



## Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings

By Helene Boudreau



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

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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 She nods off in the tub and, upon waking, finds that her legs have been replaced by a scaly mermaid's tail.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-sapient," 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-sapient) 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 H el ene 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:**

#### **Marni Elliott:**

This book untitled Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book store or you can order it through online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, as you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this guide from your list.

#### **Claudia Fox:**

Often the book Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings will bring someone to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to explain the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to see, this book very acceptable to you. The book Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

#### **William Jones:**

Do you have something that you prefer such as book? The reserve lovers usually prefer to choose book like comic, small story and the biggest the first is novel. Now, why not trying Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings that give your pleasure preference will be satisfied by simply reading this book. Reading practice all over the world can be said as the opportunity for people to know world a great deal better then how they react to the world. It can't be mentioned constantly that reading habit only for the geeky individual but for all of you who wants to possibly be success person. So , for every you who want to start looking at as your good habit, you may pick Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings become your own starter.

#### **Tammy Carver:**

You are able to spend your free time to learn this book this reserve. This Real Mermaids Don't Wear Toe Rings is simple to deliver you can read it in the park, in the beach, train and also soon. If you did not have much space to bring often the printed book, you can buy the particular e-book. It is make you simpler to read it. You can save typically the book in your smart phone. Thus there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

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