

★ **Madame Badobedah****Sophie Dahl****Lauren O'Hara, Illustrator**

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There are many guests that come and go at the Mermaid Hotel, but according to young Mabel, none are as mysterious or noteworthy as Madame Badobedah (her name rhymes with *ooh la la*). Equal parts curious and suspicious, Mabel determines to unlock what are sure to be her sordid secrets; in the process, the two become fast friends. This is a feel-good, cross-generational tale full of history, humor, and heart, accompanied by whimsical seaside artwork.

PALLAS GATES MCCORQUODALE (March / April 2020)

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