



Teeth

Hannah Moskowitz

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A gritty, romantic modern fairy tale from the author of *Break and Gone, Gone, Gone*.

Be careful what you believe in.

Rudy's life is flipped upside-down when his family moves to a remote island in a last attempt to save his sick younger brother. With nothing to do but worry, Rudy sinks deeper and deeper into loneliness and lies awake at night listening to the screams of the ocean beneath his family's rickety house.

Then he meets Diana, who makes him wonder what he even knows about love, and Teeth, who makes him question what he knows about anything. Rudy can't remember the last time he felt so connected to someone, but being friends with Teeth is more than a little bit complicated. He soon learns that Teeth has terrible secrets. Violent secrets. Secrets that will force Rudy to choose between his own happiness and his brother's life.

Teeth Details

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Author : Hannah Moskowitz

Format : Hardcover 288 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Lgbt, Paranormal, Contemporary, Mythology, Mermaids

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Download and Read Free Online Teeth Hannah Moskowitz

From Reader Review Teeth for online ebook

Lisa says

Initial reaction after finishing this book:

"They're my reason to be here. They're my battle, you know?" He looks at me with a little smile. "And it's not like they can do anything I can't handle. I always win. I'm the hero."

Three things before I begin:

- 1) This is the first book I've read by this author. I've heard people praise her and from what I've seen on goodreads, she seems like an **awesome** human being. So when I saw this on Edelweiss, I decided to request it. I didn't think I'd get approved because I always seem to get denied when it comes to the books I really want. But I got it!
- 2) I had no idea what this book was about until after I was approved. I was amused by the description but I'm always open-minded about reading different things. A book about a gay fishboy? Yes please!
- 3) I will admit, I'm not exactly the biggest fan of books with paranormal/fantasy elements. I don't think I hate the genre at all. It's just there are so many bad books in the genre and I'd rather read a bad contemporary than a bad paranormal.

She grins. Her cheeks are getting all flushed. She gets more turned on when we talk about books than when we kiss. I shouldn't be okay with that. I'm beginning to think I'm using this girl as some kind of symbol and that's really not okay with me. I wish I were a different person. I kiss her like that will fix me.

Okay, so I don't even think I'd say this is a fantasy book. It's more like a **magical contemporary**. I had to bold that because it's fucking awesome. It just made me so so happy. This is one of the most unique books I've read in a while, possibly ever.

It's kind of in its own special category. There are no books I can really compare to this. **It doesn't follow the rules** and really, there shouldn't be rules when it comes to fiction! I love this woman for writing this crazy, magical, yummy treat of a book. Thank goodness for your enviable imagination.

Basically, *Teeth* is about a teenage boy named Rudy who is living on an island with his family. The island has a supply of magic fish that you can't get anywhere else and eating the fish makes sick people well, as long as they keep eating the fish every day. Rudy meets a part boy-part fish who calls himself Teeth. I can't really explain the rest without going on some kind of spiel.

When I was a kid, I always felt like I needed to keep her safe. She was made of marshmallows and candy canes and she knew twenty hundred lullabies.

I love great writing and I love when a book surprises me. *Teeth* did both of these things. Let me put it this way. I kept highlighting passages that stunned me with how emotional and gorgeous they were and at the end, I'd highlighted about 50 different passages. That's just a bit crazy. I can honestly say this was one of the best written books I've read in a while.

Oh and also, I find I usually can't connect with a male voice but I adored Rudy. I also adored how strong all the other characters were. Teeth, Diana and Dylan, especially.

No. He'll save me. It's his turn. He would never ever miss his turn. I'm smiling just thinking about it. I'm smiling...

More than anything, I love how I can see myself re-reading this in the future and getting something new from it each time. This book is sad, beautiful, magical and heartbreaking. The ending tore me up a little because I didn't feel like I had closure but that's my issue, I think. I became completely invested in these spellbinding, loveable characters and I didn't want to let them go.

And then Teeth screams really hideously, and Dylan has his face buried in my neck, and I start crying, so hard that I can't even believe it, and my fucking five-year-old brother is holding me and telling me don't cry, it's okay, it was just a dream, you're awake now. And I can't stop crying for anything in the world right then. And I can't let go of him. Nothing could make me let go of that kid. The house could fall into the sea and crush everybody and we could go underwater and I would hold him the whole time.

Fishboy. Oh Teeth. You made me laugh, you made me angry, you were frustrating and inspiring and so full of personality and you made me worry and I found your actions to be reckless but oh how I fell in love with your character. Teeth just makes me whatever.

I love the banter between Teeth and Rudy. I love the friendship between them and the deeper feelings that develop slowly throughout the novel. I love that it's very tumultuous and there is no insta-love at all. Refreshing!

"I'm so *strong*! Nobody hurts me. Nobody can hurt me. This is my game and I didn't do anything wrong and I'm just trying to help and it's not my fault, I didn't do anything, they hurt me, and I *hate this*."

What don't I love about this book? I can't really name anything. I guess the worst thing is that it made me think about ALL THE THINGS. Which isn't a bad thing at all, is it?

My final thoughts on *Teeth*:

I completely recommend this! It's like a boss.

Rose says

Initial thoughts: It's really a rare treat when you come across a book whose characters leap from the page and find their way into your brain and heart at the same time. For me, Rudy and Teeth became so much more than mere characters in my experience reading Hannah Moskowitz's "Teeth". They became personalities whom I wanted to know, whom I laughed thoroughly at their respective quirks and actually cried when they were faced with some immeasurable tragedies. The bond between the boys, to me, was one of the strongest relationships I've read in YA this year, let alone for a contemporary paranormal that has elements of magical realism, and I was completely engrossed in this work from beginning to end until the wee hours of the morning.

This was my first read from Hannah Moskowitz's work and I loved every moment of it.

Full review

I've said it many times in previous reviews of books that I loved, but I think it bears repeating - a book that can evoke multiple emotions from me and give dimensions to the characters within the story to where they leap from the page and become something in and of themselves usually rank among my favorite stories. Hannah Moskowitz's "Teeth" did that for me and then some. I wasn't prepared to grasp what this book was going to throw at me - not just in the strength of the narrative, but also with respect to the novel's unfolding events. Sure, I understood this was a bit of a modern day fairytale of sorts, and yes, I knew it would tackle some tough subjects, but I've ~~devoured~~ read my ARC copy twice. Both times elicited similar reactions - it had me up until the wee hours of the morning (5 AM-ish) when I knew I needed to get work done the next day AND it made me cry (laughing and sobbing with melancholy). In retrospect, I am so NOT sorry because I enjoyed both read-throughs.

The story centers from the perspective of Rudy, a teen who moves to a town in a last hope effort for a cure for his 5-year old brother Dylan, who has cystic fibrosis. The fish on this "magic island" as Rudy recounts, are said to cure ailments of many kinds, and for a time, eating the fish is actually improving the health of Rudy's little brother.

But there's a cost of sorts. Enter Fishboy, a.k.a. Teeth - most charming merboy of a peculiar, f-bomb dropping sort I've ever had the pleasure of reading about. He also uses the term "whatever" for words he can't define. He's got sharp teeth, webbed fingers, silver scaly tail, scrawny, and in Rudy's words "The ugliest thing I have ever seen."

That told me ahead of time that Teeth would turn out to be a very interesting character.

Teeth has quite a tragic history though, and it won't take the reader long to realize that Teeth's not happy with people eating up his fish comrades (Quoted: "But stay the fuck away from my fish.") nor with what the

fishermen do to him just because he's different and notably weaker. He's an endearing character, much like Rudy - whose strong narrative exudes pain in spurts with his respective trials. But the two actually have wonderfully rich dialogues that are funny in some measures, and others that are painfully resonant with the conflict that occurs between and around them. I'm in awe that the story flows so well with the overarching relationship and ultimate conflicts that come to be in the novel as it moves forward. Rudy and Teeth are, without a doubt, characters that have the best camaraderie of any in a YA novel I've read this year. I wouldn't say this is a romance read per se, but with respect to their relationship and how intertwined their narrative becomes, it's very close and certainly romantic. That part of the story I enjoyed the most.

I did have maybe one or two qualms in the overarching read. I probably could've gone without the vivid detail of knowing how merpeople are made (I will have nightmares forever...), but it does fit the narrative lore and adds to the story strand - makes it even more tragic considering how Teeth came to be and the stigma he faces with being who he is and the prejudices against him. That broke my heart in the aftermath. The other had to do with Diana's character, but that was probably more of a minor nitpick than anything else because of the role she plays, and I think her character was shown enough and in detail that you get an idea of her actions/reactions to things, as well as the role she comes to play in the overarching conflict.

I'm not going to spoil it for events, but it's the kind of story that has a number of endearing moments between the characters, both in Rudy and Teeth's relationship as well as Rudy's relationship with his family - which was very well done. Yet at the same time - it's rather dark (on the thematic side of things). The ending satisfied me even with the nature of it, and I thought it was touching for what the events before it led up to. Overall, this story definitely earns a place on my shelf and I will certainly come back to it to read and look into Moskowitz's other works.

Overall score: 4.5/5

Note: I received this as an ARC from Edelweiss, from the publisher Simon Pulse.

Eugenia says

4.5 Stars.....DIVINE!

Loved it. YA. Beautiful prose. Never knew what was coming next. Dark. Fish rape. Mermen. Secrets. Balance of life & death & all that jazz. Magicgayfish. Nearly heartbreaking. An HFN of sorts, but not for whom you would expect.

I would definitely read more by this author. This story reminded me of one I read some while back where fish off the coast of some tiny village iforgetwhere were considered healing.

Had some kissing MF scenes. No sex between the MCs, although one gets brutally raped night after night off the page. The emotion, however is between the two male MCs...one a 16 year old boy and the other an 19 year old "fish boy" named Teeth.

Magical, really.

C.G. Drews says

This is about gay magical fish and that's basically all the reason you need to read it. WAIT. One more

reason: I AM A DEAD MAGICAL MESS RIGHT NOW. The ocean and I are currently twins because of the fact we are damp puddles. I cannnnn't even omg. I mean. I wanted my cold dead heart to melt. So that happened.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START???? Except this is the mermaid book I've always wanted. Well, he's technically a fish. Fishboy. But he still has a fin so it's mermaid appreciation.

The setting was so absolutely vivid. Cold and damp and barren island were they fish and people go to try and get better even though they're dying. Because eating these special fish can cure you. Apparently. (Also fyi I hate fish so bad I would probably just die.) And I felt *there*. The detail is sparse but so very vivid.

And the writing is just so raw!?!? The entire story is super brutal and dark and bloody and full of tears and fishhooks that are going to rip out your heart. MY HEART IS RIPPED.

I absolutely fell in love with Teeth and Rudy. Rudy is watching his little brother die and he's super lonely and also doesn't like the person he was. (I take it he was a player/jock back at school?) But he feels like he's turning into nothingness on the island. He's such a precious thing. He's not always nice and his thoughts are sad and depressed and messy. **And Teeth? Teeth is SO TOTALLY SCREWED.** He is the most smol most precious cinnamon fish son I have ever read. He's absolutely psychologically abusing himself. Because the fisherman of the island abuse him (REALLY BADLY) constantly and he basically lets them to feed his tortured-hero complex. He's so naive and sweet and super cruel sometimes. So. I love him. **It freaking breaks my heart.** He's abandoned and a monster and unloved and he just wants to be HELD and TOUCHED and TEEEEEEETH. DON'T. DO. THIS. **Least to say their relationship was complex and unfinished.** I think they loved each other, in a deep dying way, but I do wish the book had just...it's hard to say without spoilers. GAH. (view spoiler)

Basically, if you are looking for a story of darkness and magic and small miracles and tears and breaking: read it. Please. It's ridiculously underrated. It gets ALL THE STARS from me because I've been mortally wounded. It's a beautiful and tragic book and it feels so real. Also pls may I protect Fishboy forever. pls.

Kat Kennedy says

I make no secret of the fact that I love Moskowitz's work with the power of a thousand Beiber fans except I don't need to suspend my disbelief in Moskowitz's ability.

Teeth is a heartbreaking novel about a lonely boy and an even lonelier magic fish boy. On an island there is a secret. The fish there are magic and they can keep you alive from even the most serious illness. Rudy moves there with his family for his brother's sake, but things aren't as simple as they seem when he meets Teeth.

As I've come to expect from Moskowitz, the writing is nothing short of spectacular and the characterization, Oh! The characterization! Here is a quote from my review of her book *Gone, Gone, Gone* about her characterization:

"Well and truly it is the intense characterization of Craig and Lio that make this novel. Clearly Moskowitz doesn't just do characterization. She DOES characterization. You know. Like, when she writes a character – that character has been written. That character KNOWS it's been written. That character will probably tell all its friends about that time it was written really well. Then it will compare all other writings to the writing that Moskowitz gave it. Thoroughly."

That is as true in Teeth as it was in Gone, Gone, Gone. Teeth and Rudy are incredibly complex characters – amazingly flawed and dysfunctional. Lonely, desperate, passionate, broken and utterly charming.

But the themes in Teeth are significantly darker than they were in Gone, Gone, Gone, making me hesitant to recommend it to those unable to cope with issues of serious and repetitive sexual abuse. Teeth is dark. Teeth is very, very gothic and depressing and sad. Sometimes I wondered if it was too sad, too dark, too emotive. There's very little cheer and fun to be had in it. But it turns out it's just the right amount of dark, sad and emotive for me because I still loved it.

And if you love Moskowitz, it is likely that her ability to make you feel, to illicit a remarkable amount of empathy for her characters, to bare their soul to you – is one of the biggest attractions. That is what you consistently get with Moskowitz – so if you're up for another beautifully written tale with a fresh bunch of characters waiting to make your heart bleed, then this is for you. If you're in the mood for something that will make you laugh and feel good, then maybe you're better off moving along.

And, people, when you do make it to the end of this book, just remember, I'm here for you.

**An ARC was provided to me by the publisher. No gifts, favours or money was exchanged for this review.*

This review also appears on my blog, Cuddlebuggery Book Blog.

shady boots | #WatchPOSE says

This review is also available over at my blog.

Hannah Moskowitz.

You know, I would kill to be able to write like you do. Like, literally. I would partake in the act of murdering another human being, if doing so will allow me to be as talented as you are.

I busted my ass to get this book. I can't even count the times my requests were declined, but I kept on requesting, just so Simon & Schuster could really see how desperate I was to read this damn book. Trust me, after the masterpiece that was Gone, Gone, Gone, I would read anything this woman writes.

I mean, God, her writing . . . That is the number one reason I want to own and devour every one of her books. The two words I can use to describe her writing are raw and real. Even if this book is about magic fish and a boy who happens to have scales and a tail fin, it still felt so real, as if I were reading a contemporary novel.

Another reason is her characters. Everything they say and think just hit me right in the *feels*. By the last half of the book I was an emotional wreck, because I felt for these characters. I felt for them as if they were real people that I'm close to. But they're fictional, and the fact that that is so, hurts me, because once again, just like with Craig and Lio, I want Rudy and Teeth in my life.

Rudy was kind of hard to figure out at first. He's a boy who lives with his parents and his sick little brother Dylan on an island that's known to have magical fish in their waters, ones that have healing powers. Rudy

and his parents are desperate for Dylan to get better. At times I wasn't really sure how Rudy really felt about his little brother, but I definitely knew that he loved him, and there were a few sweet moments between them that made me smile.

Enter Teeth, a.k.a. fishboy. He is a half-teenage boy, half-fish. He swims around the waters of the island, protecting the magic Enki fish. He also can't breathe underwater, and he speaks good English, but sometimes replaces words he doesn't know with "whatever".

This guy . . . I can't even. Sometimes I just wanna slap him multiple times in the face, but other times I just want to snuggle him and keep him with me forever. He was the main reason I became such an emotional wreck reading further into this book. He annoyed me so much at times, but . . . I love him, you guys. I genuinely love him and I can't deny that.

The romance in this book was sort of confusing, at first. Rudy seemed to be straight, since he says that back in his hometown he had a lot of girlfriends, and on the island he eventually meets this girl named Diana. What I loved about this book is that the romance between him and Teeth is very, very subtle. It's not in-your-face, as most YA books are. It's barely shown, but . . . it's there, alright. Some people might not really call it romance?more of a deep friendship, I guess?but I personally think that what they have is romance, albeit not a blatant one. And even if Hannah Moskowitz didn't intend it to be a romance between them, I'd still like to think that it is. Just cuz.

The ending was bittersweet. It was hard for me to fully concentrate, though, because tears were falling onto my iPhone screen and I had to keep brushing them off. By the last page, though, I was tempted to throw my phone across the room and scream into a pillow, because I hate when fantastic books end. Especially if said book is a standalone.

I knew this book wouldn't disappoint, and it didn't. The only thing I'm pissed about right now is that Hannah Moskowitz did it again: made me fall in love with fictional characters. You really have to stop doing that, you know. It hurts. A lot. (No, don't stop. I'm secretly masochistic.)

Read it, guys. Just . . . read it, okay? Plain and simple. Read it. And read *Gone, Gone, Gone* too, if you haven't. Or, you know, I'll cut you. And stuff. Well, not really, but . . . you get the idea. READ THEM.

Huge thank you's to Edelweiss and Simon & Schuster for sending me this ARC. I had to request a billion times, but I'll let that slide. This book was worth the struggle.

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

With Teeth, you have two choices: you can either read it, or someone can hit you over the head with it. The end result will be the same: you will end up bewildered and wincing in pain.

Rudy's family just moved to a remote island, hoping the magic fish Enki would cure his little brother of cystic fibrosis. As much as he loves his brother Dylan, Rudy is desperately lonely and bored out of his mind – until he meets Teeth, half-human-half-fish boy with whom he starts a tentative friendship.

This fishboy, Teeth, is not some gorgeous, misunderstood hero. He is monstrous, the ugliest creature Rudy has ever seen, with a mouth full of needle-sharp teeth and a torso covered in nasty scales. He is also insufferable, bratty, stubborn and unreasonable, but over time, he becomes loyal to Rudy, or as loyal as a fishboy can ever be. To Rudy, he is interesting and exotic, but it's the feeling of loneliness that keeps them

together.

His tail is skinny and silver, the same color as Dylan's fish. All of his scales, especially the ones on his chest, look dry, like they're about to flake off. His hair is short and uneven. Mermaids in fairy tales were never this ugly. Mermen.

I find it interesting that Moskowitz always manages to work in a mention of the book or author that influenced her. In *Invincible Summer*, all the characters are quoting Camus and the book itself is influenced by Camus' existential prose. In *Teeth*, which is so obviously kafkaesque, Rudy and his friend Diana read and discuss *The Metamorphosis*. With this, she robs her readers of the chance to recognize these connections and influences for themselves.

There are so many parallels between *Teeth* and *The Metamorphosis* that I can't even begin to count them – from the way people treat (or rather ignore) *Teeth*, to the grotesque wounds on his body. (Remember Gregor Samsa's apple?). Even the two fishermen are a metaphor for the government – no one but them knows the right bait for Enki, which makes them the only ones with any kind of power on an otherwise lawless island. Their conflict with *Teeth* makes the metaphor even stronger. He is the Gregor Samsa of this story, and they are the powers that be that beat him and abuse him in every possible way, while the rest of the world completely ignores his existence

Moskowitz's writing style has developed into this amazing, quirky thing, with sentences that surprise a laugh out of you not only because they're funny, but because of how they're constructed. She has a way of making these sentences seem like a natural thought process of her main character, an ability that gave Rudy a very authentic voice. Even with all the layers and metaphors and connections with Kafka, what truly kept me reading was this lost and lonely teenage boy and his complicated feelings towards his family.

My parents keep him cooped up because they're afraid that someone will cough on him, but I do it because not everyone is as receptive to endless talk about octopuses and body fluids as we are, you weird kid, come curl up and tell me and leave the normal people out of it.

I'm still convinced that *Gone, Gone, Gone* is Hannah Moskowitz's best work because it stemmed from her own experience and not her obsession with another writer. I really hope she'll go back to relying on herself with her next project. That's when she truly shines.

Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says

? **MY THOUGHTS AFTER REREAD : January 2016 ?**

I wish I could explain why *Teeth* felt every bit as wonderful this second time around by a mesmerizing world or an action-packed plot. But I can't. **This is still the weirdest story I ever read, the hardest book to recommend, but never before was the sensation of being trapped so gut-wrenching.** I will always have a little part of my heart left on Magic Island, until it drowns in that fucking ocean, I guess. I'm kinda proud of

myself for having written a review when I first read it in April, because *fuck me*, I wouldn't be able to do it now.

? **ORIGINAL REVIEW : April 2015 ?**

? My thoughts exactly. **Do you know the kind of book which has the power to affect you so much that you spend your night tossing and turning in your bed?** Well, welcome to my last night.

TRIGGER WARNING : GRAPHIC abuse. I would not recommend it to any reader who can't cope with it (and I completely understand why)

? **What a powerful read, really.** *Teeth* belongs to the stories that you need to discover for yourself, where nothing is better than starting almost blind, that's why this review is going to be short, plot wise, at least.

Before starting *Teeth*, I knew that Hannah Moskowitz's writing was either loved or hated among readers. However, what I didn't know is in which clan I will end. Verdict? **I fell in love with it from page one.** Indeed it's raw, to the point, **powerful**, full of repetitions sometimes. If short sentences are often used, the contrary is also right, and we find metaphors sometimes but so rarely that they create a distortion absolutely fantastic. To be frank, I'm not usually a big fan of present tense and metaphors but here? That's majestic. That's the poetry of the everyday. That's true, that's real, that's a respiration, *my* respiration. Don't expect stilted language, though. Indeed they swear. A lot. And frankly, maybe I'm weird but I found this wonderful.

"And something small and insignificant inside me shatters, just like every night, and feelings hit too hard for me to stand. I bend at the waist and cling to the windowsill. I won't scream. I won't throw myself against the walls until the supports give and we fall into the ocean. I won't think about swimming as hard as I can.

? Listen carefully because I haven't felt something like this since I read a book from Melina Marchetta : **The characterization was perfect.** Indeed the characters are so complex, flawed, dynamic and strangely *realistic* (yes, strangely, because *Fishboy*, duh) that I couldn't help but fall in love with each and every one of them, couldn't help but *care* deeply about their family, their struggles, the choices they have to make, their *pains* - even if Rudy can be such an asshole sometimes. Oh, God. My heart is shattered in a millions pieces but I wouldn't have wanted anyone of them to be different.

"And he opens his mouth, and I'm ready for anger and spit and fire, but instead it's just the smallest voice in the world. "What did you call me?"

[Here's where I was supposed to describe the characters, but I changed my mind. Go meet them. Go fall in love with them. Go suffer for them. Go laugh with them. Just go, dammit, just go.]

? The **relationships between the characters were so beautiful and endearing** that they just ... got to me

like few manage. Do we need words to express what we feel? Do we need to put a name on a box? I don't think so. Friendship, guilt, expectations, but love love *love*. So much love that my heart can't contain it.

"I'm a shaky mess all the time.

My parents have no idea this is all my fault, that they should be tying me down and excising me or lancing me like a boil or shooting me full of poison, anything, and then taking my lungs and stuffing them down my brother's throat and watching him turn pink again."

? First of all, I honestly think that we need to prepare ourselves **to embrace the weirdness** in order to enjoy this book. *Why?* Because it's a fairy tale and yet it's not really a fairy tale. Because there's magic and not always explanations for it. Because some parts seriously grossed me out, and yet the story is so beautiful I don't fucking care.

? Moreover, I must warn you that this book is **dark**. Oh God, so dark and sad and hopeless at times. Indeed **it deals with strong subjects like sexual abuse**, and it's definitely not for the faint of heart, you've been warned. During my read, I often felt suffocated, lonely, so attached to the characters, enthralled. It reached something inside me, pulling, and pulling and pulling again, until the tears came out - You want to know the truth? It moved me as a Marchetta's book would, suddenly and completely. As it was, the raw loneliness and the absence of choices oozing from the pages were my undoing. Truth being told, this story of a family who moves in a strange island where fishes can heal is the support for so many reflexions about life that it made me think like few books manage to.

- *Responsibilities*. How to get free? Can we, really?
- *Differences*. Our place in the world. What for?
- *Family and disease*. What are we ready to do to save those we love?
- *Ethical thinking*. What makes us more worthy than other living beings? Are we, really?

I have no damn clue. Have you?

"It doesn't matter what team I'm on, for a minute. For a minute it's just me and that smile."

? To sum up, *Teeth* is weird, *bizarre* but so fucking powerful and beautiful that I know I'll reread it over and over again.

"And the fucking ocean, the ocean is so quiet, because I guess the fucking ocean just doesn't know how to act appropriately for anything, goddamn it, the fucking ocean, I am so sick of the fucking ocean and I don't know what to do and I want to dive in and get clean and never have to come back out".

For more of my reviews, please visit:

? Todd says

**** ONE OF MY ALL-TIME FAVORITES -- READ ME NOW ****

This was one of the most fucked up books that I've ever read. And one that I enjoyed more than any other in a very long time.

I loved the 2 fish hooks formed into the shape of a heart on the book cover, with the silver fish scale background. Very fitting for this story, but what the cover pic actually is isn't obvious at first glance. Exactly like the two boys in the story itself.

For 16 year-old Rudy, it was disgust at first sight:

"A fish. A boy. The ugliest thing I have ever seen."

Until Rudy opened his eyes and he wasn't. Not even a little bit. He was exactly what Rudy's lonely existence had so desperately needed.

That's precisely what made this book **such a thing of beauty**.

First, if you're looking for sex, go somewhere else. Nobody even got felt up here, which was fine. And the only kissing here was either 'boy on girl' or 'mom on the cheek'.

But without a doubt, the story didn't fall short on 'Fishboy' and Rudy's feelings for one another as events progressed.

As dark as this book was, and it definitely was, the way that both 'Fishboy' and Rudy became almost everything to one another kept it from going to a bad place for me.

As the book mentions, **it's all about sacrificing for someone else what you would *never* sacrifice for yourself.**

And the fact that **it wasn't a happily ever after should have pissed me off** (as it usually does), but I **felt oddly hopeful** in the end -- despite how I really shouldn't -- as they were both resigned to their own fates. (Neither MC dies, so you can unclench now.)

Typical line from the book, this one when having to let one another go:

"No getting on the rocks to flirt with human boys, idiot." He rolls his eyes. I want to smile.

And I wanted to cry. (So I did.)

It really was heartbreaking when things couldn't end differently.

So I **very highly recommend this read** and as for a reunion sequel? Yes, please. That would be a definite pre-buy for me. :)

5 extremely enthusiastic stars.

Keertana says

Can you hear that? It's the sound of tiny shards of glass blowing away in the wind. You know what those shards of glass used to be before I picked up this book? My heart. Yes, this book destroyed my heart and didn't patch it up, but I would give my heart to Hannah Moskowitz all over again to have it thus broken if it meant I got to read such beautiful books. I am a masochist at times, I know.

Teeth is unlike anything I've read before or am ever likely to read in the future - and I'm glad. I doubt any other author could tackle this story with the amount of beauty and finesse that Moskowitz has.

Our breath-taking tale starts out on an imaginary island. An island with magic fish who can cure sick humans. Rudy and his family move to the island in the hopes that the fish can cure his youngest brother - and slowly, they do. Yet, for an island so devoid of life, it harbors a dark secret: Teeth. Rudy meets Teeth, an ugly fish-boy, soon after moving and before long, the two have struck an unlikely friendship. When Teeth begins to seek Rudy's help to free the magic fish that are captured every day - fish who are the only family that Teeth has - Rudy risks losing his younger brother to his sickness. Suddenly, the lines of friendships between Rudy and Teeth are no longer so clear. Even worse, Rudy meets Diana, the only other teenager on the island with him and a girl who stays locked up in her house all day. A girl whose mother sobs in the bathroom every Tuesday. A girl with a connection to Teeth. In the midst of all these separate, but broken, pieces, Teeth is the only link and with his ever-changing relationship with Rudy, it seems impossible to save the secret that the island so vehemently despises.

Hannah Moskowitz has always been one for the original story lines and *Teeth* is no different. In fact, it might just be the strangest of all her works, but perhaps it is also the most heart-felt. You see, if I could, I would run onto the tallest building in the world and chuck this book at everyone passing by. It wouldn't hurt so much, especially as it's such a slender volume, but the words and story inside *will* rip you up and leave you sobbing in a curled up mess for days afterwards. *This* is the magic of *Teeth*. It has the ability to suck you into its world, its strange island and its even stranger inhabitants and before you know it, you're no longer sitting in a comfortable chair with a blanket and coffee. You're tasting the salty spray of the sea, you're falling in love with Teeth despite his ugly demeanor, and your heart is breaking, again and again and again.

What stands out to me about *Teeth* is, first and foremost, the prose. It's beautiful. In fact, I went more than a *little* highlighter crazy with this novel and I can't say I'm ashamed about it at all. Once you get past the beautiful writing, however, is the characterization. If there's one thing you can expect from a Moskowitz novel, it's for the characters to come alive for you and wedge their way into your heart. Rudy is an instantly likable narrator, bitter about leaving his friends at home and living on a remote island, all because his younger brother is sick. Yet, at the same time, he shares an immense amount of love for his brother, expressing it the only way he knows how. For someone with a younger brother myself, I can already vouch for the genuineness and authenticity of the familial bond portrayed in this novel, one that touches your heart in more ways than one.

With such a strong family bond and attachment to Rudy, his parents, and his younger brother, we now have the dilemma that Teeth brings with him. At first, Teeth is a rather strange character, one that, as the reader, it is impossible to know what to think of. With the progression of the novel, however, Teeth becomes every bit as real to us as Rudy and his bond of friendship - or something a little more - with Rudy is just as compelling as Rudy's bond with his younger brother. With each chapter that we read, layers of Teeth's past and his difficult life are slowly revealed to us, beginning the progression of heart-break throughout the novel. Teeth is such a deep, devastating, and depressed being that it is impossible not to love him, to want to help him and

be there for him always. Even better, it is him who is willing to sacrifice his family of magical fish if push comes to shove. For Teeth, who has no family and whose existence itself is a mystery, it is the magical fish of the island that he is related to who make up his life.

Teeth is a story of friendship and courage, of love and bravery, of heart-break and wonder. It is the story of Rudy and Teeth, of their developing relationship and of the obstacles that stand in their way. Of Rudy's unrelentless loyalty to his brother and Teeth's unrelentless loyalty to his brothers. Of the blurred lines in their friendship. Of fishermen who torture Teeth - of an island who hates their secret. Of a girl who knows more about Teeth than anyone else. Of a quest to prolong the lives of magical fish, of sick human beings, and find a place - or a person - to belong to. It is truly impossible for me to express what this book is, what this book means, or the feelings it evokes. I struggle to put my feelings for this book into words, but it's incredible. Just...read it, okay? Read it.

You can read this review and more on my blog, Ivy Book Bindings.

Hannah says

I wrote this book. I like its playlist the best.

I totally support your right to refer to it as magicgayfish forever and ever.

- 1) The Island--The Decemberists
 - 2) A Sea Chanty of Sorts--Margot and the Nuclear So and So's
 - 3) Human--The Killers
 - 4) I Like You So Much Better When You're Naked--Ida Maria
 - 5) Soul Meets Body--Death Cab for Cutie
 - 6) Boys Keep Swinging--David Bowie
 - 7) Skin and Bones--Motion City Soundtrack
 - 8) You Must Be Out of Your Mind--The Magnetic Fields
 - 9) History Lesson--Motion City Soundtrack
 - 10) The General--Dispatch
 - 11) When I Was a Boy--Dar Williams
 - 12) Stop Breathing--Pavement
 - 13) The Ocean--Dar Williams
 - 14) Same Old Stuff--The Feeling
 - 15) You Are My Joy--The Reindeer Section
 - 16) Firefly--Breaking Benjamin
 - 17) Bring It Back--Kris Allen
 - 18) The Professor--Damien Rice
 - 19) Land Locked Blues--Bright Eyes
 - 20) Virgin Mountain--Loch Lomond
 - 21) The Blower's Daughter--Damien Rice
 - 22) Black Bird--Evan Rachel Wood
 - 23) White Horse--Taylor Swift
 - 24) Cold Water--Damien Rice
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Giselle says

This has to be one of the oddest books I've ever read, ever! Having read *Gone Gone Gone* by Hannah, I knew her writing was brilliant, her words are some that will enrapture you one hundred percent, and her stories are filled with genuine emotion. *Teeth* is no exception. We embark on an extraordinary tale of love and loneliness, with characters that are both fantastically bizarre, and incredibly charismatic.

Having moved on this island to help heal his brother's illness, Rudy is being crushed by the isolation, eventually finding solace in a new friend he meets at the beach. This new friend is quite... strange, and in more ways that what's made immediately obvious. His character and personality reflect his unorthodox upbringing and lack of education, but his heart is as big as ever. These two develop a connection that is the heart and soul of this story. Their friendship truly radiates as something very unique and special. Though like in real life, it's not always easy, it's sometimes frustrating, it's also something of a *need* more than anything. I thought this was especially well written; from their conversations to their confusing feelings, it would flow so freely off the pages like something you could touch. This wasn't only manifested between these two, but also between Rudy and his family--especially his little brother who is only trying to get well enough to enjoy his life. The family dynamics emit the emotional consequence of having to struggle every single day with death around the corner. I found this as equally poignant as the Rudy/*Teeth* story, throwing my emotions around at every turn. I found myself caring so very deeply for this family's well-being, praying for his brother to get better, and missing his energy during outbreaks. It's safe to say the character development here is commendable.

The plot surrounds mostly Rudy's friendship with *Teeth*, as well as his acceptance of the whole isolated island situation. Being one of the only teenagers, he's struggling with loneliness and missing his friends from back home, craving normality, even the slightest human touch. When he finds *Teeth*, his whole way of thinking completely changes, and for many reasons. This is one of those books that are especially hard to review as its plot contains spoilers from very early on. So for fear of revealing any, I will only comment on my promise that it's like nothing you've read before. It's weird, it's bizarre, it's eccentric... *it's unique!* Its originality is unreal, with secrets that will leave you stunned, a little sad, sometimes even grossed out; if it is anything, fascinating is what it is. I was a big fan of its ambiguity as well. Not a lot of reason is given other than it simply existing. This is not a book that contains detailed history or even deep speculation of its "magic", it's just something you have to accept without question. You may be thinking this is something you're sure you would dislike--I would be too upon reading this--however, never did I wish anything more. It was perfect for what the story is trying to be. I might even say more specifics might have ruined the book's enchantment.

If you're already a fan of Hannah Moskowitz, you know her way of writing is one that will compel you deeper at every word. If you're new to this author, especially fans of contemporary fiction, I urge you to jump on this exquisite, emotion-filled bandwagon, you will not regret it!

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An advance copy was provided by the publisher for review.

For more of my reviews, visit my blog at [Xpresso Reads](#)

Kristalia says

Final rating: 5/5 stars

I say, "What are you?" too fast for my brain to figure out what a completely shitty thing that is to ask.

But Fishboy just smiles and says, "I'm their dirty secret."

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How long are people willing to ignore the things that happen around them, to people around them, before they finally react to it? How long will you let something repeat and repeat before you choose to do something about it, with knowledge you could have stopped it?

I believe this was the point of this story. This book is one wreck of emotions - it really messes up with feelings. But how can something so sad be in the same time funny as well? I swear this book is wonderful. And this book has different view on mermaid story.

Even though this story was labeled as glbt, you could say it was, and it was not. It's just portrays one of those relationships where it is more like a friendship which goes just a bit above the friendship level. Or in other words - *it's complicated*.

Even though there were some plot holes in the story, i didn't really mind them that much, because I was blinded by characters.

CHARACTERS:

Three main characters are Rudy, Diana and Teeth. Rudy and Diana are human, but Teeth, aka, the fishboy - is a merman and he "isn't supposed to exist" - because mermaids are mythological creatures.

? **Rudy:** Rudy is that type of the guy who chooses to ignore, instead of acting, but when he does that, it backfired on him. Still, the writer made his character in a way very understandable. He questions what is right and what is wrong - he tries to help but he doesn't know how. He understands, but in the same time, he doesn't.

? **Diana:** Diana, on the other hand, i really disliked. Maybe it would be best to say that she really seemed, at least in my eyes, the same as all the other humans on the island. If i do say anything else, i would spoil the fun and enjoyment of reading.

? **Teeth:** Teeth, our merman, is the most stubborn creature in the world and instead of moving forward, he always goes back, no matter what happens and what the consequences are. That doesn't mean he is not huggable, because trust me, he is. He is so adorable, funny, protective and "whatever" xD (oh yes, he uses "whatever" for every word he doesn't know, and it makes it somehow funny - but also not funny). He hates humanity, and he has every right to, because what was done to him was inhuman, that he learned not to trust that easily, because no one really wanted to help. Except for Rudy.

OVERALL:

A beautiful story nonetheless and a story which makes you think - really think - about what humanity is able

to do to things they don't understand. And that there are always others who rise above that level.

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Trevor says

Similar to A.S. King, Moskowitz is an author to watch for YA "eccentric" novels filled with substance. Taking on heavy topics such as sexual abuse, TEETH is a semi-quiet read that leaves an intense impact.

Rudy lives on an island with his family due to their belief of the magic fish that helps his younger brother, Dylan, survive. Dylan has cystic fibrosis & unfortunately these fish are basically his last resort. Feeling isolated from his friends/past life & torn at wanting to help Dylan, Rudy begins to form a bond with Diana & Teeth (the fishboy). Throughout the novel, Rudy grapples with his feelings towards Teeth as well as trying to figure out his own life plans.

Teeth is just as much of a complex character as Rudy. Being abandoned by his mother at four years old because he turned into a fishboy, Teeth now hates humans. He hates the fishermen that come to kill his siblings & he hates the humans that attempt to bond with him- only to push him away. Teeth's emotional damage is intensified when he reveals he has been repeatably raped. Desperate to get out off the island, but harboring his own feelings of guilt & shame, there's nothing left to do but find some sort of solace in the companionship of Rudy.

Besides the dynamic of Teeth & Rudy's relationship, there's a really big question here of what would you do if someone you loved was sick? At what cost would you put yourself in harm's way to help them- but perhaps more importantly, at what cost would you destroy someone else for the benefit of another? Moskowitz tackles these questions with a knife, but never close enough to the jugular. It's all very bittersweet.

If you're into more gritty YA contemporaries, I'd say this one is definitely looking into (as well as any of her other titles). 3.5 stars.

Mai says

This book is so hard to review.

I believe that some books should be written just to be an exercise to the brain. Teeth is one of these books that constantly makes you think and analyze.

Rudy, the main character, is a teenage boy who moved with his family into a remote island for it holds Enki, a kind of fish that's believed to be a cure to many diseases, and they needed this fish for his brother. He struggles throughout the book with how bored he was until he meets Teeth, a half-human, half-fish boy, an ugly monstrous creature who is also stubborn and cheeky as sin, and so he develops a friendship with Teeth that puts him in a tough situation where he has to choose between his sick brother and his friend Teeth.

There are these times when I hate how my brain works, how I'm suddenly dumb and really sick, really aspie. This book was so hard to understand for me, but I somehow managed to grasp the idea that nobody will ever analyze this book correctly, you can think of this book however you like. It's full of metaphors for bigger

aspects in life around us, and I've built this whole different world that hopefully this book has been trying to tell me.

Rudy -our narrator- is so loud, and talkative. This book is written directly from Rudy's heart and mind, every word is filled to the brim with emotions that you have to remind yourself that Rudy isn't real, and that he is just a fictional character, but the writing style makes you believe his voice, hear it and feel it deep down it actually makes you wince.

His mind is so complicated and how he's dying to discover his identity is one of the most confusing things ever, this is not regarding just his sexuality but it goes to extremes like his existence. I *ucking loved this book. ~~Although I didn't fully understand it and I blame it on my sick brain~~

Teeth, the ugly monster who lives in the ocean, can't swim, can't breath underwater and can't walk, because he has no legs, because he is a mermaid or is it merman? Teeth is stubborn, cheeky and adorable. How Rudy's described him, he isn't the most beautiful thing, no, he is the ugliest thing ever, he is no hero, and he is no brains. Although Teeth can be the biggest metaphor for Queers, it's still can be a metaphor for power, revolution, art, creativity or even you. He can be anything and I salute the author for the brilliant writing.

The one thing that was annoying me is how thensidr characters felt flat somehow, they couldn't touch me as much as Rudy did, maybe because the author only allowed us into Rudy's mind? Maybe.

Other than that, I'm glad I got introduced to this author because this is one book that left me in pain and thinking. I recommend it because you're probably gonna understand it better than I did.
