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Shark Girl



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Synopsis

A teenager struggles through physical loss to the start of acceptance in an absorbing, artful novel at once honest and insightful, wrenching and redemptive. On a sunny day in June, at the beach with her mom and brother, fifteen-year-old Jane Arrowood went for a swim. And then everything **changed**. Now she's counting down the days until she returns to school with her fake arm, where she knows kids will whisper, "That's her **that's** Shark Girl," as she passes. In the meantime there are only questions: Why did this happen? Why her? What about her art? What about her life? In this striking first novel, Kelly Bingham uses poems, letters, telephone conversations, and newspaper clippings to look unflinchingly at what it's like to lose part of yourself - and to summon the courage it takes to find yourself again.

Book Information

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Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences #474 in **Books > Children's**

Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 6 **Jane**, 15, is smart, good-looking, and the best artist in her school. After a shark attack at a local beach results in the amputation of her right arm, nothing is the same. Bingham's free-verse novel neatly accommodates the teen's loss; her dreams, anger, and frustration are explored as she rebelliously tries to adjust to her new circumstances. The main

narrative is interspersed with news clippings, internal dialogue, and letters of support from other amputees, and even though Jane resists being part of that community, there are connections. Her voice is authentic and believable as both a teenager and victim. This engaging read will entice enthusiastic and reluctant readers; the drama of the shark attack will hook them, and Jane's inner journey will hold them till the end.~•~ Janet S. Thompson, Chicago Public Library Copyright ~ ~© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Jane Arrowood wonders if she will forever be known as the "Shark Girl," who survived a shark attack on a golden California June day. A popular 15-year-old with true artistic talent and a strong circle of friends, Jane suddenly feels extraordinarily different with a prosthesis where her arm should be, and, worse, pain and itching where it used to be. Why shouldn't she feel sorry for herself? Sometimes she almost wishes that she hadn't survived. Why shouldn't she feel different? In carefully constructed, sparsely crafted free verse, Bingham's debut novel offers a strong view of a teenager struggling to survive and learn to live again. Her metaphors are authentic, visual, and lovely, and she uses spacing between words to telegraph the pauses in awkward conversations when family and friends try but fail to address the real conversation--her missing arm. It's a familiar story line written in a fresh voice, one that will be justifiably popular. Frances Bradburn Copyright ~ ~© American Library Association. All rights reserved

I've had this book on my Kindle for a while. I watched the movie over the holidays and decided I would read the book. Little did I know the two were not related. However, I really enjoyed the book. There were a lot of similarities between the two. The author has written the story more like a diary from Jane's perspective. Picking up in the hospital after waking up for the injury, the story moves very quickly. The author has clearly covered all areas of concern for Jane and how she is able to deal with them. From interactions with her mom and brother, and extended family, all concerned about her returning to daily activities and being an artist. To her friends and their willingness to accept her with her being different now. And my favorite part was the relationship she makes with Justin, a little boy dealing with the loss of his leg. I would recommend this book to anyone who has seen the movie and enjoyed it. A very quick read. And also would recommend this book to anyone who is struggling with anything in their life. There was a great message about picking up and continuing on.

I had to read this book for school and I thought it would be really boring and predictable but I loved

this book and I would recommend it to any teen who is looking for a good book to read for school or just for fun.

I really enjoyed reading this book. The set up was amazing :) I really recommend reading this book. It was very good.

It was so good I loved every second and I totally recommend it!!!!!!! Enjoy it because it is so awesome!!!

This was a such a true story told from the heart and I enjoyed every moment of it. There were no boring parts and the author wrote Jane's story so amazingly. It is a great read for all ages

Well written, believable, honest. Kelly Bingham slayed on this book. The sequel is amazing too. Definitely read it. So good.

I liked it a lot but it was a very slow moving book in the beginning and as it ended I wanted to know more, just more about her life as she got better. Not as she was in the hospital the while book other than that a good good book.

Good as expected.

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