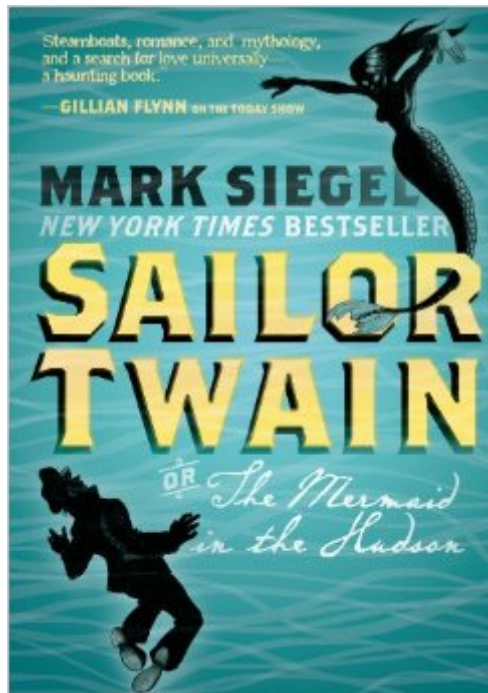


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Sailor Twain: Or: The Mermaid In The Hudson



Synopsis

One hundred years ago. On the foggy Hudson River, a riverboat captain rescues an injured mermaid from the waters of the busiest port in the United States. A wildly popular and notoriously reclusive author makes a public debut. A French nobleman seeks a remedy for a curse. As three lives twine together and race to an unexpected collision, the mystery of the Mermaid of the Hudson deepens. A mysterious and beguiling love story with elements of Poe, Twain, Hemingway, and Greek mythology, drawn in moody black-and-white charcoal, this new paperback edition of the New York Times Best-Selling graphic novel by author/illustrator Mark Siegel is a study in romance, atmosphere, and suspense. Don't miss *Sailor Twain*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One hundred years ago a steamboat traveled along the Hudson River, captained by a man named Twain. One dark rainy evening Captain Twain rescues an injured mermaid, carried her back to his cabin and began nursing her back to health. And from that one act of kindness a terrible event is set in motion, that will shape the lives and destiny of all involved--the captain, a French nobleman named Lafayette, and a reclusive author named C.G. Beaverton with a secret. For the mermaid has a secret and a curse...and she seeks to ensnare anyone that she can to help her. There's only one proven method for breaking the mermaid's curse. How many will fall prey to her powers? And how many will come out whole in the end? *Sailor Twain*. That name just conjures up so many different memories if you're familiar with literature and Mark Twain. And while this story doesn't have Mark

Twain in it (it doesn't reference him though) it does capture that essence of the river and its denizens. The characters are captivating and from that very first page you want to know what happens to them, what made them be the way they are, especially Lafayette, the French nobleman. And the situations the characters are placed in feel real, they make you wonder what you would do in a similar situation. Would you be able to avoid the temptation of the mermaid's call? The thing I love most about this book is the sheer amount of research and historical content that Mark adds to the story. Dropping in names, characters, and places from the real world to create a fantastic and jaw dropping tale. First Second is one of my favorite publishers, in part because they've been taking chances on the stories they tell and how they deliver these stories to the world.

I read the first few chapters in the sailortwain.com website and I was hooked. I thoroughly anticipated receiving this book so I can finally continue with my adventure. I guess the book itself is my siren's song! The book gets a full 5 stars for that alone. The artwork is something I'm not very used to, but I found the style enjoyable and fitting for the story. I can't imagine this book without the charcoal adding to the mood. I was delighted to find the watery sea themes found everywhere, even the less obvious places. Scales are all over the women's outfits, as are other nautical motifs, further accentuating the overall charm and a haunting theme. Though I am surprised at the complaints about the style being too off-putting for the mood. Maybe the best way to approach this is with a more open mind in order to appreciate the artwork as a device for the story, and not to stack this against other comic styles. Capt. Twain may look like a muppet but I think I should remind everyone that TinTin also had a face like a snowman. I considered lending this book to my preteen brother, but I was a bit worried about the mild sexual content. For an adult, this is hardly shocking, but for a young adult, the content may be impressionable. As for the story, I devoured the plot of this book so fast, I might've bit off my own hand at the end. What I liked about the story was the theme of "completeness" in many layers that can be extremely ambiguous. I don't want to say it's purely the old love vs. lust argument. It's more than that to me beginning with the obvious fact that mermaids are half human and half fish. And the main character with the blank face, as if he is just a shell of a person, not completely whole.

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