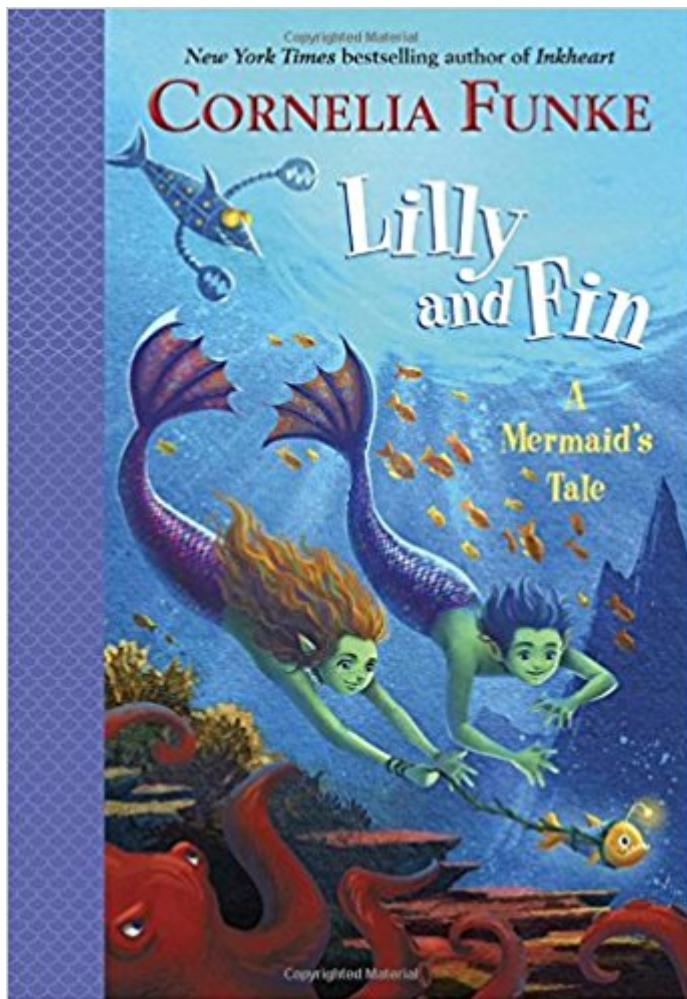


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# Lilly And Fin: A Mermaid's Tale



## Synopsis

The beloved and bestselling author of *Inkheart* returns with a chapter book full of mischief, heart, and kid mermaids! These mermaid friends are fishing for trouble! Lilly and Fin are merpups—mermaid kids—who love to play and explore the caves outside the mermaid city. They aren't really supposed to leave the city, but that's what makes it so much fun! Surely all those stories about Two-Legs (you know, humans) and sea monsters are just made up to scare young merpups. Little do they know, a real live human couple is on the hunt for a mermaid to add to their collection of rare sea creatures. If Two-Legs exist, what about sea monsters? With fun full-color illustrations by the author herself, this adventure is sure to capture all two-legged chapter-book readers! *Cornelia Funke . . . has written her way into the hearts and imaginations of audiences worldwide.* •Clive Barker, *Time* magazine

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0620 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers (May 16, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1524701017

ISBN-13: 978-1524701017

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.5 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #387,908 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Mermaids #7054 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic #8696 in Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

"An entertaining story with sly humor and an old-fashioned vibe." •Kirkus Reviews "Short chapters, plenty of illustrations, and fast-paced action." •School Library Journal "An adventurous plot and entertaining dialogue in a story rounded out with imaginative details." •Booklist

CORNELIA FUNKE is the New York Times bestselling author of many magical novels for children, including The Thief Lord, Dragon Rider, and Inkheart. She is also the author of the charming chapter books Emma and the Blue Genie, The Pirate Pig, and Ruffleclaw. Once named one of the 100 most influential people by Time magazine, Cornelia was born in Germany and lives with her family in California. Visit [corneliafunke.com](http://corneliafunke.com) to find out more.

Deep beneath the ocean, in a city built of sunken ships, live merpups Lilly and Fin. Though they've been told not to stray from the kingdom, lest they be caught in the nets or propellers of the evil Two-Legs, Lilly and Fin love to play in a secret cave far from home. With a seaweed bag full of tasty conch cookies, they set off for an afternoon in their favorite cave, unaware that Mr. and Mrs. Snorkel - a wealthy couple who collect ocean creatures as a hobby - have set out in their high-powered submarine, the Sea Devil, to catch a mermaid. Eight-year-old Lilly is the "sassiest, smartest, and bravest merpup." Her very best friend is Fin, a merpup with blue hair and scales that itch whenever he has a bad feeling about something. Both are "rainbow-scaled, green-skinned, fluorescent" mermaids. Funke sprinkles Lilly and Fin: A Mermaid's Tale with amusing ocean-related references, such as Mrs. Snorkel's "sea-green nail polish" or Lilly's and Fin's affinity for "kelp juice." Through whimsical use of a third-person narrative, she addresses readers directly, making the mermaids' adventure feel like an immersive experience. The book's illustrations add undeniable charm to the narrative. Funke's colorful depictions of sunken ships, ocean creatures, and the submarine that looks like a "giant predatory fish" are playfully rendered to delight the imagination. Each illustration has a hidden treasure chest, and all seven of the full-page illustrations include a hidden animal that doesn't belong underwater. The fun doesn't stop after the story concludes. Additional activities found at the back of the book - such as a full-page board game with instructions for game-play, and a link to knitting patterns to create a plush Lilly or Fin - will keep readers engaged and entertained. Parents and children alike will be swept away by Lilly and Fin, a charming tale of friendship and courage.

"I love to read all kinds of books, but The tale of Lilly and Fin was just not that interesting or enjoyable to read. I kept reading this book because I wanted to see what was going to happen in the story and hoped for more details explaining the mermaids and their personalities. Like when they met the octopus, the author should have given more detail about him earlier in the book. When one of the merpups said that her parents had warned her about the octopus, I wanted to know why and more about him and what her parents said about him. Also, the humans talked so much they

kind of took over the space for the merpups to talk and I would have liked more from them than the humans. Lastly, the only way the reader knows what the characters really look like in the story, are by the pictures. There aren't many details or descriptions about them and since it was a very short book it would have been more enjoyable to read if it was longer, with more details and conversations. I probably wouldn't recommend or buy this book as a gift, but I might read a sequel hoping it would be better than Lilly and Fin."

At the beginning of the 'Lilly and Fin: A Mermaid's Tale' by Cornelia Funke when mermaids came up, I was thinking back to The Little Mermaid story, but soon it gets away from the classic shadow. Its a great mix of imagination, mythical Kraken and Two-Legs Human. You may be in for a surprise about the 'human'ity. I went through different emotions while reading the story - A philosophical question about disbelief of things until we see them. The mermaids start out anthropomorphic but we soon learn to disinvest ourselves from the humans. All this in such little space and time. The Giant Kraken easily is lovable and so is the sidekick Lamps similar to Olaf in this tale of surprise friendship. Readers are taken into the underwater world in a superfun way instead of non-fiction way. Many times the book forces you to imagine what would it be to meet something unfamiliar. The illustrations are busy but with well distributed color, the contrast doesn't make the pictures a blob.

I was a little disappointed in this book. I am a teacher who is always looking for more books to add to my classroom. I found this book overall a little boring and it left me wanting more. I don't think most children would enjoy it. First of all, the title and the description involve the merpups that are supposed to be the main characters yet aren't introduced until chapter 5. I see children reaching for this book because of the merpups and then stopping it before they read about them. I wish there had been more character development for the merpups and less background on the Snorkels (the couple that try to capture them). The story is definitely a short story with little development. It does have an overall message that is decent. However, I don't think I'd recommend it.

I read this before giving it to my 10 year old. I am not sure that she would enjoy this. For one, it is a short story (I myself read it in under an hour) and she likes long books. It does have a bit of adventure, mermaids and a Kraken, so we shall see. One thing that bothered me was the Fatso/Fat King - what was the point? It left me with a bad taste. I also don't think that Lilly cursing at the Kraken (so we are told) or the Kraken calling her a DimWit is necessary, but I know that 99% of people won't care about any of that at all. I do like that it showed some repercussions to their

misbehavior and that when they didn't believe their parents they were proven wrong, otherwise it was a bore for this adult. Update: my 10 year old also read it in an hour. She says that it is boring.

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