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Lady in the Water: A Bedtime story

Kate Reynolds

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Shyamalan, M. Night. *Lady in the Water: A Bedtime Story*. Illustrated by Crash McCreery. Little, Brown, 2006. ISBN 0316017345. \$17.99. 64 p.

Reviewer: Kate Reynolds

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Significant shortcomings

Genre: Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Imaginary creatures--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Director Shyamalan tries his hand at creating a children's book, but the result seems little more than an advertising ploy to entice readers to view the film of the same name. While McCreery's dark and moody artwork is gorgeous (it would be interesting to see him doing further work in children's books), *Lady in the Water: A Bedtime Story* has no plot--only vague descriptions of the nature and function of Shyamalan's fantasy creatures. Filled with more white space than anything else, the book seems an attempt to evoke tension and mystery but only comes off as insubstantial and empty.

On the other hand, the book does produce a kind of morbid curiosity in the movie. So perhaps it succeeds after all.