



2010

The Girl with the Mermaid Hair

Anna Swenson

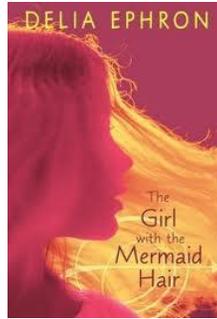
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Ephron, Delia. *The Girl with the Mermaid Hair*. HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN 9780061542602. \$16.99. 312 p.

Reviewer: Anna Swenson

Reading Level: Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction;

Subject: Beauty, Personal--Juvenile fiction; Perfectionism (Personality trait)--Juvenile fiction; Pride and vanity--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Sukie Jamieson sees the world distorted through her mirror. She creates a perfect reality for herself and attempts to ignore the real life around her. Sukie is self-absorbed and only cares about other's perceptions of her. Eventually, though, she realizes the truth of the world and what actually matters in life through the cracks in her mirror. She learns to accept life the way it is, and care more about others.

Ephron's writing is beautiful, and the book is hard to put down, but the characters are too contrived and not very relatable. The only character who is developed even slightly is Sukie, and she hardly has any personality at first. Her self-absorbed spirit seems entirely exaggerated. However, her change in the end of the book is slightly redeeming. Altogether, the book is enjoyable and intriguing, but it can seem didactic at times. The themes are obvious, but the symbolism of the mirror and Senor, her dog, were spectacular.

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