

Hit mermaid horror *Siren* now streaming first on Showmax

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- "On [Siren](#), *The Little Mermaid* grows up and fights back." Refinery29
- The number one new cable drama for young adults in the USA
- 94% critics rating, Rotten Tomatoes
- "*The Vampire Diaries* for mermaids" Forbes
- Zimbabwean-South African actress Sibongile Mlambo (*Teen Wolf*, *Lost in Space*) stars as a mermaid
- Now first and only on Showmax



Forget everything you learned in *The Little Mermaid*: the happy ending the mermaids in [Siren](#) are looking for has nothing to do with marrying a prince and becoming human.

Instead Eric Wald, who created [Siren](#) with Dean White (*The 100*, *The Shield*), cites *Jaws* and *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* as inspirations for the hit series, which reinstates mermaids as the kind of predators who were once famous for luring sailors to their death with their siren songs.



Eline Powell as Ryn. Image: Freeform

[Siren](#) follows Ryn (*Game of Thrones*' Eline Powell), a mermaid who arrives in the seaside town of Bristol Cove looking for her sister but who is soon wreaking havoc and making friends. As *The New York Times* wrote, "She's nothing like Ariel." Or as Refinery 29 put it, "On [Siren](#), *The Little Mermaid* grows up and fights back."



Marine biologists Ben (Alex Roe) and Maddie (Fola Evans-Akingbola). Image: Freeform

Marine biologists Ben (Alex Roe) and Maddie (Fola Evans-Akingbola) must work together to find out who and what drove this primal hunter of the deep sea to land – and if there are more like her.

[Siren](#) has a 94% critics rating and an 84% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes, where the critics' consensus is that, "[Siren](#) turns traditional lore on its tail with a unique, well-paced show that presents dangerous, violent mythical creatures in a surprisingly empathetic and exciting light."

Freeform has already ordered a second season of this fish-out-of-water story, which Paste described as "gruesome and great"; TV Guide called "one of the more surprisingly fun shows of the season, with the potential to be great"; and Forbes labelled "*The Vampire Diaries* for mermaids".



Sibongile Mlambo plays Donna. Image: Freeform

Zimbabwean-South African actress Sibongile Mlambo plays Donna, one of the mermaids, and was singled out as a "scene-stealer" by Shadow & Act. Based in LA since 2015, the *Black Sails* and *Teen Wolf* star is having a great year, with roles in the Netflix series, *Lost in Space*, and the Palme d'Or-nominated indie thriller, *Under The Silver Lake*.

Freeform (formerly ABC Family) is also on a roll at the moment. In addition to [Siren](#)'s success as the [number one new drama with young adults in the States](#), another first on Showmax, *Cloak & Dagger*, had the best-ever digital debut of any project in Freeform history, *Grown-ish* ranked as a the number one cable comedy with young adults in the States, and Freeform placed first in digital viewing and as the most social cable network.

This success has been driven not just by the way the network has embraced strong, complex women on-screen, from Ryn in [Siren](#) to Tandy in *Cloak & Dagger*, but also by the diversity behind the scenes: half of Freeform's episodic directors are female, diverse, or LGBTQ; 60% of series writers are female or diverse; and every original series on the network has a female producer.

All 10 episodes of [Siren](#)'s first season are now available to binge, first and only on [Showmax](#) in Africa.

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