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**THE BOY WHO BELONGED TO THE SEA**

DENIS THÉRIAULT, TRANSLATED BY  
LIEDEWY HAWKE  
Oneworld, £8.99

A dreamy, underwater experience, this brief novel is a hallucinogenic dive into another realm. Set on the Gulf of St Lawrence in Canada, the sea swells as menace and magic, treachery and refuge in a story as much about the miracle of friendship as it is about the devastation of grief. It tells of two boys, one who has lost his father and whose mother is in a deep coma, and one whose mother is dead – but who fantasises about her continued existence in the same way as he has prophetic dreams about a world under the sea. The two boys bond, united by loneliness and longing – but there is an ineluctable current of tragedy. Here is fragile poetry, charming and childlike in its simplicity, yet profound on the unfathomable depths of loss, of love. **RUTH McKEE**

