

*SHE IS A MERMAID,  
BUT APPROACH HER WITH CAUTION.*

*HER MIND SWIMS  
AT A DEPTH MOST WOULD*

*DROWN  
IN.*

J. Iron Word





Elisa Maenhout

A depth  
most would  
drown in

*I WAS ALWAYS DRAWN TO A FANTASY WORLD BENEATH THE SEA, WITH THE LONG, FLOWING HAIR AND THE BEAUTIFUL SPARKLY TAILS. I THINK THAT HAS TO DO WITH HAVING A LOT OF FLYING DREAMS AS A CHILD AND I FELT LIKE THE WEIGHTLESS UNDERWATER WORLD WAS THE CLOSEST I COULD GET TO THAT FLYING-WEIGHTLESS FEELING OF BLISS.*

Hannah Mermaid

*IT BECAME MY CATALYST FOR BEING ABLE TO GET TO A SAFE, HEALTHY PLACE.*

Mermaid Merin

*I WOULD NEVER USE THE WORD 'COSTUME' TO DESCRIBE MY TAILS. A COSTUME IS WHAT PEOPLE WEAR WHEN PLAYING AT DRESSING-UP, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I DO. IT MIGHT NOT BE A REAL FISHTAIL, BUT IT ISN'T A COSTUME EITHER. IT'S AN EXTENSION OF WHO I AM.*

Mermaid Celine

*NOW LIFE GETS TO BE MAGICAL.*

Mermaid Merin

*MERMAIDS SYMBOLIZE THE THINGS I'VE ALWAYS LOOKED UP TO AND WHAT I WANTED TO BECOME. BEING A MERMAID HAS GIVEN ME CONFIDENCE, NOW I FEEL STRONG, BEAUTIFUL AND INDEPENDENT. IT HAS TAUGHT ME TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT*

*MYSELF AS A HUMAN AND TO COPE WITH REALITY IN A BETTER WAY.*

Mermaid Celine

*SOMETIMES, I'M LIKE: I JUST NEED TO GO AND BE MAGICAL, I CAN'T DEAL WITH HUMANS RIGHT NOW.*

Merman Maui

*SWIMMING WITH A TAIL FOR THE FIRST TIME WAS TREMENDOUSLY LIBERATING. I LEFT ALL NEGATIVITY AT THE SURFACE AND AS I DIVED UNDER, I BECAME A DIFFERENT VERSION OF MYSELF, THE MERMAID VERSION, WHO DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS.*

Mermaid Alaria

*JUST THE SENSATION OF THE WATER ON MY SKIN, COOLING ME AND CALMING ME, FELT LIKE A LOVED ONE WIPING AWAY MY TEARS. THERE IS SOMETHING VERY INTIMATE AND PROFOUND ABOUT THAT. THERE IS NOTHING ELSE QUITE LIKE IT.*

Mermaid Alaria

*HONESTLY, I THINK YOU'RE A MERMAN OR A MERMAID AT HEART. PEOPLE OFTEN ASK ME: HOW DO I BECOME A MERMAID OR MERMAN? AND THEN I SAY: YOU ARE A MERMAN OR A MERMAID. YOU ALREADY ARE, THAT'S THE THING. IT'S HERE, IT'S JUST YOU. THE TAIL JUST ADDS TO THAT EXPERIENCE.*

Merman Maui

*I WENT TO THE BEACH AND I MADE A DISTINCT DECISION TO FOLLOW THIS PATH. I ASKED THE OCEAN: 'DO YOU WANT ME TO BE A MERMAID?' RIGHT AFTER THIS, A WAVE WASHED UP AND THERE, RIGHT BETWEEN MY FEET, WAS THIS GREY SHELL. RIGHT IN THE CENTRE, LIKE IT WAS BEING GIVEN TO ME. SO I DID, I BECAME A MERMAID. IF IT WAS A FANTASY NOVEL, I WOULD'VE TURNED INTO ONE RIGHT THEN, AND SWUM OUT INTO THE SEA AND NEVER TURNED BACK. BUT WHAT HAPPENED WAS JUST AS EXTRAORDINARY.*

Mermaid Alaria

*WE CAN LOOK AT THE MERMAID TO UNDERSTAND DEEPLY WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WOMAN. AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ABLE TO NAVIGATE THE CYCLES OF LIFE AND THE RISING TIDES OF CHANGE.*

Mermaid Merin

*MOTHER NATURE IS A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH. I THINK THAT'S WHY THERE IS SUCH A HUGE DRAW RIGHT NOW TO MERMAIDING. IT'S A REVOLUTION OF FEMININITY AND POWER AND OWNING WHO YOU ARE.*

Mermaid Farasha

*WHEN IT COMES TO MERMAIDS, THERE ARE LOTS OF STEREOTYPES. BECAUSE WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK ABOUT MERMAIDS, THEIR MIND USUALLY GOES TO ARIEL, OR ANYTHING THAT HAS*

*BEEN PUT OUT THERE IMAGERY-WISE OF A THIN, LITTLE, BLONDE OR GINGER, WHITE WOMAN. SO WHEN YOU ADD A MERMAN TO THE MIX, PEOPLE EXPECT YOU TO BE THIS BIG, STRONG, BUFF DUDE. BUT I'M NONE OF THOSE THINGS: I'M A MERMAN OF COLOUR AND I'M ALSO PLUS-SIZED. SO I'M REALLY CREATING A DIFFERENT THING THAT SOME PEOPLE MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND, JUST BECAUSE THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN IT.*

Merman Maui

*IT'S NOT NECESSARILY FOR ME, IT'S FOR THE PEOPLE I TALK TO, IT'S FOR THE PEOPLE I INTERACT WITH AND FOR WHAT I CAN SHARE AND GIVE TO THEM AND WHAT THEY SHARE AND GIVE BACK TO ME.*

Mermaid Merin

*FOR ME, 'MER' MEANS OCEAN AND 'MAID' MEANS SERVANT, SO I VIEW MYSELF AS A SERVANT OF THE SEA AND AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN LAND AND OCEAN.*

Hannah Mermaid

*I FEEL COMPLETELY CONNECTED, LIKE I AM PART OF ALL LIFE. THE FREEDOM AND IMMENSITY OF THE OCEAN IS SO GRAND.*

Hannah Mermaid

*I WANT TO GROW OLD BEING A MERMAID.*

Mermaid Amethyst



















