

April 25 2012

Monette, Sarah. Somewhere Beneath Those Waves

Monette's second short story collection (after *The Bone Key*, 2007) is lyrical and evocative. Where the earlier collection was tightly focused around the experiences of one character (Kyle Murchison Booth, who also makes an appearance in one story here), *Somewhere Beneath Those Waves* is far-reaching and diverse. Monette's protagonists face magic and despair, hope and everyday life with equally compelling results. Stand-outs in the collection include the title story, in which a selkie and a human woman both find themselves trapped on land; *Katabasis: Seraphic Trains*, in which a naïve young woman uses a magical gift to save a man who does not deserve her love; and *Three Letters from the Queen of Elfland*, about the perils of loving the fairy queen. Highly recommended.

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