



Artemis Sparke and the Sound Seekers Brigade by Kimberly Behre Kenna

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A feisty twelve-year-old enlists the help of deceased ecologists to save a Long Island Sound salt marsh from certain death, but chaos ensues in her tourist town when she discovers that her mother's boyfriend's hotel is part of the problem

When Artemis Sparke has had it with humans, she heads to the nearby salt marsh to hang out with the birds, plants and mollusks who don't make a big deal of her stutter. The shoreline sanctuary is predictable, unlike her family and friends, and the data in her science journal proves it. But one day that data goes haywire, and her bird friend RT confirms it: the salt marsh is dying. Artemis discovers that the historic hotel where she lives with her mom may be part of the problem, but speaking up would mean confronting the cranky hotel owner who happens to be her mom's boyfriend and boss. Artemis conjures up help from deceased ecologists, and as she works to untangle their clues, she finds family secrets that could be the key to saving the salt marsh but also may destroy her life as she knows it.



“Warning: Artemis Sparke is pure energy! Equal parts ecologist, artist, scientist and historian, Art had me riding her tailwind on her mission to protect the delicate salt marsh of Long Island Sound. And, oh my, the stakes are high - environmentally and personally! Kenna's well-crafted debut is a timely gift.”

~Leslie Connor, National Book Award finalist and author of *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle* and *Anybody Here Seen Frenchie?*

“Featuring a strong and compassionate character, *Artemis Sparke and the Sound Seekers Brigade* is an engaging story about friendship, protecting nature, and speaking up for what's right even when it feels like no one will listen. Some helpful ghosts add layers of humor and mystery to this heartfelt novel.”

~Lynne Kelly, author of *Song for a Whale*

“Kimberly Behre Kenna has written a terrific middle-grade novel that will inspire readers of all ages. Artemis Sparke is a strong, passionate, courageous protagonist who speaks her truth even when her stutter challenges her communication. She won't allow anyone to invalidate her deep connection to nature or impede her ambitious plan to save a salt marsh from destruction. This entertaining page-turner has unforgettable characters, family drama, ghosts and secrets, surprises and suspense, and, without being pedantic, illuminates the urgency of battling climate change. The world needs more role models like Artemis Sparke.”

~Pamela Gray, screenwriter, *Conviction, Music of the Heart, A Walk on the Moon*

“A timely theme, nuanced characters, a story brushed with a touch of magic. Kids will love following the lead of environmentalist, Artemis, as this book is rich with opportunities for science investigations and experiments.”

~Carol Wallach, CT recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

About the Author:



Kimberly Behre Kenna grew up on the Connecticut shoreline where she spent much of her childhood outdoors exploring the waters and beaches of Long Island Sound. As a former teacher, she enjoyed writing plays with her students about historic ecologists and then resurrecting them on stage to solve present-day problems. Now, as a writer, she gets to daydream daily about stories that celebrate brave kids finding voice in nature. Visit her at kimberlybehrekenna.com

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