

Mermaids

MAIDENS OF THE SEA

Cultures all over the world have legends of half-human, half-fish creatures that live in the seas. Although they all have different names, they represent each culture's unique idea of merfolk.

Mermaids (sometimes called sirens) and mermen were natural beings who, like fairies, had magical and prophetic powers. They loved music and often sang. Though very long-lived, they were mortals and had no souls.

Though sometimes kindly, mermaids and mermen were usually dangerous to men. Their gifts brought misfortune, and, if offended the beings caused floods and other disasters. To see one on a voyage was an omen of shipwreck. They sometimes lure mortals to death by drowning or enticed young people to live with them underwater.

