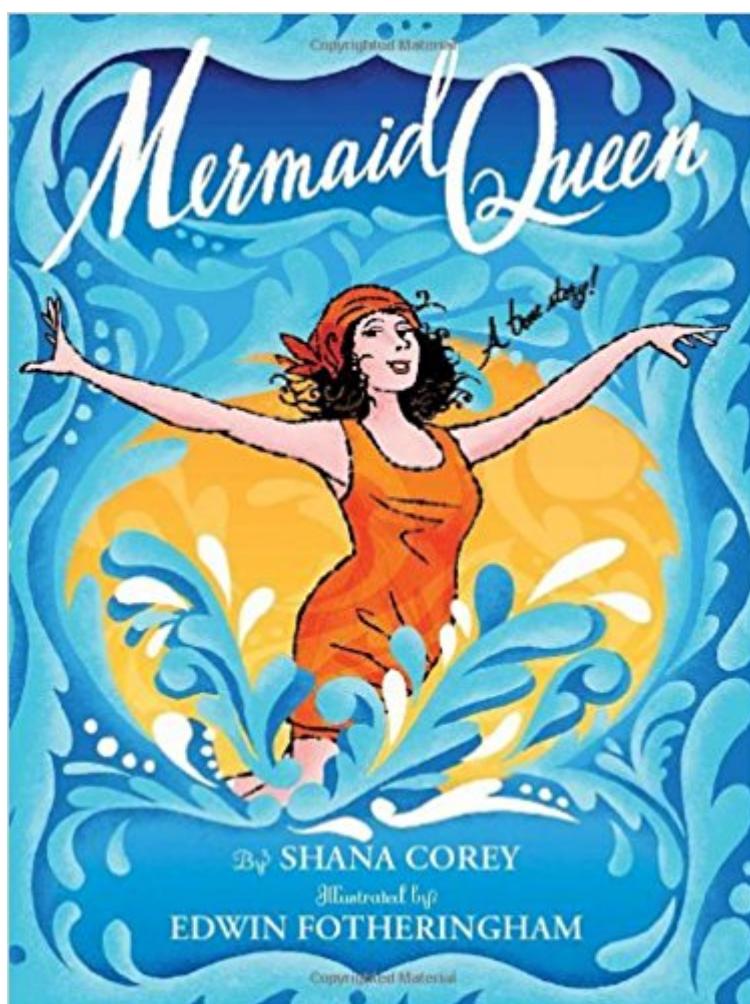


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# Mermaid Queen: The Spectacular True Story Of Annette Kellerman, Who Swam Her Way To Fame, Fortune & Swimsuit History!



## **Synopsis**

A fun, feel-good, "underdog" story about a little-known female athlete whose derring-do transformed girls' sports. Are you brave enough to make a wave? If you love sports and people who aren't afraid to swim against the tide, Annette Kellerman and her freestyle approach to life will make your heart swell. With strokes of genius, Shana Corey and Edwin Fotheringham pool their talents to create a winning portrait of a little-known athlete, performer, and fashion revolutionary who broke records (and rules!) and dazzled the world with her splashy pluck and courage.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD650L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8.8 x 12.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #596,360 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #143 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Water Sports #2834 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women #3391 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 2â "5â "Kellerman's name might not be familiar, but this rule-breaking, high-diving, early fashionista will inspire students. Her difficulties walking as a child, which are only hinted at in the book's illustrations, drove her father to try to strengthen her legs through swimming lessons. In the early 1900s, before women were allowed to compete in the Olympics, her hard-earned athleticism drew more criticism than compliments. Swimming? Unladylike! Record setting? For the boys! Eager to do something more artistic with her abilities, Annette invented water ballet, and her acrobatic feats drew crowds. Each event described is interesting, but what really shines is Kellerman's persistent refusal to rest on her laurels. After her attempt to be the first woman to swim the English

Channel, and performing for kings and queens, she went on to pioneer the modern woman's bathing suit, which led to her arrest in the U.S. Fotheringham's glorious artwork is filled with period details and dress, high-dives and stunts, and priceless expressions on the faces of amazed audiences. The extensive back matter details Kellerman's further accomplishments and includes citations. This well-written and brightly illustrated account is a perfect pearl.â "Sarah Provence, Churchill Road Elementary School, McLean, VA Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Shana Corey has the unique ability to make history accessible and fun, a talent that has been praised in all of her celebrated picture books, including MERMAID QUEEN, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham and YOU FORGOT YOUR SKIRT, AMELIA BLOOMER!, illustrated by Chesley McLaren, which was named a Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year and an Orbis Pictus Recommended Title. She lives in Brooklyn, New York. Edwin Fotheringham has illustrated several notable picture books, including Barbara Kerley's WHAT TO DO ABOUT ALICE?, a Sibert Honor Book and a Boston Globe/Horn Book Award Honor Book, and THE EXTRAORDINARY MARK TWAIN (ACCORDING TO SUSY), a New York Public Library Best Children's Book. Edwin lives in Seattle, Washington. You can visit him online at [www.edfotheringham.com](http://www.edfotheringham.com).

Both of my girls are avid swimmers and mermaid lovers and so I thought I'd give this book a try. I didn't give much thought to the reviews or the history of Annette Kellerman (which I didn't even know about)... after the first read, my 6 y-o asked if Annette was still living so she could write her a thank you note for helping women become athletes and for helping women be comfortable in the water. My 10 y-o asked to bring the book to a swim team sleep over so she could share it with her 4th, 5th and 6th grade peers. They were both totally blown away by the thought that once covering legs was mandatory and that Annette was arrested in Boston. I appreciate the discussions this book has brought up in my family including geography, history, familial support, what it is like to have true endurance and passion and, most importantly, how following your dreams can be incredibly difficult but nothing should get in the way even if there are impossible hurdles to jump. I plan to give this book as future gifts and feel it is appropriate for ages 3 to pre-teen. We have only owned the book a short time and we have read it over and over and I have overheard both of my kids talking about Annette. This book has made a positive impression on both of them. I highly recommend this book!

This is a fantastic book about a young woman who overcame a disability and "made waves" in her

time and place. This book was a gift from a friend to my daughters, and we have since read it hundreds of times. The pictures are wonderful, vivid pictures that tell the story as much as the well written text. I purchased this book here as a gift for a friend. I hope that it is re-printed again soon. If not, it's still totally worth your while to find a used copy.

The title Mermaid Queen is certainly appealing to any little girl, no?! My daughter sat for the book at age 3 and 2 years later it's still a reread for us - with vivid bright pictures - entertaining fonts. A storyline of a girl told she won't make it in a man's world and with a disability who triumphs internationally in her field - making "waves" among society and leaving her mark on the world. It is a fun and fast read of a historical time and lady.

My third grader chose Annette Kellerman for an assignment, so we had gathered quite a bit of info on her. This book does a nice job of summarizing facts in a way interesting to a 9 year old girl. I did want to provide some background about the Victorian Era and women's role then in order for the child to fully grasp what Annette accomplished.

Annette Kellerman was the star of the first movie shown at the local "opera house" in my home town in 1914. That was the reason for the purchase.

I bought this for my avid swimmer girl, thinking she would love to know the story of this woman. It is a short, but well done book.

This is a good biography book for 3rd and 4th grade students. They always like true stories that are easy to read and follow along.

Picture book biographies can be so interesting. As an adult I have enjoyed learning about many interesting and often times fairly obscure historical figures. I think this story is good for highlighting one woman's perseverance in sticking to her dreams. Although I am not sure I would consider pushing the limits of the day on what was considered good taste in bathing suits as important as the fact that Annette Kellerman showed the world that women could be athletes too, much like Edith Houghton did for baseball. The illustrations are my favorite part of this book. I love the various renderings of water and waves created by Fotheringham. Water is so central to the story that it would have been easy for the illustrations to become boring or repetitive. Instead, Fotheringham

uses bright, vibrant, dramatic colors and depicts water and movement in the background of every page even ones in which water is not central to the picture. Brilliant! He ties the whole book together so beautifully! His art makes this book not only visually appealing but memorable as well!

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