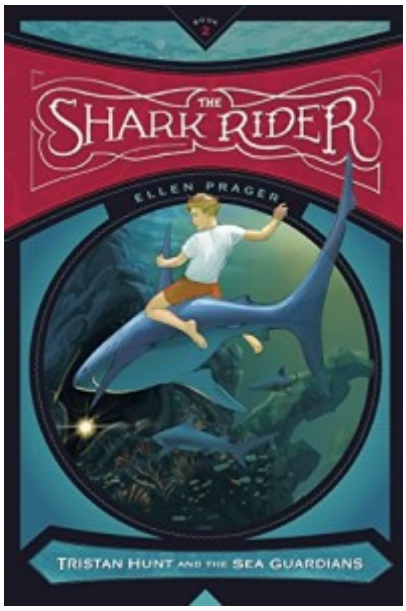
The Shark Rider



by

Dr. Ellen Prager

Reviewed by Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopes, publisher of Time with Tannia (timewithtannia.tripod.com)

The Shark Rider is the second book in the *Tristan Hunt and the Sea Guardians* series, by marine scientist and author Dr. Ellen Prager.

In the first book, *The Shark Whisperer,* the author introduces the main characters and sets the stage for this adventurous and educational series for young adults. The story begins with Tristan Hunt and other gifted teens attending a summer camp where they learn about sea life and sharpen their newly discovered aquatic skills of camouflage, underwater night vision, ability to swim in tight spaces, echolocation, and communication with sharks, dolphins, birds, and other sea creatures. As the story unfolds, the campers use their expertise to successfully accomplish their first rescue mission, thwarting the plans of Mr. Rickerton, a ruthless and ambitious millionaire known for his reckless business practices.

The Shark Rider begins with Tristan attending a school field trip to learn how to prevent trash from polluting the beach. During that expedition, he saves a shark on distress.

Forgetting about the secrecy of his skills, he proceeded to showoff; unbeknownst to him, someone takes a picture, loads it online, and it goes viral.

When the school term is over and the campers arrive for this year's summer sea camp at the Florida Keys Sea Park, their first priority is to be on the lookout for suspicious visitors. In light of Tristan's careless acts during the school year, the camp staff suspects that Mr. Rickerton or perhaps the government has undercover agents trying to infiltrate the camp to gather valuable confidential information. They decide to keep all training sessions for the afternoon, when the park is closed.

For one of those training exercises, Coach Fred, the camp director, organized a competition to teach the campers how their unique abilities make them stronger and better prepared for future rescue missions. All the campers would have to work as a team and use their skills to complete the challenge.

One afternoon, after training, Tristan and his friends went swimming and heard numerous complaints from sea creatures about abnormalities and mysterious deaths near Virgin Gorda Island in the Caribbean. They reported the news to Coach Fred, who organized an excursion to help him decide how to proceed; the plan was to gather information without risking the safety of the campers.

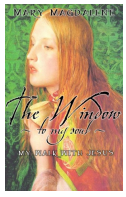
However, despite the team being on the lookout for suspicious activity, it is betrayed during its mission. Some of the campers are captured while one of them joins the unlawful group.

What is the cause of the mysterious death? Why were the teens captured? Is someone interested on their unique skills or is it all just part of a bigger plan yet to be discovered? Will Coach Fred and the rest of the team be able to rescue their friends before it is too late? Join Tristan Hunt and the Sea Guardians in another exciting adventure!

Once again the author will take Tristan, his friends, and the reader on a fascinating and vivid maritime journey. Keeping with the concept of *The Shark Whisperer,* Dr. Prager continues to travel with her readers to amazing above and underwater places while describing their unique flora and fauna. She also educates about the importance of respecting sea life and their habitats and creates awareness of the impact our actions have on the environment.

I highly recommend this book to teens, young adults, families, and youth educators.

Note to fans: At the end of the book, the author includes a sneak preview of the next book, *Stingray City*, scheduled for released May, 2016. Another must read!



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