

Turtle Songs: A Tale for Mothers and Daughters

Margaret Olivia Wolfson

Karla Sachi, Illustrator

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Wolfson and Sachi lead the journey into a dreamlike world of beautiful waters and vivid, tropical surroundings. It is a retelling of an ancient mother and daughter myth where a daily fishing excursion into the neighboring blue waters becomes a life threatening experience. The singing of this bonded twosome, however, encourages a mysterious storm that eventually hurls them to a new-found life of sea safety. A life that brings protection and hope to the people of their island.

An award-winning, dramatic storyteller of many books, Wolfson's creative account of life on the small island of Kadavu brings an unfamiliar story to light. The character of Sachi greatly enhances and transforms this dreamlike and mystical tale which the full page illustrations entice the audience, no matter what age.

The author's detailed language style flows through the pages with great anticipation, yet depicts a sense of foreboding. With this type of mood, a focused reader would anxiously await for the story to unfold. One might, however, need to read the book more than once to truly understand and appreciate its meaning.

This tropical myth is geared toward the confident, elementary age reader, but can also be a good option for adults to read to younger children.

JULIE SANTILLI (May / June 1999)

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