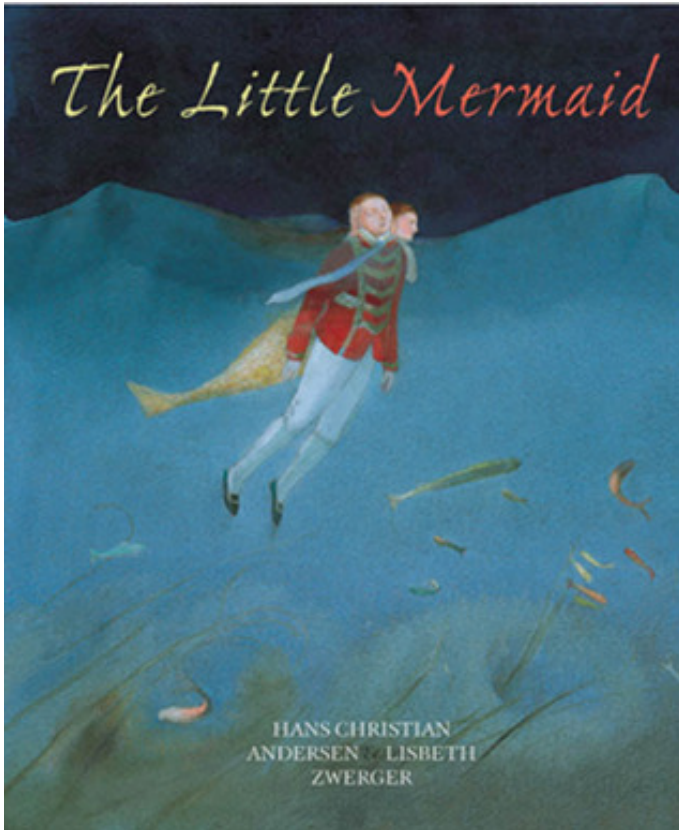

Hans Christian Andersen

The Little Mermaid



Title: The Little Mermaid

Author: Hans Christian Andersen

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Description

Once there was a little mermaid who fell in love with a human boy . . . The story may be familiar, but Lisbeth Zwerger's art makes this fairytale seem brand-new. This Jubilee edition, celebrating 200 years of Hans Christian Andersen, is superbly illustrated in Zwerger's signature style.

Known for her popular and award-winning editions of classics such as *The Wizard of Oz* and *Alice in Wonderland*, Zwerger is herself the recipient of the Hans Christian Andersen Medal for lasting contributions to children's literature. *The Little Mermaid* is sure to win her new fans, and to delight her old ones.

The text is an all-new translation by Anthea Bell, and includes many lovely and poignant details that may be new to even those who think they know the little mermaid's story well.

Insightful reviews

Luxia: *This review is for *The Little Mermaid*, Charles Santore's edition.*

But the story itself is the most haunting fairy tale ever written. And a lot of people sadly don't know the real story. We shall journey under the sea and into the deep abyss, but there are no singing sidekick Crabs and fishie friends to accompany or help rescue this Little mermaid.

The story will play out slightly more darker in Hans Christian Andersen's tale...of unrequited love, hope and selflessness. A pretty lovesick Mermaid will venture out in search for the eccentric outcast, yet not so evil sea Witch to ask for her help. She will give up her identity as a sea Princess. And willing to sacrifice her life and entire existence, she'll leave her loved ones in the big ocean behind forever for the chance to win the heart of a handsome human prince and gain an immortal soul to spend eternity in heaven. Yet only in exchange for her tongue (not voice like in the Disney cartoon) and suffer greatly and in silence with every step she will take in her human form. The little Mermaid bears the pain for the sake of her wish to be with the one she loves. And you too will suffer with the Mermaid as she cannot confess her feelings. Then when the arranged marriage of her Prince to a young mysterious Princess from a neighboring kingdom threatens the dreams of the Mermaid, and turning her chance at everlasting happiness into a love triangle...it's all or nothing.

I think it's a shame when Disney made their 1989 classic they changed the entire moral of the story (like most fairytales stories are compared to the real versions) and chose not to stay faithful to its original ending. Why? Hey, Lets all face it, sugar coated endings sell better...especially to children.

Out of all the versions of this story I believe Artist Charles Santore was the only one who got it right. Set roughly in the Renaissance era, it's probably the closest to what Hans Christian Andersen himself envisioned. Though the way the little mermaid and her sisters appearances in this book may be slightly too sensual and even provocative for some (no sea shell bra, sorry Ariel) the Mermaids are indeed drawn with a touch of eroticism. But it is beautifully and gorgeously illustrated. I really enjoyed looking at all the pictures and I actually felt like I myself was in the deep blue ocean filled with aquatic wonders and right beside the little Mermaid.

As she rose to the surface for the very first time on the evening of her long awaited fifteenth birthday, which set her bittersweet fate and determined quest to win her Prince.

Kim: I love fairy tales, but I couldn't give this the full five stars because it was so sad. The Little Mermaid rescues the prince from his boat during the storm like in the movie, but when he wakes up, the first girl he sees is a beautiful princess and he thinks she saved him rather than the mermaid.

The mermaid goes to the sea witch, who will give her legs, but to do so, she cuts out her tongue as payment, and every step the mermaid takes it will feel like there are knives cutting her feet. If she doesn't get the prince to fall in love with her, she will die the night after his wedding.

The prince becomes fond of her, but does not fall in love with her. Instead, he is reunited with the beautiful princess and marries her, still thinking that she is the one who saved him. The mermaid's sisters come up from the water holding a knife from the sea witch, saying that if the mermaid kills the prince in his sleep before the sun rises, she will not die.

The mermaid takes the knife, but at the last minute, flings the knife into the sea, and then herself as the sun is rising, where she turns into invisible ocean mist and must spend the next 300 years earning an immortal soul by doing good deeds for others. Then, after 300 years, she will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

I won't say it was disappointing; obviously I wasn't expecting it to be too similar to the Disney movie. But I didn't expect it to be so depressing. I know the mermaid couldn't speak, but why couldn't she have written something letting the prince know that it was her who saved him? In the movie he was hypnotized, so it wouldn't have made a difference. But in the book it could have been a possibility.

And then at the end, she will never see her family again, and still has to earn an immortal soul only to die after she earns it? Jeez. I know not all fairy tales have happy endings, and if that doesn't bother you, it's still a decent story worth reading.

Sandy: After loving the Disney movie version for so long I finally read the original story. Not this edition in particular with illustrations but I couldn't find the one I read. Many who have read the original story that both stories are very different and they are. I loved the author's descriptions of the mermaid kingdom it was so much more beautiful than what was shown in the animated movie and the little mermaid's sacrifice was much greater though she took no less time to think about the horrible consequences to her actions and although the love she had for the prince felt more realistic in the original story because she had a lot more time to actually know him I do like the prince in the movie better xD. And although I loved reading about her sisters and actually having a grandmother who told her stories (in the original version) I also like sugar happy endings (in Disney at least) and catchy songs so you can guess which one I choose in the end.

Amanda: this can be the 1st time i have learn this unique tale (of in all likelihood my favourite Disney movie). And obviously, it is a totally different experience, and the tale is one that is been

informed in lots of kinds during the final century at least. I did consider that it was once in the direction of the Disney model than say, Snow White/Briar Rose. whereas I nonetheless don't love the less-than-happy ending, I loved the story, imagery, and so forth adequate to offer it four stars. most likely my favourite of HCA's stories that i have learn so far.

Andreia Rosa: A minha infância foi arruinada... Vou ver o filme para me confortar...

Kristina Lenarczyk: The Disney motion picture is certainly one of my favourites, yet this used to be so diverse it virtually is just not thought of a similar story. I nonetheless enjoyed it and it makes me are looking to watch the motion picture again!

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