

ON MIDNIGHT BEACH

Is told from two different people's perspective: Gus and Emer. They live in Carrig cove and Ross which are both on opposite sides of the bay. Emer, along with three other people, finds a dolphin along the coast of their area and they name the dolphin Rinn. The four form a tight bond, particularly Emer and Dog, after going to see Rinn at night. Word soon gets out that there is a dolphin at Carrig cove and Rinn becomes somewhat of an attraction, detracting attention from Ross. Gus, who lives in the rival area, was originally from Carrig and has several old friends there. When the Ross inhabitants try to lure Rinn over to their side of the bay, Gus helps his friends from Carrig and the way they get Rinn back from them is unusual, making it unpredictable and enjoyable to read. I find the rivalry between the two areas interesting and the fact that is told from the perspective of the people living in both areas helps you understand why and how each side did what they did. Mei

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Emer is 17 years old, she has to do a lot of work in her father's grocery store in the summer of 1976 when a dolphin Rinn finds his way to the bay. At the beginning only her and three other teenagers from the community interact with the dolphin. They meet on the beach at night and swim with the dolphin. The four develop a strong friendship and the dolphin is a huge attraction in Carrig cove with all the villagers. Gus's family left Carrig Cove and moved to Ross a couple of years before, but he never really found his way in Ross and when one of the most popular girls in the village shows him attention he doesn't realise the reason behind until it's too late. Emer connects with Dog Cullen, a local young man with a reputation for being a bit wild and this starts a long chain of events that will change their lives. The dolphin becomes a source of great pride for the town. However, it also creates conflict with the neighbours who are jealous of the interest this appearance has brought to the people of Carrig Cove. The book takes us through the events that happened in 1976 summer in both towns, what impact it had on the villagers' lives and how things were never the same after. The book is very well written and kept me interested to the very end. I found the ending a little abrupt but enjoyed reading it. Ed

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I really enjoyed the book. It was very rounded; there were sad moments and happy moments. At the start of the book, it wasn't very interesting, but as I read more and more, I found it very interesting. My favourite character was Dog Cullen. He is very courageous and strong. However, his ending was quite sad. I am hoping to see a second book come out. Daniel

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I really enjoyed this book, it had me wanting to keep turning the pages. It contains lots of drama, especially between Carrig Cove and Ross, but also between the characters. The events are all very engaging, with my personal favourite being the stealing of Rinn from Ross but the rest are still a very good read. My favourite character was probably Dog, he never was scared and wanted what was best for his friends and Carrig Cove. The end, despite sad, was thrilling as the two villages fought it out. Overall, this has been my favourite book read in a long time and I look forward to seeing what other books the Carnegie awards have to offer. Joe

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I liked this book quite a lot. I really liked how it was from two perspectives – Gus and Emer's, because they were from rival towns, so you could really feel what it was like being on both sides. I also liked the tension between the Carrig cove and Ross kids and especially the fights. The fact that this book was in first person makes it even better, as you just feel like you are taking part in the events of the book. The start of the book was very good, because it set the scene very nicely and you knew what was going on. The middle was also good, as it introduced the Ross kids, and you could really see the rivalry. The ending was good as well, but a bit fast. The fights were good and descriptive but all of a sudden two people died and so did Rinn! It was a very good twist, and I didn't expect it at all. The end was quite sad with the funerals. Overall, I really liked this book and would recommend it to people aged 12+. 7/10 in my opinion. Adit

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I truly enjoyed this book from start to finish; the story telling is amazing and I love how there are 2 people telling the story from different angles. The book starts when a dolphin takes up residence in Carrig Cove. Emer and her friend, Fee, have an instant connection with it. Then Dog Cullen and his friend, Kit, turn up, and the four friends begin to sneak out at midnight to go down to the beach, daring each other to swim close to the creature. But the fame and fortune the dolphin brings to their village builds tension amongst their neighbors across the bay. The neighboring town tries to steal the dolphin from Carrig Cove, but fails miserably. The anger boils over between the 2 towns leading to a big fight which ends up with 2 people dead. As the fight progresses the dolphin gets attacked by another of its kind and eventually dies. James

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This book was gripping and was really connective. I could really see inside the minds of the characters, which is a really important quality in books. For instance I could really feel Emer's emotions running through the book. It was the kind of book that you would reluctantly put down. It also shows some big issues such as gang mentality which I can see clearly through the whole book. I think the plot twist at the end of the book really added meaning to the book. One of the very few criticisms I have, is that, for one book (not a series) it needed a bit more of a finished ending. The other one is that it portrays all of the people from Ross (except possibly Gus) as atrocious and despicable. Tommy

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This book is amazing! The story line is wonderful and the detail is incredible. I was drawn to this book immediately and was until the very end. When reading, I felt a connection to the characters and found myself gasping at some parts. The book brings the story into real life. I like how you got to understand the story from 2 different perspectives, Gus and Emer. It worked well and it was interesting and fun to know what the characters were thinking and going through. The storyline put me through a race of anticipation, I always wanted to know what would happen next and was desperate to turn the page. Moving aside from the contents, I love the front cover and the blurb immediately gave me an urge to read. However, I think the age rating should be slightly higher due to some romantic content. I myself am 13 and this book was too much for me at times but all in all it was ok. In conclusion, I think this book is an exciting read with puts the reader through various emotions and feelings. The author handled the writing very well and I would I to a friend. However, I would perhaps give it an age rating of 14-15 plus. An excellent read, a solid 8/10 in my opinion. Rose

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I really enjoyed this book mainly because of the Irish legend it was based on. It had a unique and different plot and some of the characters were very relatable. The ending really shocked me but it was a good ending. But despite that, the story itself flows well, especially through the perspectives of Gus and Emer which I thought was interesting as it showed both of their views during the book. Overall the book really surprised me in a positive way. William

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This thrilling book is set in the scorching summer of 1976 when a dolphin turns up on the Irish beach of Corrig Cove. Emer and her best friend, Fee with Kit and Dog Cullen sneak down to the beach at midnight to swim with Rinn, but Word gets out that there is a dolphin at Corrig Cove and their rivals, from Ross Bay, get jealous and they try and steal Rinn- the dolphin, but Emer and her friends from Corrig set out to get Rinn back. One morning, the citizens of Corrig Cove, wake up to find flowerpots smashed and chucked everywhere. War breaks out and the damage is getting more and more serious. Will Emer and her friends be able to stop Connor McNessa and the gang from Ross Bay before it's too late? This book is a great read. I found it impossible to put down. It tells the tale of Gus, from Corrig Cove who was forced to move from Corrig to Ross Bay, and Emer a through and through Corrig Cove girl, who works in her fathers shop. Two stories simultaneously entwined. All about town pride and love in secret. I highly recommend this book. Quite mature. Probably for 12+. Lizzie