

Root Beer Candy and Other Miracles

About the book:

*It will come to pass
that a stranger from the sea
will change
everything.*

The locals in Felicity Bay shake their heads at the ice cream man's prophecy. "Crazy old Jasper," they say. But Bailey isn't so sure. She's found something special down at the beach: a driftwood mermaid, a gift washed up from a storm. Could she be the stranger from the sea who has come to change everything? Bailey hopes so. Because this summer, she sure could use a miracle.

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Juvenile Fiction Ages 8–12



Frequently asked questions:

Where did you get the idea for *Root Beer Candy and Other Miracles*? I was thinking a lot about “everyday miracles” — how the ordinary things of life are really quite extraordinary, and I was thinking of the wonderful times I had as a kid exploring Gabriola Island, BC. It all started tangling up in my head. When a driftwood mermaid showed up in my imagination, I knew a beach story was brewing!

Is *Felicity Bay* a real place? No, it's completely made up, but Arbutus Island was inspired by a real place — Gabriola Island.

Why is *Root Beer Candy and Other Miracles* written in verse? A couple things confirmed for me that Bailey's story would work best in verse—first and foremost, that's how I heard Bailey's voice! There were other reasons that emerged later: writing in verse freed me to use imagery and word choices to weave the setting all through the story and to use white space to encourage readers to think about the emotions and the “unanswered questions” in the story.

In the book, *Daniel has Cystic Fibrosis*. What is *Cystic Fibrosis*? CF is a genetic disease that mainly affects the lungs and digestive system. There is no cure yet. Daniel is fictional, but there are many real kids living with CF. You can find out more online at www.cysticfibrosis.ca.