

Penny
Grade 8
North Branch
Genre: Original Fiction
Title: Throw Me In

The storm had finally ceased and Griffin Marlowe was absolutely exhausted. He and the small fishing boat's captain, who went by the name of Captain Briggs, had barely finished pulling up the nets used for catching fish.

"Aye, Tim, Griffin! Load these fishes inter them buckets!" The captain yelled to his two young male assistants.

"Hey Griff, I'll get the buckets and you get the fish." Tim said with his slightly-scottish accent.

Griffin nodded and walked towards the back of the boat.

Griffin absolutely hated the smell of fish, was not particularly fond of the ocean, and didn't know how to swim. In short, life on the sea didn't really suit him. However, it was the only good paying job Griffin could find and he needed to save up all he could if he was going to purchase the medicine for his mother and brother, who were both fatally ill from the exact same sickness.

Griffin slowly started gathering up the fish.

"Griff- I'll be back, mate. Captain needs help with a net on the front of the boat. Keep going with the fish without me." Tim huffed, out of breath.

Griffin nodded. As he picked up yet another fish, he saw a brilliant flash of blue in the middle of the pile. He almost jumped back. Griffin closed his finger around yet another fish.

When he looked down he realized that he was clutching the fish so tightly that it's eyes were popping out. He flung the fish aside, gagging.

Then he looked up. There was a girl in the net.

The girl started speaking. "If you ask me, the ocean isn't the right place for you. You don't like fish? You might have a problem. The ocean is full of them." A voice said. It was the girl who was under the fish.

"Just a question, but what did those fish ever do to you? Why don't you just throw them back in the water, they're not dead yet. Oh, and while you're at it, throw me in too." The girl said, irritation prickling in her voice. "I never really liked sitting on land. The ground is so uncomfortable."

"Throw you in?" Griffin questioned, kneeling down next to the girl. "Won't you drown?"

The girl looked at him as if he were the most crazy person in the world.

"Drown?" She laughed. "Are you joking?"

Griffin gulped, obviously baffled.

The girl peered at his face for quite some time. "Also," The girl said, struggling to sit up. "Do you know how disgusting it is to sit in a bunch of dead fish? If you didn't like touching just one fish, imagine how bad this would be."

When the girl had sat up, she had lifted blue colored legs. Blue colored legs? I must be going crazy. He thought to himself. First a girl who was in

the ocean and got caught in my fishing net, and now she has blue legs?

Griffin inched a little closer to the strange girl. "Those aren't legs." He pointed out, as if assuring himself that he wasn't imagining this.

"What did you think I was? A human? That's cute." She paused. "I'm a mermaid. My name's Ivy Fontaine." She said, holding out her hand for him to shake.

"My name is Griffin. Griffin Marlowe." He stuttered, giving her hand a firm shake.

They stared at each other for quite some time. The girl had hair that was so blond that it was almost white. Her face was fair and in general she looked very pretty. Ivy's eyes were a light shade of blue and her tail was a brilliant shade of dark blue.

Griffin had mousy, chestnut brown hair which looked as if it hadn't been brushed for a couple days. His skin tone was pale and his eyes were a shade of greenish-grey. He wasn't much to look at, but he made up for that with his kind heart.

Suddenly, a voice startled both of them out of their trances. "Aye, Griff! You're already almost done? Great work!" Tim called out, walking towards them. Ivy sank down beneath the fish, attempting to hide herself. "Captain says we're gonna take a break for a bit"

"Tim, um, hi! I will be right there in just a second!" Griffin said blankly.

"Aye, see you inside!" Tim said, winking.

Griffin sighed a deep breath of relief and looked at Ivy. "Okay, I'm going to put you in now. The captain should be coming back any second now." He said, lowering Ivy into the water.

"Wait," She said, just as she was about to reach the water. "One more thing." Ivy looked into his eyes. "Thank you," She whispered, kissing him lightly on the cheek. And then Ivy dove into the indigo depths of the sea.

Griffin felt strange. He felt... happy. He hadn't felt this feeling in a long while. Not since his father had died. Not since his mother and brother had become fatally ill. Griffin wouldn't see Ivy for a long time, perhaps he would never see her ever again, but for now, he had a hot mug of cocoa and Captain Briggs was waiting for him for a friendly game of checkers. The captain would let him win like he always did, and then the captain would play against Tim.

After that, he would add his savings to the jar underneath his bed for the medicine for his mother and brother, and before bed, he would tell them stories of sea monsters, mermaids and giant squids. Sea life was already starting to grow on him.