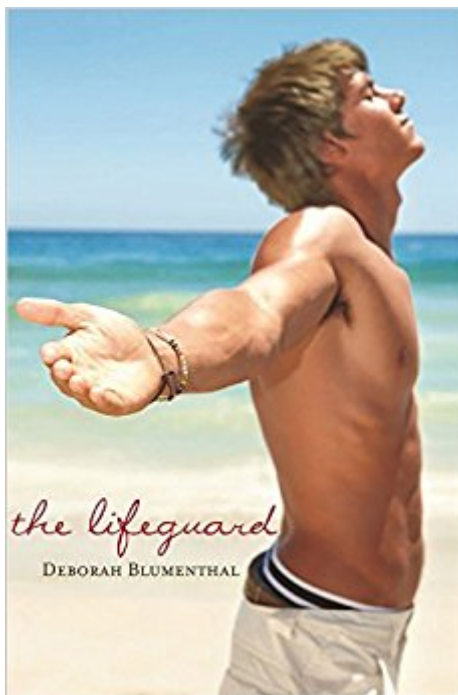


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The Lifeguard



Synopsis

It's an unsettled summer for Sirena. Back in Texas, her family's splitting apart, but here in Rhode Island, at the cottage of her free-spirited aunt, it's a different world. There are long days at the beach and intriguing encounters with him. Pilot. He's the lifeguard with shamanic skills. He both saves Sirena and makes her feel lost at sea. Sirena explores her obsession with Pilot and discovers his mysterious—almost magical—gifts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Incorporating suspense, fantasy, and romance, this entertaining read interweaves issues of self-esteem and family issues and coping with change." Booklist"[T]his is a touching love story with just a hint of magic and mysticism to please teen romance readers." VOYA

Spending the summer at her aunt's beach house, teenaged Sirena struggles with her parents' divorce and falls in love with a mysterious lifeguard.

As I was headed to Burlington, Vermont for vacation, I thought bringing The Lifeguard would be the perfect light hearted summer read. It is a perfect summer read, but it is anything but light hearted. Sirena is being shipped off to her Aunt Ellie's house for the summer because her parents back in Texas are going through a divorce and they figured she would be better off away from all the troubles. She spends a lot of time wallowing in self-pity and feeling sorry for herself. Like no one has

ever gone through this before. I went through it, but I was younger, so maybe that was the difference. While I was just accepting of the situation, Sirena is anything but accepting. She seems to spend a lot of time in her head moping about things she can't change and only seeing the situation as it affects her life and doesn't seem to think about what her parents must be going through. She does meet a cast of characters which do not seem very well developed for the most part, but as I said, the book seems to take place a lot in her head. Her Aunt Ellie is flushed out a bit. She is quirky and marches to the beat of her own drum. She is well-travelled and seems to be very much a free spirit. I liked her immediately. She fixes up the attic room which looks out towards the beach with a big bay window. It is a beautiful little room with one major set back. On stormy days / nights, there is a ghost that visits Sirena and moans pitifully. The plot really gets underway when Sirena goes for a jog on the beach barefooted and collides with the lifeguard who was getting her out of the way of a sea urchin. She doesn't realize he was saving her from it, until he jogs away from her and she sees Lifeguard on the back of his shirt. It takes about half the book for her to even find out his name, but she becomes obsessed with him immediately. He is godlike in his perfection. Embarrassed by her encounter with him, she refuses to go to the beach and just mopes around the house. Aunt Ellie finally has enough of her self-pity and sends her to volunteer at the local hospital where Sirena encounters the lifeguard again. He moonlights as an EMT. She stalks him through the hospital and out of the building where he gets on his motor cycle, but he is stopped by a beautiful blond girl calling out his name, Pilot, before he can drive away. She hops on his bike and they drive away. Sirena has a name to go with the face, but assumes the blond is his girlfriend and feels her heart breaking. Because Sirena likes to paint, Aunt Ellie gives her an old used easel when she moves in that she can use over the summer. She also tells Sirena about a friend of hers named Antonio who is a retired fisherman. He spends most of his time painting on the beach. She meets him on one of her beach walks and they strike up a friendship. She finds his gallery in town and she goes in to take a look around. On the wall, she finds a painting of Pilot and before she can rationalize or talk herself out of it, she steals the painting from the gallery as there is no one watching the gallery. Riddled with guilt over the theft of the painting, Sirena spends more time in her head agonizing over her actions. She finally tells Antonio that she stole his painting. He seems angry at first, but then laughs thanking her. If she loves his painting enough to steal it, that is the ultimate compliment. So, he gives her the painting. Sirena is determined to make Pilot hers, so she strategizes on how best to accomplish it. She buys a new bikini and heads to the beach. She sees him, but she also sees the blond girl on the blanket next to his lifeguard chair and he is talking to her. Sirena, in an effort to stake her claim, walks right up to him, but he gives her the cold shoulder.

She's humiliated. He seems to run hot and cold with Sirena, so she makes a move on Pilot which he seems to reciprocate, but then he pushes her away informing her that it would never work between them. When swimming is banned due to strong riptides, Sirena decides she is going to cool off by just splashing in the water. She waits until Pilot leaves his chair and walks the other way. She goes down by the pier, but loses her footing and is dragged under. She tries to drag herself out of the water, but just as she thinks she's made it, she steps on something that rears up and she feels an intense pain in her leg and sees blood then remembers nothing. When she comes to, she realizes she may lose more than her happy home back in Texas. Pilot is enigmatic and gives very little of himself. He keeps himself apart from everyone and in turn has become the guardian of everyone. He shows little emotion or weakness and is on site whenever anyone needs help. Strange things seem to happen when he is around which only adds further to the mystery that he is. Antonio also becomes an important character. He becomes Sirena's mentor, confidant and friend. He does open up to her somewhat about where he came from and his background. His father was a shaman in Brazil as his father before him and so on. While Antonio does admit to learning from his father, he never comes out and admits he is also a shaman. He does seem to have some sort of power, though. As the story unfolds, we learn more about Pilot and Antonio and their relationship to each other and the house Aunt Ellie bought. And who is the blond that seems to be intimate with Pilot? His girlfriend? We also learn more about the connection between Pilot, Antonio and Sirena. I was expecting a light hearted romp about hanging out on the beach and crushing on the lifeguard, but what I got instead was a book with a mystery, life and death, love and loss and a little bit of the paranormal. I would recommend this to anyone interested in a good beach read that is not just fluff.

How can I forget this story? This love? This emotionally exhausting book? Every time I read this book I cry. I cry for the love Sirena and Pilot have. I cry for the love that the people around them have. I cry for the ending I know is coming. I can't tell you to read this book. But I can tell you to live it. You never really read a story like this because reading is just repeating words without life in them. I have learned that with every love there is a story. This is their story. All I can say is that your life will be meaningless if you don't live this book. So I leave up to you, move on and forget my words or take a chance and live this world from the mind of Deborah Blumenthal. Which will you choose?

Really enjoyed it, the end was a little rushed though and I would have preferred better pacing. Otherwise gorgeous writing style.

Love this book, wish there was a sequel to it. You know how to write a good book. I enjoyed every second reading this book could barely put it down.

This book was amazing I absolutely loved it if you get the chance read it. It's a great life lesson

I loved this book! I'm not a big reader and I picked up this book and didn't put it down for two days. There were just so many surprises and things that kept making you read on. I'd recommend this book to anyone looking for a good summer read!

The story is very underdeveloped. As soon as an event happens that the reader wants to hear about, the author changes subjects.

The Lifeguard by Deborah Blumenthal ISBN: 9781453247334 This book first appealed to me because of the water scene and then the words Rhode Island in the summary of the book. I am from there and wanted to read this to find out if I knew of any place they spoke of. Love the water and the shells so this is a familiar scene to me. The prologue starts out with her standing in the water, on the edge and the undertow making her fall, she can't get a hold of her footing, it's like quicksand and she ends up away from the shore where no one is paying attention to her yells of help. Sirena arrives in Rhode Island to spend the summer with her aunt. Her parents are working out the details of a divorce and they thought the best place was for her to get out of the middle of it. She lives on a beach and goes daily, sketching on her towel. She has some interest in the lifeguard as he is so cute. Her aunt Ellie is a writer and likes to write about ghosts. They talk about the female ghost and Sirena learns the story of the ghost. She volunteers at the hospital and first day there's a little boy that comes in and it scares her. She also sees a teenage girl jump on the back of the lifeguard's motorcycle. She follows the boy's progress over the next few weeks. She also meets an 80 yo man, Antonio who has his own gallery and she explores, and works side by side with the artist, and confesses the theft. She remains grounded with letters from her friend Marissa who is stuck at camp all summer. Love learning about healing powers of plants, stingray bites, very fascinating. What happens next is the whole story, what one perceives what happens and what really happens is all divulged and why.

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