



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

Merrow By Ananda Braxton-Smith Reviewed by Travis Smith

Name: Travis Smith

Grade: 7th

Book Title: Merrow

Author: Ananda Braxton-Smith

Number of Pages: 233

Rating (on a scale of 1-5): 5/5

Character List:

- **Neen-** Neen is a girl that lives with her aunt. She is very drawn to the ocean and occasionally goes there to cope with her problems in life.
- **Ushag-** Ushag is Neen's aunt. She is not very open about certain information for reasons she keeps to herself, but inside she's a very kind and happy person
- **Scully-** Scully is blind and Neen's best friend. He is very fond of playing the fiddle and is always an optimist.
- **Ma-** Ma is Scully's mother. She is nice to everybody with the exception of the prior because she thinks he tries to tell her how to live her life. She also always has stories to tell.
- **Ulf-** Ulf is a northerner whose ship sank. Ushag and Neen pulled him out of the water in a fishing net. He speaks a different language, but is very determined to learn their language

Review:

Neen is no ordinary girl - in fact, she has the ancient blood of the merrows in her veins and merrow scales on her body. Ushag, Neen's aunt, refuses to talk about Ven, Neen's mother, who disappeared when Neen was a child. Neen decides that if she's ever going to find out anything about her mother, she will have to bring her aunt to a cave she found filled with merrow hand prints and a puddle that leads to a tunnel. This tunnel leads to another cave with a full merrow skeleton, proving merrows are real. The cave gives Ushag hope that Ven, who also had the merrow scales, might have become a merrow and could still be alive in the ocean, watching her and Neen. Neen and Ushag are joined by Ulf, who gets caught in Neen and Ushag's fishing net one day. Ushag quickly becomes fond of Ulf after she decides he was pushed into the net by Ven.

In *Merrow*, Ananda Braxton-Smith takes readers on an exciting journey through Neen's feelings and struggles. This book is filled with many stories and great life lessons that influence Neen to be adventurous, but still aware of the consequences, good and bad of her decisions. Ananda brings upon you some friendships and relationships that you

never would have thought would happen - like Ulf and Ushag falling in love! This book would most likely appeal to junior high to high school students, but it's great for anyone who likes stories.