viking descendant who rents the room over their garage, will only cook fish for Boom and his sister Mertyle to eat. When Boom finds a baby mermaid who seems to grant unlimited wishes, he thinks his luck has turned around. That is, until his sister is hit by the curse of the merfolk and starts to turn green. Now Boom and his best friend Winger must find a way to return the foul-tempered merbaby to its mother and save Mertyle before it is too late.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770 (What's this?)

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (February 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316018171

ISBN-13: 978-0316018173

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #597,845 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Mermaids](#) #2108 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings](#) #9574 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

When the unlikely hero of Selfors's assured debut, a luckless sixth grader named Boomerang Boom Broom, inadvertently brings home a baby mermaid instead of cheap seafood from the fish market for dinner, he sets off a madcap chain of events that turns his house bright pink, transforms his bathroom into a tropical beach replete with banana tree and monkey, puts his little sister Mertyle's life in grave danger, and miraculously heals his dysfunctional family from the sudden and bizarre loss of his mother. The baby mermaid, the ill-tempered antithesis of Disney's Princess Ariel with razor-sharp teeth and green-seaweed hair, possesses powerful magic that, at first, makes Mertyle's

unwitting wishes come true; but the merbaby also brings with it a deadly curse that soon afflicts Boom's sister in the form of a bizarre white fungus. With time running out, can Boom find a cure for his fuzz-covered sibling? Featuring some outlandishly funny characters (among them the villainous, big-butted principal Mrs. Prunewallop and Halvor, the family cook who models himself on Erik the Red), Selfors's adventure also subtly explores serious themes like grief, adversity and misfortune. In a nutshell—or, more fittingly, a conch shell—her nimble fantasy is about Boom's journey of self-discovery and the feeling that comes from achieving a seemingly unreachable goal. A few unresolved plot threads, notably to do with the mother, point to a sequel. Ages 8-12. (Sept.) Copyright © 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.

Grade 4—Sixth-grader Boom Broom's got it rough. His family is still reeling from the twister that came and left their tiny seafaring town so suddenly, sucking up Mrs. Broom. For Boom, that means dealing with a dad who refuses to leave his "safe" attic; a 10-year-old sister, Mertyle, who fakes every illness imaginable to keep from leaving the house; and a cook who thinks he's a Viking descendant. Just when it looks as if Boom's as low as he can get, a miracle happens. While sifting through the reject bucket at the docks for some dinner, he finds an incredibly hostile baby mermaid. He wants to use the creature to make the family some money, but Mertyle wants to adopt it. Unfortunately, such actions can have horrendous consequences, and soon the two children are face-to-face with some seemingly uncontrollable magic and a curse beyond their reckoning. This amusing story has lots of kid appeal. Selfors has conjured up great characters and settings, and her narrative voice never falters. Though a sequel would not be surprising, this book stands well enough on its own. It's sure to be a hit with any reader searching for something funny.—Elizabeth Bird, New York Public Library Copyright © 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.

Mysteriously appearing cornfields and cupcakes, Vikings, a mermaid, freak tornados, rude neighbors, and strange diseases all descend upon the home of the inhabitants of Number 0 Prosperity Street on the little island of Fairweather. From the very first pages the reader is thrust into the topsy-turvy life of one Boom Broom, a boy with a seemingly heavy burden: a missing mother, a sister who thinks only of herself, a father who refuses to leave the attic and an unresolved Kick the Ball Against the Wall Tournament. As the story unfolds, events appear to conspire against poor

Boom and his family until he realizes that he has the power to change the course of events and bring peace back to his home. Suzanne Selfors' *To Catch a Mermaid* is a wonderfully funny and engrossing tale sure to keep you guessing that mixes equal parts of fantasy and whimsy with real-life childhood fears and foibles. Her style, reminiscent of Roald Dahl and Jean Shepherd, is somewhat irreverent, slightly strange yet always humorous with a good, strong heart. Catia Chien's wonderful illustrations of a world gone slightly askew add tremendously to the story. An enjoyable read for children of all ages, this non-stop adventure will leave you smiling.

This book deserves a five star. Filled with adventures, humor, and a bit of sadness. I recommend this book to any young reader.

I've been reading Selfors' books to my grandkids since before they could read themselves. We love her stories, they're fun, a little crazy and never sad or scary.

My children and I chose this book as our most recent bedtime read aloud. They all loved it. We often found ourselves going past "lights out" time to find out what happened next. They are hoping that this is the beginning of a series. They'd love to see a follow-up, perhaps "The Mermaid's Treasure"?

Selfors doesn't disappoint- her imagination captivates our family again!

There's not much I can say here compared to other reviewers given that I haven't read the book! Basically my 10 year old son is a big fan of the "smells like (treasure, et cetera)" books by the same author so I purchased this thinking he would like it - sure enough he did! ...

Our 9 year old loved it

I bought this for my 6-year old grandson, who loved it and had me read it too. I must say it put an entirely different perspective on mermaids. I loved the characters, and it's really a great book for boys. We both give it a thumbs up!

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