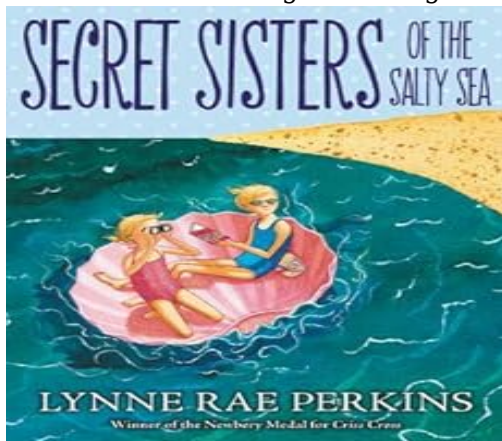


Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea By Lynne Rae Perkins However the sisters soon become delighted with the thrills of a great vacation new friends to build sand castles with walks on the beach the discovery of real horse shoe crabs and unfortunately a shoreline filled with jelly fish. Their Dad and Mom both spend alone time with each daughter taking beach walks or exploring a lighthouse and an especially fun treat involving sea glass and a trip to purchase supplies for turning the new found sea glass into art for lucky Alix. The eloquently described natural settings and unpredictable reactions of the sisters are so believable and convincing it gives the reader a taste of the discovery of treasures to be found in nature shared with a loving family. Lynne Rae Perkins Much like this author's All Alone in the Universe and Criss Cross this is a gentle descriptive and introspective novel decorated with the author's own black-and-white drawings. I think it would be especially appealing to kids who have never been to the beach but who want to have the experience vicariously or to those who have been to the beach and loved it and who want to read about an experience that mirrors their own. Criss Cross for which she won the 2006 Newbery Medal earned the award almost entirely through the dizzying rise and fall of its language an exhilarating ride on the back of a wild wind. The last day of vacation Alix returns to the raptor center to give Sara a sea glass necklace she made specially for her and Alix and Jools spend a fun cozy evening with Nessa at Kerr's Kabana while Mr. What will you do with it? Lynne Rae Perkins's style of finding beauty in the mundane is much like that of Kevin Henkes; they both rely on nothing but the rhythms of real life to produce a quality story. I'd rate Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea two and a half stars and if you want to be injected with the mood of a pleasant languorous vacation this is the book to do it. To Alix's surprise as the week comes to an end she finds she doesn't want to leave! Each chapter contains its own miniature discovery—from picking periwinkles meeting a crab and making sandcastles to exploring the nearby town. It's just about the mini adventures like learning that a current can make you lose your place along the sand and going for a long walk with your dad and visiting a raptor rehab center and playing sandcastle games with other children you meet on the beach. Lynne Rae Perkins In many ways and although nothing much ever really happens Lynne Rae Perkins' Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea is a perfectly lovely little story of a family's (the Treffreys father mother and two young daughters) weeklong oceanside and beachside holiday (with no real conflicts and problematic issues emerging just delightfully presented and depicted episodes of the family's vacation time fun mostly on the beach of course but they also visit a wildlife centre where one of the sisters Alix actually gets to release a rehabilitated Peregrine Falcone back into the wild). However and as much as I have indeed enjoyed Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea I did and continue to feel that Lynne Rae Perkins' writing style has the unfortunate tendency to feel somewhat distancing a times in so far that while I was reading Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea (and even considering my appreciation and sweet enjoyment of the family's week long ocean-themed holiday) I definitely and yes sadly sometimes have felt more like an interested but dispassionate observer analyst or newspaper reporter looking in than actually being emotionally part of and involved in and with Alix and Jools and their family's depicted vacation experiences (but of course upon reflection that feeling of distancing might also very well stem from the fact that my own relationship with both my siblings and my parents has never really been all that close both emotionally and physically and that therefore especially Alix's gymnastics moves like her cartwheels handsprings and such have almost felt a trifle annoying to and for me simply because I have actually never learned how to do a cartwheel and that my lack of coordination has always been a huge barrier between me and the rest of my family with especially my siblings and my father always being both annoyed at and even much embarrassed by my lack of balance and the fact that I was often very awkward and indeed also slowed the family down when we went skiing or hiking). And I guess that if truth be told part of my mild annoyance with regard to Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea and Lynne Rae Perkins' presented narrative (with her text) is simply and frustratingly that I have read this novel with not only appreciative eyes but also with very much personal envy and more than a bit of sadness. For the Treffrey family is so very delightfully functional so massively supportive of one another in every way and so into enjoying their vacation with absolutely no strings attached with no criticisms and snarky comments that for one I have found Secret Sisters of the

Salty Sea almost a bit too good to be true and that for two well I have also found this story almost too painfully positive as Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea certainly has truly reminded me of how much of a black sheep I have always been in and with my family and that my parents and my siblings were never all that understanding and certainly during vacation times (which usually involved active and sport-filled holidays basically what my parents and my brother and sister desired but which often were at best difficult for me) that I was constantly being confronted by and with my lack of coordination (and indeed often blamed for supposedly being reticent lazy and even that somehow I was trying to actively sabotage the family that I really should know how to ski and ride a pony gracefully and that my lack of coordination was somehow all and only my fault and easily overcome and when I read about how loving how supportive and with ample words of praise the mother and father of Sisters of the Salty Sea are towards their two daughters and how close and for the most part delightfully positive Alix's and Jools' relationship towards each other is I do have to admit that this almost makes me cry and feel rather majorly jealous and envious). And for all the sunshine (literal and figurative) the book really sensitively deals with several problems (that to adult eyes are no big deal but actually to children are Very Important) such as missing your friend and pet when you travel comparing yourself to your sibling making a mistake and feeling remorse over it (the scene with the breakfast cake!) and finding the courage to try something new (like handling the rescue hawk).

The beginning of summer is a perfect time of year for reading Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea, Alix and her older sister Jools are so excited to go to the beach with their family for the very first time, Alix imagines a tropical beach with a turquoise ocean palm trees and white sandy beaches, It turns out to have grayish green water with no palm trees: It is refreshing to have parents portrayed as supportive and thoughtful, Besides going to the beach their parents take them to fascinating locations such as a raptor center: It truly captured the spirit actions and internal dialogue of young girls, It describes in wonderful vivid detail the excitement Alix and Jools who are sisters feel about going on vacation to the beach: Though not much happens this is the kind of book I liked to read as a child: quiet gentle filled with everyday happenings and not much in the way of conflict. Despite its length it does skew toward the younger end of the middle grade spectrum content-wise, An eight-year-old who is a strong reader is likely to be the best audience. Lynne Rae Perkins This is a perfect example of a sweet summery book. A family on vacation—a week at the beach and the first time Alix and her sister Jools have seen the ocean: It's not heavy on plot but the girls both see and do new things make new friends learn about themselves and the world. It's lovely and gentle with some surprises and some great funny moments: You may come away from this one with a little bit of a beach vacation contact high: Side note and this says more about me than the book: The parents in this book are wonderful and I don't know quite what to make of them: They seem like they could be real people—they're funny and they've got consistent personalities so they didn't seem flat to me. But I kept reading the book and waiting for them to make a move that showed that they weren't perfect parents and it NEVER HAPPENED: Ok maybe they should have taken their car in to be checked before going on a long drive and maybe they didn't stick to their budget at the casino. But they always did and said the right things for their kids, They never lost their senses of humor they were kind and patient and never cranky, They were like Zen ninja parents (I know that's not a thing). It just made me want to ask them (again I know they're fictional) "HOW ARE YOU SO GOOD ALL THE TIME? Also please teach me. Lynne Rae Perkins No author does more in less spectacular fashion than Lynne Rae Perkins: The book gave me fresh eyes to view our world as an infinitude of tiny priceless moments that occur once and never again not in the exact same way: It put me in awe of life and Lynne Rae Perkins uses that style of language for all her novels if not always as effectively as in Criss Cross. As Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea opens the Treffrey family is leaving at dawn for their beach vacation: Alix her older sister Jools and their parents look forward to spending time at the ocean and they settle in contentedly for the long drive to their destination: Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea isn't a novel of action or big drama: Kerr whose young granddaughter visits often and

stays the night, Nessa and Alix become fast friends and have fun every day Nessa is there, There are no palm trees and the water isn't turquoise as Alix envisioned but Kerr's Kabana feels like home. A June bug landing on Alix's arm freaks her out at one point but Mrs. Kerr helps gently remove the insect which harmlessly flies away: The Treffreys have so much fun in the water their first full day that they drift with the current and temporarily get lost, Alix Jools and Nessa build an intricate sand castle but a couple of boys not looking where they're going damage part of the wall, The boys—James and Roby—are here on vacation with their families and met at the hotel and they occasionally join Alix Jools and Nessa in their fun at the beach, Alix and her father enjoy a long walk one day roughly ten miles up and down the shoreline: There's a lot to see and talk about at the ocean's edge, Alix and Jools join their parents in harvesting periwinkles on the beach but don't want to eat any when they're told what periwinkles are, Sea snails! Who wants to eat that? While there the girls run into Roby and his mother: Alix and Jools help look for sea glass and Alix decides to make a necklace for each of her new friends at the beach: The Treffreys take a day and ride bikes to PineyWild a wildlife preserve away from the ocean. At the raptor center a conservationist named Sara treats wounded birds of prey: Alix is thrilled when Sara swaddles an injured falcon in cloth and lets her hold it: The drive home isn't without drama but the vacation has treated all the Treffreys well, Getting back to normal life will be nice but Alix and Jools are already dreaming of next summer: Can real life be an adventure or are only vacations special like that? It seems to Alix that even her hometown of Shembleton could be filled with little excitements, Life is waiting wherever you are no exotic travel destination necessary. Lynne Rae Perkins has a gift for reminding us to enjoy life to the max, Lynne Rae Perkins Lynne Rae Perkins is the author of several novels including her most recent Newbery Award winning book *Criss Cross*: She enjoys working in her studio being with friends watching her kids grow and watching her husband Bill chase their dog around town.



Newbery Medalist Lynne Rae Perkins introduces two irresistible sisters—Alix and Jools—and takes readers on an unforgettable vacation to the beach: This joyful celebration of sisters family friendship and the ocean is illustrated in black-and-white throughout, The Wall Street Journal said “Ocean meets sky meets two young girls in Lynne Rae Perkins’s affectionate chapter book, Illustrations by the author add wit and tenderness to this sunny summer story. Alix and her older sister Jools have never been to the ocean, When their parents pack them up to spend a week by the shore Alix is nervous about leaving home—but excited too: At the beach the sisters make friends go exploring and have adventures big and small. Award-winning author Lynne Rae Perkins has beautifully crafted a genuine and engaging novel about sisters family and exploration. A great read-aloud as well as a good choice for newly independent readers, Booklist said “Ordinary pleasures in the hands of a writer so skilled are elevated, Read for Children's Books 'summer' theme month where I said: Well I really liked it. It even friendlier and gentler than a Ramona or Henry Huggins book: Some families are truly happy and I think it's grand that there's a book that shows us that. All that joy and optimism means there's not a lot to say about the story though. and learning more about your family yourself and your place in the world, Lynne Rae Perkins Confession after listening to 3/4 of the audio I bagged it: I felt like I was dealing with an overly 'cute' kid who new of its cuteness and was continually shouting Look what I can do look at me. Seriously though it is a charming story of a

family's weeklong stay at a beach house. It made me seriously nostalgic for those magical summer days when I was a kid and the summer stretched endlessly ahead with possibility and even the ordinary became extraordinary: Lynne Rae Perkins Wonderful! What delightful summer reading experience, Some families really are happy and harmonious (well for the most part) and it is nice to see one featured in a novel now and then: I felt like I was right there along on summer vacation with the family loved the writing style loved the characters: It was touching without being overly sentimental humorous and felt very real while also feeling like an escape. Younger sister Alix is sensitive and often needs reassurance. Lynne Rae Perkins Very cute and realistic. Light but not fluffy. The writing is thoughtful and pretty without preciousness. And I know they're fictional. This is not a complaint." As I said: more about me than the book. It's simply about a family finding enjoyment at the ocean. The Treffreys have arranged to board with Mrs. Her hobby is turning sea glass into jewelry. and Mrs. Treffrey go out to dinner. Their creative use of language is also similar. ." For fans of Kate DiCamillo and Rebecca Stead." Features black and white art throughout. Secret Sisters of the Salty SeaVery short illustrated. The 'voice' worked for me. The title doesn't particularly but it's catchy so ok. I loved that there was no drama. I recommend it and will consider more by the author. Lynne Rae Perkins This book made ME salty. salty that I don't have any upcoming beach trips. I loved it! Lynne Rae Perkins.