Tallulah: Mermaid Of The Great Lakes
Synopsis
Tallulah doesn’t look like the other young mermaids living in the ocean. Her tail is a dull gray. And when all the other mermaids go on a quest to find the special gemstones that make their tails sparkle with color, Tallulah doesn’t find her gemstone at all. When Turtle suggests that Tallulah searches the Great Lakes she is eager to give it a try, even though the other sea creatures believe mermaids don’t belong in lakes. Tallulah explores the Great Lakes from north to south and east to west, until she finds a beautiful Petoskey stone and she realizes that she is finally exactly where she belongs.

Book Information
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Age Range: 6 - 9 years
Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews
I picked up this book to read to the four-year-old I was babysitting, I liked the IDEA of a Great Lakes mermaid, and the cover art was very pretty. However, it was ultimately a bit of a disappointment. The first paragraph, oddly placed on the TITLE page, says "According to ancient mythology, every mermaid has a special gemstone hidden somewhere in the sea. Once a mermaid finds it, her tail will take on the same color as the stone, and she will acquire her magical powers." Because this bit is set apart from the main story, it might lead you to believe that there is ACTUAL "ancient mythology" saying this. Don’t go looking, it’s not there. The story begins with Tallulah and the other
young mermaids getting ready to go search for their jewels. The rest of them already have some hint of color and sparkle in their tails, but Tallulah’s has none: “But when Tallulah waved her dull, gray tail back and forth to catch the sunlight, it didn’t sparkle and the other mermaids giggled.” "When Tallulah tried to ask a question, they all stared at her dull, gray tail and said nothing." Aha, I thought, it’s a story about accepting people who look different from you. Sure, there are plenty of those, but it’s a worthy message and the pictures are pretty. BUT. Tallulah goes off to search for her gemstone, returns months later empty-handed, and is told she might as well not bother. Her sea turtle pal encourages her to try the Great Lakes instead, and the two go off on a tour of the Great Lakes and do eventually find her gemstone in Lake Michigan (so of course it is a Petoskey stone). But that’s where the story ends.

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