



Fear the Drowning Deep

Sarah Glenn Marsh

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Witch's apprentice Bridey Corkill has hated the ocean ever since she watched her granddad dive in and drown with a smile on his face. So when a dead girl rolls in with the tide in the summer of 1913, sixteen-year-old Bridey suspects that whatever compelled her granddad to leap into the sea has made its return to the Isle of Man.

Soon, villagers are vanishing in the night, but no one shares Bridey's suspicions about the sea. No one but the island's witch, who isn't as frightening as she first appears, and the handsome dark-haired lad Bridey rescues from a grim and watery fate. The cause of the deep gashes in Fynn's stomach and his lost memories are, like the recent disappearances, a mystery well-guarded by the sea. In exchange for saving his life, Fynn teaches Bridey to master her fear of the water — stealing her heart in the process.

Now, Bridey must work with the Isle's eccentric witch and the boy she isn't sure she can trust — because if she can't uncover the truth about the ancient evil in the water, everyone she loves will walk into the sea, never to return.

Fear the Drowning Deep Details

Date : Published October 4th 2016 by Sky Pony Press

ISBN :

Author : Sarah Glenn Marsh

Format : Kindle Edition 310 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Historical, Historical Fiction, Paranormal, Romance

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From Reader Review Fear the Drowning Deep for online ebook

Fafa's Book Corner says

Review posted on Fafa's Book Corner!

Beware spoilers ahead!

I received this E-ARC from the author and the publisher in exchange for an honest review. I am also participating in the Sunday Street Team.

I had heard about this book through Twitter. Quite a few people were talking about it but at the time it didn't catch my eye. It wasn't until I got the sign up form for the street team that I considered reading it.

Now I suppose because I didn't really care much for Fear the Drowning Deep I didn't have any expectations. I was quite surprised that I enjoyed it! The book takes place sometime during the 1800's. It is written in first person through Bridey's point of view.

The minute you read the first page the book grabs you and it's hard to stop. We are taken right when Bridey finds a dead girls body. Soon after that the town is in a frenzy as there hasn't been a death since Bridey's grandfather.

When Bridey was seven years old she and her grandfather were walking by the beach. She's trying to have a conversation with him when suddenly he stops replying. He mentions whether Bridey can hear the singing to which she replies no. Her grandfather claims that the singing is coming from the water. He walks to the cliff and jumps off with a smile on his face.

Bridey told her townspeople about what happened but they all thought she was crazy. Add to the fact that she's the only person in the town who doesn't like the water. Throughout the book Bridey soon realizes that all these disappearances and murders are somehow linked to her grandfather's death. She explains as much to her people but they don't believe her. The only one who does is Fynn and the Witch she is apprenticed to. With their help she looks for a way to stop the monster from killing her townspeople.

I didn't see any of the plot coming! This is a very original book. The book is fairly fast paced and I was never bored. It was interesting reading about the witch that Bridey was apprenticed to as well as the monsters. All of the monsters are from some mythology. Personally speaking I have never read about these monsters before.

The family relationship was absolutely amazing! Bridey has two sisters and adoring parents. Despite some of the sisters' arguments they stood by each other. The same goes for Bridey's parents. When Bridey found Fynn her parents took him in and treated them as their own. They stood up for him when the town started to get suspicious of Fynn.

I also loved Bridey's friendship! I forgot her friends' names but I loved reading about them! They were a tight group. Now one of her friends is a guy and there is a bit of a love triangle but it gets resolved fairly quickly.

I liked reading about Bridey and Fynn's relationship. They were sweet together. Although I did feel that it

was a bit rushed. There is a certain reveal that comes out about Fynn which ruined the romance for me. I still liked his character though.

I found the ending to be just right for the book. And in a sense it was beautiful. It gives Bridey and the readers hope.

I had two problems with Fear the Drowning Deep. I wished that we got to read more about Bridey's friends. They didn't really come in a lot. And that reveal about Fynn was shocking and a bit odd considering that Bridey and Fynn were dating.

Overall I enjoyed this book! I am definitely going to be checking out more from this author. I recommend it for anyone looking for a fantasy standalone.

Karina says

UPDATE: ENTER TO WIN FEAR THE DROWNING DEEP by Sarah Glenn Marsh Ends 12/23/16

“Maybe some wonder what’s in the deep, far beyond their reach, but none of them know, and they never will.”

Set in an isolated island? YEEES!! ✓

Witch? YES, YES, YES! ✓

Terrifying sea monsters? OHH FREAKING YES! ✓

Fear the Drowning Deep by Sarah Glenn Marsh is screaming perfection. Perfect setting, perfect characters, well-executed plot, beautiful and excellent writing. What else I or even you, could ask for?

First chapter and I was already hooked, my interest already caught. Fear the Drowning Deep brought me to the Isle of Man back on 1913. Reading the first line of this book, I was already transported and dragged into the Isle of Man. Like, I already know at that very first page that this will be a very entertaining journey. It gave me such a wonderful experience. It feels like I’m completely there. Reading and pausing to read this book literally felt like traveling to reality (when I’m not reading it) at back again to 1913, Isle of Man (when I resumed reading).

The characters has a strong voice, believable, and undeniably realistic. From the main to the least characters, Sarah Glenn Marsh knows what kind of characters are supposed to be there. Each, from the female main Bridey to the fisherman or vendor at the market, carries that character or attributes someone whose living in an island back on 1913 should have. And that contributed a lot to the historical-fiction feels it gives.

Bridey Ridley Corckill or “Bird” reminds me of Feyre Archeon. The situation where they came from and their purpose is not far from each other, they’ll do everything just for their family. Compassionate and determined to save not only her family but her town to the deadly creatures hiding far in the deep. She isn’t

fearless, but ready to be one when needed especially when her family and town is in danger.

I love Bridey's journey of saving her family and a town who doesn't believe her. Her strong character somehow infected me. Bridey and I share the same fear – the sea. For someone who is scared of big bodies of water just like me, I never thought that this book might at least lessen the fear I have and give me at least a slight encouragement I need to be brave enough and think of facing big bodies of water again. The journey of Bridey facing her demons and greatest fears gave me hope. She's an infectious, brave character.

Other Strengths/Likes:

Family Dynamics. Such a surprise. From Bridey's Ma and Da, to her sisters especially Grayse to Morag, it was such a surprise to finally see a family like this in YA. I rarely read in books or reviews that there's a family in YA worth mentioning for but this – the Corckill's – is worth it. Normally, I see utterly problematic families in YA. Dead parents, dead siblings, broken family, addict or sick family member, anything, you can name it. It was really such a surprise to see a family like this, not perfect but whole and loving. The Corckill's family welcomed me to their home just as they welcomed Fynn.

Humor. There is always that sliver of humor amidst every dramatic, intense or sad encounter. I find it very amusing how Bridey or Fynn or even the other characters (especially the Corckill's) can crack a humorous line amidst the intense or dramatic scene. That was really great. It's one of the greatest thing contributes to make Fear the Drowning Deep a very much entertaining read.

Weakness/Dislike:

BriLugh (lol. Did I just made an epic name for Bridey and Lugh???) I'm not really a fan of this two. To be honest, at the very start, I picture the 16 year old Bridey as a little girl until she and Lugh, kissed. I always thought that Bridey is too young (at heart), that all that matters is her family and her desire to be far away from that island. Bridey and Lugh's relationship just didn't worked for me. They're a bit forced. There's no connection. They're definitely better off as friends.

The last and very important thing I loved about Fear the Drowning Deep is the writing. It was beautiful. Every words, every lines, every page were used perfectly. No boring pages, just an open end. It was full of entertainment. The writing of Sarah Glenn Marsh is incredible. She's an author to watch for.

VIEW FULL REVIEW HERE: [ARC REVIEW: Fear the Drowning Deep by Sarah Glenn Marsh](#)

Olivia-Savannah Roach says

Fear the Drowning Deep was a novel I went into without quite knowing what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised by the vivid world building and this eerily creepy sea story we have going on in this novel. It was the first of this author, and I really do hope this won't be the last.

Immediately, the writing style sucked me in. I'm someone who goes on and on about writing style, but to me it really does make a big difference as to whether or not I'll be able to enjoy the novel. I read this one in the space of only a few sittings because whenever I did sit down to read it; I didn't want to stop reading. All I wanted to do was keep turning those pages, and I think Marsh's writing style contributed to that quite a lot.

The novel is quite slow moving, which may bother some people. It's a slow and steady story, that gets brewing right from the beginning but takes its time in letting the plot really kick in. It doesn't mean that there is no suspense – there definitely is. It's just the kind that happens over a few pages and makes you all the more eager to get to the end. The novel slowly adds in factors which raise the suspense. Oh, and most novels only have one issue that the protagonist needs to overcome, or one monster for them to defeat. Well, not this novel. There's more than one, which just adds all the more to the story!

Manx (the place where the novel is set) made me originally think of an old age Ireland in the past. I wasn't quite on point but I wasn't too far away either. It's set on the Isle of Man, in the past, during the time where no one wore shoes and fishing was the big deal. The author mentions in her note that if there was anywhere where music would happen, it would be there. I've never been blessed with the chance to visit the Isle of Man yet but one day I would like to. The descriptions made me imagine the sea salt in the air and the close-knit community of the island easily. There's no way for me to better put the atmosphere and the setting of the novel as anything except I truly felt as if I was there!

The characters had me feeling a little mixed. The main character, Bridey, was done incredibly well. I could feel her raw energy and how much she cared about her friends. At first, she's worried about her appearances to other people and during the course of the novel she starts to value her friendships and family more than that. Fynn is the mysterious boy who turns up on the island without any memory of his past or who he was. He was so caring and gentle that I couldn't do anything but like his character. But as for the rest – the secondary characters and the family – I did like them well enough, but there wasn't as much depth as I would have wanted to experience in a cast of secondary characters.

Sometimes the novel was a little too bizarre for me... and that means it was so strange that I couldn't fully comprehend it as realistic. Even if that 'realistic' is in terms of a magical or paranormal world. I don't know if that makes any sense, but it does to me. I tried :D

Anyway, this book was still a really good read. I kept turning pages and after not having read for a while, it was good to be so absorbed in a book as I was in this one. ^^

Gif Summary: [image error]

This review and others can be found on Olivia's Catastrophe: <http://olivia-savannah.blogspot.nl/20...>

Shannon (It Starts At Midnight) says

4.5*

First thing you need to know about this book: the atmosphere is incredible. Like, I could feel the eerie, unsettling vibe of a sea town in distress. The story is set in 1913, which totally adds to the ambience- obviously no one can call for help, transportation is minimal, etc. It created a sense of urgency and isolation, and I loved it so much!

The setting was obviously perfect for strange disappearances at sea. Bridey is all too familiar with this, since she lost her beloved grandfather to one such incident, and has never been able to venture near the sea since. But as the stakes get higher and higher, Bridey gets bolder and bolder. It makes sense to the story, because

Bridey cares deeply about her family and friends, which was another huge plus to this book. Bridey's family plays a huge role in the story, which is incredibly refreshing. And while they had their moments of butting heads, it was quite clear that they were a close, loving family. Bridey also had some close friendships, which had their ups and downs as typical friendships do. The family and friend relationships in the book seemed incredibly relatable and realistic. There is a romance, and I was a fan for sure. The synopsis tells you a bit about Fynn, but there is so, so much more to it than that, so I will just let you discover this for yourself.

The plot had me hooked, too. I wasn't sure at first, because I will fully admit that I get wary of mythical creatures and such, but there was no need to worry because it all felt very authentic, especially since the townspeople were so skeptical too. That made me feel like the whole situation was more realistic, because of course the town would not believe in magic and sea creatures without some serious proof!

The story is about the perilous situation for Bridey and her town, yes. But it is also a story of Bridey overcoming her own fears and demons, of growing up, and of navigating relationships and life in general. Add to that, it's incredibly well written, it makes for a huge win.

My only real qualm with the book is that I had hoped that the ending would have been a bit more wrapped up- there were a few open ends, which some people will probably be fine with, but worth a mention!

Bottom Line: *Fear the Drowning Deep* is a haunting, atmospheric tale of a young woman trying to save her loved ones while discovering her strength. Beautifully written, and not one to miss!

Brittany (Brittany's Book Rambles) says

I knew going into this book that it was going to be masterful, and I was not disappointed! *Fear the Drowning Deep* is like nothing I've ever read before. Sarah's writing is hauntingly beautiful in this enchanting and treacherous tale. The characters are wonderful, the plot is well-executed, the writing is gorgeous—I mean, what more could you ask for?

Fear the Drowning Deep brings to life a culturally rich setting that I've never read about; I truly loved reading and learning about the Isle of Man! Sarah seamlessly weaves it into the story in such an enthralling way—I simply couldn't get enough of it! For me, Sarah is an auto-buy author, and trust me, my auto-buy list is *tiny*. In short? Do yourself a favor, and read this book!

Check out my full review of *Fear the Drowning Deep* + Giveaway!

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First Reaction:

Review to come!

Lizzy (Bent Bookworm) says

~*Full review notes on The Bent Bookworm!*~

“Nothing from the ocean is meant to survive on land forever.”

Feels :

Satisfaction. I adored the resolution of this book. It's not a perfect happily-ever-after (HEA) and that makes ME so very, very happy. I'm a disgruntled, hard-hearted porcupine when it comes to love, and while I like endings with hope, only rarely do I completely get behind a tidy little HEA. FtDD has a very hopeful ending, but one that could go several different ways. I loved that.

Characters :

It took me awhile to warm up to Bridey, I'll be honest. She is so defined by her fear of the sea that at first that is the only quality I saw in her. As the story goes on though, I came to genuinely like her. Lugh and Cat, her best friends, I wish we had seen a little more of. I felt sorry for them as she kind of abandoned them to go work with Morag and then in her absorption with Fynn.

Fynn is something of a mystery for most of the book. A lot of reviews I saw complained about the insta-love between him and Bridey, but to me it was believable BECAUSE from the very beginning, it's obvious Fynn is not just a normal human boy. Because of that, I feel like the insta-love is understandable and realistic – even though I usually DESPISE it.

Morag was my favorite character. An odd choice, I guess – but I loved her. I love that she was old and crotchety and hurt – both physically and emotionally, yet she was such a wise woman and genuinely cared about people. She was like a gingerbread cookie...crunchy on the outside but soft and delicious on the inside (that IS how you make your gingerbread cookies, right?).

Plot :

FtDD starts off kind of slow, not going to lie. It's beautiful and haunting, but slow. The pace picks up about a third of the way through, and I was completely drawn into the Isle of Man world Sarah Marsh has created. I already wanted to visit but now I want to go even more!

At first I thought I had misjudged the cover blurb and this was a historical fiction YA with some mythology thrown in...but no. It soon becomes apparent that all is not as it seems on the idyllic Isle, regardless of what the villagers want to believe. And of course no one wants to listen to the tales of old women or the vision of the young. No one wants to believe that maybe the faery stories are more than stories.

Worldbuilding/Description :

Beautiful. Idyllic. Almost mystical and definitely slightly creepy. I loved it. It felt so real...next time I'm at the ocean I'm going to be on the lookout for creepy ghosts playing violins. I still want to visit the Isle of Man though.

Rating :

4/5 stars. There were some things I felt were too easily explained away, like some things about Fynn. Some things I felt happened too easily...like once Bridey got over her fear, suddenly she was a grand rescuer...but they were small things, and adrenaline and love do give people almost superhuman strength sometimes.

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Hailee says

Please be killer mermaids.

?Stephanie? says

Title: Fear the Drowning Deep

Author: Sarah Glenn Marsh

Publisher: Sky Pony Press, 2016

Genre: YA Fantasy, YA Historical Fiction, YA Paranormal

I received a copy of this book free from Edelweiss and the Publisher in exchange for an honest review

This review can be found on my My Blog, TeacherofYA's Tumblr, or my Goodreads page

My Review:

Gosh. This cover still amazes me...even though my digital ARC does not include this gorgeous #coverlove. I hate that. But what are you gonna do?

So, I really liked this book, and I have had it for awhile as a Read Now copy, and then I got caught up in ARCs with deadlines...and though I'd love to count this in my new Netgalley challenge (oh, yeah, I'm doing that...I'll be doing a post for the books that actually count), this was technically a book from 2016. I finished it on Dec 31, 2016, so it doesn't count for 2017.

But let's get into it, shall we?

Bridey Corkill is our heroine during the summer of 1913. She lives on the Isle of Man, a place I had never heard of until this book. The folklore is rich and they had their own language there. This book really transports you back in time and to a different culture. It's fascinating to read some of the legends and myths and the language that just randomly pops in there.

But I digress...as usual...

So Bridey needs a job, because everyone in her family already works and her father (and the other fisherman) aren't pulling in the fish lately. Ever since Bridey saw her grandpa walk off a cliff (yep, walk off, though people don't believe it), the townspeople think she's a little off. No one believed that Bridey saw a Spector lure him off the cliff as beautiful music played that only he could hear. She was only nine.

So in a fishing village, it's hard for her as she's scared of the water. She won't go to the beach. But she needs a job, and her mother decides she should apprentice with Morag. Morag, the legendary witch of the town. As if the rumors weren't bad enough...

One day, as she is collecting snigs (some type of snail...there's a glossary in the back that I didn't even know about until the end of the book) she comes upon a man with gashes across his stomach, naked. Now, Bridey is a good girl, and seeing a man in his birthday suit is not what she's expecting...but the handsome man claims to have no memory...not even of his own name. Bridey dubs him "Fynn" after the strange fin she saw in the water by her father's boat.

Fynn, the handsome amnesiac, gets taken back to her house and nursed to health. Though Bridey recently shared a kiss with her childhood friend, she cannot stop thinking about Fynn. Did he come from the mainland? Does he have a wife somewhere? But as "sparks fly" (ok, how else am I going to describe it? It might be cliché, but it's time-tested book lingo here!), Bridey starts to fall for the mysterious man.

Unfortunately, women are starting to go missing...

The timing doesn't seem too good for Fynn, but Bridey knows he's innocent. But that's all she knows about him.

What's happening on the Isle of Man? Who (or what...dun dun dun!) is Fynn? Will Bridey be able to get near the water to save the lasses? (Sorry, it's got some Irish folklore and I couldn't resist)

Is It Classroom-Appropriate?

Yes. There's some great folklore and some amazing writing here. Though it isn't a "fave" of mine, I enjoyed the book and can see how exposing students to the history and the culture could be enlightening. The fantasy and paranormal elements bring some magic to a book with a lot of interesting history. I could def see using this as material. Talking about the mythology, the lost language, and the attitude towards Morag would be fascinating. I'd enjoy using this and have added it to the books for classroom use list.

Age Range:

So...not on Lexile. Go figure. I'll have to use my best estimate here, so I'm going to suggest 13 and up. Some scenes get a little hot (noting torrid or inappropriate, but I'm always erring on the side of caution). I think 13 is a good age, and I would honestly be okay with my niece reading it. So I'm comfortable there. It's always best to be comfortable in suggesting lit versus being unsure. I'm still planning on creating some sort of system to "rate" appropriateness.

End Result:

I give Fear the Drowning Deep ★★★★★?.

Happy Reading, y'all!

Katherine says

"The sea did strange things to people. It played tricks on the mind. Its vastness hid things.... Bodies. Secrets."

Sixteen year old Bridey has been afraid of the ocean ever since her grandfather willingly plunged to his death when she was a little girl. It doesn't help at all that her father's a fisherman and lives on the Isle of Man, which is entirely surrounded by water. But ever since that horrible day, Bridey wants nothing more than to run away from the sea to somewhere, anywhere not surrounded by water. Her desire only increases when her dead bodies start washing up ashore with no apparent cause of death. One of those bodies washed ashore is still alive; a boy with scars on his stomach and no memory of who he is. Naming him Fynn, he and Bridey come to suspect that something sinister is amiss, but what they discover is something to unreal and ungodly to be true... or is it?

First of all, **the setting and atmosphere of the book were absolutely gorgeous.** The wonderful descriptions of the Isle of Man make you feel like you're really there; as if the salty balm of the ocean breeze and the waves crashing against the rock are right next to you instead of existing within the realm of fiction. The use of the Manx language and the respectful, enthusiastic way the author represents the Manx culture was a treat to read about (and made me want to book a ticket to the Isle of Man like RIGHT NOW).

And can I just say that I LOVED how the author weaved Celtic, Norse, and Manx mythology so effortlessly into her story? Reading about selkies, kelpies, sea monsters, and sirens was perfectly incorporated into the book. I feel like Celtic and Norse mythology is so overlooked in favor of it's Greek, Egyptian and Roman counterparts that **it's so refreshing to see a book entirely devoted to it.**

Bridey is such a kick-ass character too. Not afraid to believe in what's really causing the mysterious drownings of her townspeople even though she'll be considered mad for it. Her intense devotion to her family leaps from the pages, and her spunk makes you want to root for her. I loved her sassiness and her determination and sharp, witty banter with Morog, the old woman she works for. Their friendship goals for sure.

With it's haunting yet beautiful atmosphere, gorgeous writing, and likable and relatable main characters, I would've given this book a full five stars except for one nagging thing: **the instalove.** Yes, here we go again. When we first start off the story, Bridey is starting to develop feelings for her childhood friend Luge. But once Fynn enters the picture... NOPE. It's Fynn and only Fynn. They're meant to be together; it's TRUE WUV, I SAY!!! Never mind that he doesn't remember who he is or where he's from; they can't live without another. Sparks fly! Birds sing! All the world stops for these two young in-love critters!! And then Lugh gets jealous over it even though his romance with Bridey hasn't even started. Once again, I roll my eyes and sigh "teenagers!"

Whether this book will make you want to book a plane ticket or never step foot in the ocean ever again, it's a haunting, atmospheric read perfect for windy, stormy nights or whenever you want a bit of Celtic culture in your hearts.

And if you look ever so closely near a body of water, you might just see a selkie rise out of the deep, deep ocean....

Lola says

It's with a tremendous amount of excitement that I began reading this story, one I very much anticipated for the past few months.

That's right, I'm a sucker for everything witch-related.

Which is why I wanted to cry when I realized it wasn't going to be a main focus. Bouhouhouhou.

It's not about Morag or Bridey's apprenticeship. For the record, at first it's more of a magical realism theme that is being presented than a head-on 'magic' one so, consequently, Bridey being the town witch's apprentice isn't much more exciting than that. Then, of course, as it gets more intense and Bridey falls deeper into the mystery, a strong paranormal theme makes its apparition.

What it IS about is the disappearances. The girls and women who unexpectedly disappear, often during night, never to be seen again. What happened to them? Did they fall off the cliff? What malefic force is behind these horrors? Be gone, devil!

Because Bridey's granddad was sadly a victim of the supernatural forces Bridey believes are haunting the sea, she slowly starts to get more and more involved in finding out the truth when it looks like darkness made its way into town.

With the help of Fynn. Whom she just met. Naked. And kissed.

Do you really want me to spell it out? I-N-S-T-A L-O-V-E, folks.

Sigh. B-but, there's a lot of good, too! The setting, for instance, is original. I could definitely imagine those eerie hills and strange creatures. A haunting atmosphere can be felt throughout the story. Marsh's writing style captivated me without a doubt.

While it's true that I anticipated more scenes involving witchcraft or witchery activities, if your turn-on is paranormal mystery, you're going to feel quite bewitched by this story, trust me.

What's with me and witch-related terms? It's a curse. Ugh.

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Sarah Glenn Marsh says

Well, I'm the author, so I'm proud of this even though it's not out yet :)

Jodi Meadows says

Official comments: FEAR THE DROWNING DEEP is gorgeous. Lyrical. Atmospheric. Magical. Sarah Glenn Marsh's debut is perfect for anyone who's ever looked out at the sea with awe, and wondered what

kind of creatures lurk in the deepest places. Utterly haunting.

Ellen Gail says

Nothing kept secrets like the sea.

2.5 stars. *Fear the Drowning Deep* explores a beautiful mythology and history, one that I've never personally seen explored in fiction. The year is 1913, the setting is the Isle of Man, a beautiful island in the Irish Sea. Fishing is a big part of their economy, but something in the water has been driving away the fish. And people are disappearing over the cliffs without a trace.

There's something in the water.

You know, I was going to put a gif here. Something creepy / stalkery of something *below* in the water. But the ocean is officially too fucking scary for me. I looked at like 1/3 a page of Google results and noped the hell out of there.

I am **TERRIFIED** of the ocean. I could go swimming in Hawaii because I could see what was underneath me. But murky water? Empty endless black trenches in the ocean? No fucking thank you. This particular image is going to haunt my nightmares.

WARNING: Not safe for life (view spoiler)

I'm so sorry for doing that to you. Do you need a kitten? I need kitten therapy.

Anyway, that's what this book did well. I don't do scary things underwater. So the fear our teenage protagonist Bridey Corkill experiences really came through for me. She lost her Grandpa to the sea. Her father fishes everyday. All of her friends and family live on an island - they are literally surrounded. And no one will believe her stories of giant fins breaking the water, ghostly apparitions, and fangs washing up on the beach. After all, she's apprenticed to a crazy witch. They're all the fantasies of a silly girl. Right?

"Men build boats, they drop anchors and cast fishing lines, but all they do is skim the surface. Maybe some wonder what's in the deep, far beyond their reach, but none of them know, and they never will."

For general plot, it's 5 stars. The history and rich mythology was really lovely. There were so many myths, superstitions, and cultural traditions that were worked into the story. Marsh also included a really nice "Note from the Author" at the end about Manx culture and history. Also this was original as all get out. I'll get into that more when we talk about Fynn, but if you had told me in the first chapter that (view spoiler) I would have laughed out loud. I couldn't have predicted that in a dozen lifetimes.

I had some issues with keeping track of the secondary and tertiary characters. Her friends could definitely have played a bigger part. I really wanted more development there, particularly with her friend Lugh.

Morag was a #bossbitch though. Love her.

*"Was there anything unusual about him on the day you met, aside from his injuries?"
Heat crept up my neck as I recalled that first meeting with Fynn. "He was naked. Not a scrap on him."
"There's nothing abnormal about that. I eat my breakfast in the nude. Think, girl!"*

Let's talk about Fynn. One morning when Bridey is on the beach (but not in the water, because like me she is not about that deep sea life) she finds a naked man, unconscious and bloody. She takes him home to her family, where they graciously treat his wounds and give him a place to stay. He seems to have amnesia, has no idea of his name or where he is from. But he does know one thing. The young woman who saved him is enchanting.

If you haven't guessed it yet, there's a good helping of instalove. That's my numero uno issue with the story. I cared approximately 0% about the romance. It's hard to say exactly how fast it develops because there isn't a concrete timeline. (Or I didn't notice one anyway. If someone noticed any date markers, or any way to determine exactly how long they "dated", hit me up!) But anyway, their relationship permanently had the fast forward button pressed. It made it extremely hard to care about their fate when they had zero time to develop.

Let's talk a little bit more about Fynn over in spoiler territory. (view spoiler)

The ending isn't perfect, but I like parts of it. Bridey gets to step up and face her fears. I also liked the way her family was so involved. I wasn't entirely happy with the openendedness though. Just tie a few threads a *little* tighter, and the end would be much smoother.

Verdict? *Fear the Drowning Deep* has a stellar setting, full of rich history and mythology. It's got a crazy original plot and several characters that I found myself liking. The side characters and the ending weren't exactly highlights, but it was the romance that was the big letdown.

I'll stick to swimming in pools. Much cuter monsters.

Thank you to Edelweiss and Sky Pony Press for the digital arc!

Nastassja says

A massive case of insta-love killed this book. Prepare for SPOILERS and sea monsters. Ah, kidding, there's no sea monsters, just the one called insta-love that gutted this book.

So, what *Fear the Drowning Deep* is basically about:

There was a girl and she hated and feared the water, because her granddad jumped off the cliff before her eyes. The girl wanted to go far far away from the sea. The girl had a best friend. She liked him a lot. They even kissed once. One day the girl saw a body washed ashore, a boy - beautiful boy - who's striking nether parts were so beautiful, the girl fell for him at once.

I studied his angular face, yet nothing about his straight nose or strong jaw reminded me of anyone in town. His curly, dark hair—long enough for small whorls to graze his sharp jaw—could've marked him as the son of any number of Port Coire families. But I was certain he wasn't from these parts. I knew everyone my age in our town and the neighboring villages, and I'd never seen anyone so striking before. I would have remembered.

Me:

The girl took the boy home, she rubbed some salve into his wounds, and it was so sexy, they boy fell for the girl too. They held hands and swam together in the ocean (the girl forgot all about her desire to leave the island). Meanwhile, creepy things were happening in the village: people were missing as if they were lured into the sea by something monstrous. The girl and the boy continued holding hands, and the boy continued saying sexy words to the girl.

“You still confuse me.” There was a haunted look in his eyes, one of sorrow and longing and something almost feral.

“How is that possible?” I demanded. “I'm here, aren't I?”

“That's just it. You're here, and you taste so good, yet all I want to do is ...” His tongue grazed my bottom lip, teasing my lips apart. I wasn't sure how I knew what he wanted, but I did. He ran his tongue over my teeth, tasting of salt and dark sugar—maybe treacle.

I'll explain in a second why I underlined these words in the quote. Patience, my friends. Meanwhile, me:

So, one day soon the boy decided he wanted to have kids with the girl, and the best way to start a family is to be honest with each other. So they went to the beach, the boy shed his clothes (oh, his pretty butt!) and dived into the water... uh, after that things got a little bit confusing, because what emerged from the water wasn't entirely human, if at all: half-horse, half-dolphin creature with dark mane and striking blue eyes. Yes, yes, it's out hero and he's a sea monster *gasp*

He lured and ate young girls until one day he fought another terrible serpent monster, because they couldn't decide who should eat another dead girl, and the serpent had won. Our *horse-dolphin-boy* was injured and washed ashore in the human form. Then our heroine accidentally pricked her finger, and her blood mingled with his blood and, voila(!), the monster was reborn! His urge to kill was tamed, and all he wanted was to kiss the girl, though, as you can guess now that line from the quote above about her tasting good was literal: he ate girls and couldn't comprehend why he didn't want to eat such a tasty girl like this one. What a romantic boy-horse-dolphin!

“Somehow, your blood gave him a bit of humanity. Allowed him to control his urges.”

The best part is yet to come!

When the girl saw the horse-dolphin-boy, she suddenly decided that there wasn't any insta-love between them, and she doesn't know the dude at all!

“Don't you dare say you love me.” A shrill laugh escaped my lips. “It seems we know nothing of each other.”

Oh indeed, the girl hoped for a dark-haired, blue-eyed cutie boy and got the same dark-maned and blue-eyed lover. What to complain about?! Hey, horses and dolphins are cute! What a racism to deny him only because he's not entirely human!

Well, the girl didn't cry for long. She listened to the logic above and decided half-man, half horse-dolphin is better than her boring childhood friend.

Long story short: they held hands again.

Of course, there was also the serpent monster issue. Of course, they killed the monster, and for some dramatic effect, our little *Ariel* was injured again, and his body wasn't found. But one day soon, the girl found a pearl and she knew: her Ariel is somewhere there, in the deepest part of the ocean: healing, dreaming and *neighing* his love for his maiden. The end.

Facts:

- The first 15% or so where good: dark and haunting, made me afraid of the water.
- The heroine's relationship with her family were nice, but, unfortunately, there wasn't enough development in anything but the romance.
- The book takes place on the *Isle of Man* in 1913, but there was hardly any feeling of the era. A couple of words here and there, but mostly I more than once forgot it wasn't the 21th century.
- If the book concentrated on the romance less - making it a central part took the mystery on the outskirts and spoiled the fun - the book could've been an excellent thriller. For example, the boy-monster could've turned out to be a real monster, who came ashore to lure the heroine into the ocean. But no, a-tortured-sea-monster-turned-love-interest was a better idea in the eyes of the author. Miss-miss here.

Verdict: A very strong Twilight vibe. Not recommended.

Jeff Zentner says

This book is as gorgeously spooky, haunting, and intriguing as the cover would suggest. It's cinematic, atmospheric, and an utterly thrilling page turner. I read this in the dead of July, sweating, and I already can't wait to read it on a misty Autumn night, wrapped in a blanket, with something hot to drink and nowhere I have to be and nothing I have to do. It's THAT kind of a book. Five WELL earned stars. This is an author to watch.
