2002

Turtle in the Sea

Cathleen Alton

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Reviewer: Cathleen Alton  
Reading level: Primary  
Rating: Dependable  
Genre: Picture books;  
Subject: Sea turtles--Juvenile fiction; Turtles--Juvenile fiction

A mother turtle is swimming towards shore, looking for a place to lay her eggs. As she drags herself onto the beach, her scars can be seen. The story of those marks becomes a narrative history of all the things that can happen to a turtle (but probably wouldn't happen to just one creature!) Shark attack, being hit by a ship, getting sucked up in a waterspout, and being caught in a net--it seems a little much, and the message is heavy-handed. Noble Nature fights to survive and reproduce.

The watercolor illustrations are mostly painted in a pastel palette, with one notable exception, a beautiful orange and red sunset that is reminiscent of Oriental paintings. This is a soft and somewhat sappy book, visually appealing but unoriginal.