



## Call of the Sea

*Rebecca Hart*

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Elysandra Winters has always yearned for a life of adventure on the rolling seas and is willing to do whatever it takes to fulfill her dream. When her Privateer father continually refuses to allow his only daughter to sail, Ellie defies him, disguises herself as a boy, and goes in search of a captain who will give her a chance to prove her worth.

Thanks to the cursed selkie blood coursing through his veins, Daniel O'Rourke needs the sea to survive. After giving up on his humanity and spending three years in seal form, he decides to give his human side another chance. Daniel goes in search of a job and a sense of normalcy, earning himself a position aboard Captain Winter's ship, The Siren's Call. However, his new captain's first assignment has nothing at all to do with sailing, and everything to do with his headstrong young daughter.

Years later, when the leader of a band of bloodthirsty pirates murders Captain Winters, Daniel and Elysandra's lives come crashing back together with the force of a hurricane. Both experts in deception, they must find a way to trust each other if they are to have any hope of hunting down the captain's killer.

## Call of the Sea Details

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## From Reader Review Call of the Sea for online ebook

### Lisa says

Let me start by saying I love selkies, and pirates are pretty awesome too. So, when I had the opportunity to read a romance between a girl pirate and a male selkie, I could hardly wait. Call of the Sea, by Rebecca Hart, was the romantic adventure I hoped it to be.

Right from the start, the main character, Ellie, got my attention with her headstrong impulsiveness. In a time where women were raised to be chattel, she longed for her independence, and, most of all, to explore the open sea.

But it was Daniel who really won me over. His connection to Ellie began in childhood when he befriended her in his seal form. (I always wanted a pet seal!) Daniel is a good romantic lead. Just as headstrong as Ellie, his inner warmth and goodness makes him very lovable. You can't help but fall for his beauty and sincerity. While he's masculine and strong, there's a powerful yin of gentleness and integrity inside him that balances out Ellie's tomboyish yang. I rooted for him through the entire novel. The love story between him and Ellie is a very believable battle of wills, that makes for great chemistry.

I don't like spoilers in reviews, so I'm not going to give away the plot. You can read more about Call of the Sea here. In my opinion, it's a vividly-written, lovely romance and an action-packed adventure that I didn't want to end.

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### Megan says

CALL OF THE SEA came recommended by an email I received from the book's publicist. I had not heard of this book before she reached out and let me know about it, and now I just have to send a big thanks to Kelly for telling me about this. CALL OF THE SEA is one of those low key books that rises up and becomes something more, something almost spectacular, but something about it just fell a little short to me. Nevertheless, I loved this story and can't wait to read more by Rebecca Hart. I finished it in about 90 minutes and came away with such a bright smile on my face, but let me just say that I wanted to know more! MORE MORE MORE!

Following young Ellie, the daughter of a captain who wants nothing more than to be a captain, and the cursed selkie Daniel, CALL OF THE SEA takes place in the time of pirates and privateers, wars between the Dutch and English, evil masterminds in Gibraltar and selkies. SELKIES. Side note, my ancestor was captured by the Dutch in this war. Last British admiral ever captured by the enemy. He wasn't very good at his job.

The back stories for Daniel and Ellie were probably my favorite part, especially since it is intricately woven into the story – mostly because it was part of the story itself. We start off with their childhoods – Ellie at age 10, saved from drowning by a seal who becomes her friend, never knowing that this seal is actually a boy whom she loathes for taking her place in her father's crew. And Ellie was a girl after my own heart. I felt for her and her troubles – her desperation to succeed, her adoration for her father, her anger at Daniel betraying her.

But this isn't just a story about a 10 year old girl and her seal friend. The story evolves and we go through

several periods in Ellie's life – her parents sending her to finishing school to keep her safe, her decision to sneak away and become a cabin boy, her realization that her father still loves her. And Daniel! Can you say swoon? I loved Daniel. He was multilayered and complex, complete with his own problems and desires, his caring of Ellie and his desire to protect her family and the man who took him under his wing.

And there is fighting! Canons, swords, guns, bickering!

This is a story with emotion AND action. What more can a girl ask for? In this story that blends genres and age categories, from middle grade to new adult, there were a few LITTLE nitpicks I had. Like the romance...

Yes, I loved Daniel, and yes, I loved Ellie, but together? Maybe it just felt rushed to me, like they just suddenly decided they had to be together and VOILA! They were together and happy. And like the romance, at 278 pages this one feels a bit short and rushed. Maybe there could have been a bit more description – the story focused on the characters more than the setting, even if the setting was well done. I just wanted to know more about this world and curses! Just a little more fleshing out would have done the story wonders.

VERDICT: If you are looking for a quick, delightful summer read with action, romance, and a setting to die for, I think you will have a lot to love about CALL OF THE SEA. Give this one a shot. You might be surprised.

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### **Vanessa says**

One word for this book; WOW!

This was so amazing. It was a very different paranormal romance from all the trends I have been reading. This book gave me some peace and comfort during a dark time during the week. It was truly a remarkable book, I'm glad this book is being published it's a wonderful romance story. The main characters Ellie and Daniel reminded me of Elizabeth Swan and Will Turner of Pirates of the Caribbean.

This book is an absolute must read if you are interested in something different from the mermaid trend rising or from other paranormal romances taking up space in the bookshelves. This is something every teenage girl or boy should read, it is truly remarkable and has it all; romance, action and adventure and best of all a happy ending. Well done Rebecca Hart

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### **Julie Reece says**

So what did I think? Awesome. This book made me smile. Ms. Hart expertly combines all the best ingredients for an engaging story with a satisfying end, (though I wanted more). First, the headstrong, independent heroine, Ellie, who knows who she is, wants what she wants and doesn't mince words about it. Next is Daniel, our hero. He's handsome, intelligent and tough, but with a good dose of integrity and a hint of vulnerability to round him out perfectly.

The pair starts out as childhood friends, and we get the privilege of watching them grow up. All her life, Ellie has longed for a life at sea, and as she grows older, she's willing to take matters into her own hands when she's denied the opportunity to sail by her parents. As a selkie, Daniel is tied to the ocean, and to Ellie, by a

promise he made to her father long ago. I hate spoilers, so I'll just say what follows is danger, adventure and romance delivered in a truly elegant package. The pace draws you along effortlessly, and Hart's unique voice and writing style keeps you turning pages to see what will happen next. Her descriptions are Kodak quality, I felt my toes digging into the sand right along with Ellie.

I highly recommend this book to any and all lovers of paranormal romance. I'm secretly hoping for a sequel! The writing is beautiful and the characters sigh worthy. There is a sex scene included in the story, so I will suggest the book for mature teens and adults only. Call of the Sea is a must read!

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### **Literary Chanteuse says**

What a treasure to be found in this book with pirates, a selkie, adventure and a love story. I could feel the wind on my face and smell the salty sea right from the first page. Elysandra is a strong heroine that keeps you engaged and in anticipation of what she will do next. I really enjoyed this book and could not put it down.

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### **Jane says**

This not my usual type but that cover is gorgeous and I just HAD to read it. When there was a posting for ARC reviews I jumped at the chance and was lucky enough that Rebecca sent me a copy.

This book was everything I don't usually like, it was written in third person and it was set back in the 1600's. However I LOVED IT!! I fell in love with Elysandra, I can't imagine what it would be like to be a young woman who wanted to follow her dreams only to have your sex dictate what you can do. She was determined, strong willed and brave. I would like to think if I was in those situations I would be half as brave as she was to follow her heart & dreams.

Daniel was a true hero. He grew up fast after his mother passed and his father kicked him out of their house. He had no family and was lonely. Luck would have it he would have a chance encounter that would change his life forever and Elysandra's.

The story spans 10 years and it moves fluidly. There isn't a dull moment and the supporting characters are well crafted. Even if you feel like this isn't your cup of tea, I say give it a try, you will probably love it just like me.

I can not thank Rebecca enough for putting up with my emails and being so kind in return. She is a wonderful lady and I wish all the success in the world.

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### **Pamela says**

Rating 4.5

At the age of ten, Daniel's father kicks him out after the death of his mother. After three years on his own, he spies Captain Winters' returning home from a stint at sea to celebrate his daughter Ellie's tenth birthday. That

only saddens Daniel, wishing that he's had a loving father like Ellie's. So Daniel decides to shed his sealskin and ask Captain Winters for a job on his ship.

Ellie has always wanted to be a privateer like her father. And although Michael Winters knows how his daughter yearns to be at sea, she is just too young. When Daniel saves Ellie, Michael realizes that he's a selkie, and instead of taking him with him on his next trip, he gives Daniel the tasks of looking out for Ellie while he's gone. But after five years, Ellie's had enough and takes matters into her own hands.

This book has some awesome characters in it. I loved the interaction between Ellie and Daniel, Daniel and Captain Winters, Ellie and her mother Amelia, and Ellie and Nelson, a sailor on Captain Harris' ship whom she meets when she runs away. Nelson realizes that Ellie (going by the name of Ellis) is not a boy like she pretends to be, and he befriends her, keeps her secret, and protects her.

From the moment that Daniel saw Ellie that first day, he loved her, but he never told her. Not until ten years later after Captain Winters is killed. But he's afraid of telling Ellie his secret for fear she won't accept him if she knew. Not only is Daniel hiding things from Ellie, so was her father. And Daniel doesn't want to taint Ellie's memory of her father by having her find out.

One thing that I really would have liked to read more about was Daniel's selkie side, and there were a few errors, but nothing that was too distracting. Plus, I really, really would have liked to read more about Daniel and Ellie, so I'm hoping that there is a sequel in the works.

Call of the Sea is swashbuckling adventure on the high seas. There is action, mystery, betrayal, adventure and romance. Once I started reading, I didn't want to put it down. There were nail biting moments, funny moments, and sad moments that had me in tears. I definitely recommend it!

\*\* I received an eARC copy of the book from InkSpell Publishing for review.\*\*

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## **Sandra "J sanz" says**

BLURB from Goodreads

Elysandra Winters has always yearned for a life of adventure on the rolling seas and is willing to do whatever it takes to fulfill her dream. When her Privateer father continually refuses to allow his only daughter to sail, Ellie defies him, disguises herself as a boy, and goes in search of a captain who will give her a chance to prove her worth.

Thanks to the cursed selkie blood coursing through his veins, Daniel O'Rourke needs the sea to survive. After giving up on his humanity and spending three years in seal form, he decides to give his human side another chance. Daniel goes in search of a job and a sense of normalcy, earning himself a position aboard Captain Winter's ship, The Siren's Call. However, his new captain's first assignment has nothing at all to do with sailing, and everything to do with his headstrong young daughter.

Years later, when the leader of a band of bloodthirsty pirates murders Captain Winters, Daniel and Elysandra's lives come crashing back together with the force of a hurricane. Both experts in deception, they must find a way to trust each other if they are to have any hope of hunting down the captain's killer.

## **MY REVIEW**

Firstly I have to say I like the cover it really does fit the book. The female on the front cover is Elysandra

dressed in her "going to sea" gear. There's a ship in the background that could be either *The Sirens Call* or *The Surf Runner*.

Now the book....I loved it. To be totally honest I was unsure if I would really like it as it features pirates, but I loved it. The main character is Elysandra, a strong female lead character who takes no hassle from anyone including pirates! I thought the "love" plot was nicely done and not rushed, you felt the build up to relationship. I don't know how to explain it, other than to say you feel very included in this book as if you are there watching the story unfold before your own eyes. You feel Elysandra's desperation to go to sea, but you also feel her parents' worry! Elysandra is probably what some would call a tomboy, I prefer to say a woman with a mind of her own. When her father is killed Elysandra is determined to have her revenge with or without help from anyone else.

I also enjoyed the selkie part of the tale especially nearer the end when Daniel is in his "seal form" trying to rescue Elysandra. I won't say anymore you will know what I mean when you read the book.

**\*\*WARNING\*** The book does have a sexual scene within it so is not suitable for younger readers **\*\***

Having said the above warning don't let those of you old enough from reading this book as the scene is within the context of the plot and not overly erotic (I don't read erotica!)

The book kind of deals with the idea of prejudice, as in what people think about Selkies. Nelson and Captain Winters and his wife know they exist and can interact with them, but Daniel's own father called him an abomination and threw him out of his home at the first opportunity after his mother died.

Will there be more books in this series? Well the loose ends are sort of tied up in a way it could be left, however I am sure Daniel and Elysandra could have lots more adventures at sea and on land.

So did I enjoy the book? Loved it. Would I read more by Rebecca Hart/ in a *Call Of The Sea* series? Yes & Yes! Do I recommend this book? Yes but due to sexual content to older teens and adults only.

Expected Publication 21st of June 2012, so put it on your to-buy lists now!

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## **Terri Rochenski says**

What a pleasure to read this without a week or so between chapters! Yes, I was blessed to be an early beta reader. I saw *CotS* in the rough. Not that it was really rough to begin with - unpolished if you will. ;)

Yummies: I thought I was caught up in the story before! The simplicity of Ms. Hart's writing makes for a super rich but easy read. No paragraph upon paragraph of exposition. Pure writing at its best - character, tension, & action. So, so good.

And what characters they are! Ellie is a short-tempered, stubborn young woman intent upon sailing the ocean.

Daniel (my Danny Boy) is a selkie and has loved Ellie since first seeing her as a young girl.

Both are so real - so flawed - so human-like that I felt their emotions, highs & lows.

This debut novel is one of those that you dread noticing the remaining pages ebb away. You CAN NOT put it down, yet the desire to do so and make it last longer is almost too much to bear.

Yuckies: There aren't any. Period.

Recommend: Abso-freakin'-lutely. Even if pirates, intrigue, and the high seas aren't your thing, you'll fall in love with this story - its characters kick @\$\$.

Check out my review on my blog which includes a character interview w/ the HOT Daniel O'Rourke!

<http://terrirochenski.blogspot.com/20...>

## Christine Garrity says

While I am still in the process of reading the final version (my sister happens to be the author - so I may be a little bias) - she had me read it prior to sending it in for publication. I was hooked immediately. Normally these types of books are not to my liking - I prefer Stephen King, Dean Koontz and other "horror" type books. I just would like to say "congrats" to my "big sis" and to let everyone know that this is a wonderful, exciting read!!

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## Jenni Arndt says

You can read all of my reviews at Alluring Reads.

### Actual rating is 3.5.

I have to be honest here, I went into this not expecting much, that cover was a total turn off for me. I'm still not a fan of the cover, and it's really too bad because I do think that it will be a turn off for potential readers (covers matter!) The story behind this cover was exceptionally good, I'll admit I had a hard time walking away from it to get stuff done around my house. Within these pages is a great paranormal romance tale that will most definitely take you by surprise.

I am not one for historical books, as a matter of fact I tend to run from them like the plague but the idea of pirates and a kickass heroine sucked me in. To show how little I knew going into this novel I'll let you in on a secret; I thought "selkie" was another name for a pirate! Well, as you can deduce, when I realised that one of our MC's was a seal and he shifted into a human I was more than a little surprised.

As I mentioned the thing that drew me to this story was how strong I pictured Elysandra Winters to be and she was just that. Ellie had the strength to go after what she wanted even though she had an immense amount of obstacles in her way. In that time women were seen as bad luck on a ship and her dream was to work on a ship, despite this she went after her dream and became a well respected privateer. She was also very protective of her heart, she wasn't about to give it to just anyone and in my eyes Daniel was the right guy for that. Daniel was a sweet, caring character that I fell for almost immediately. Yes, he was half seal and that was kind of weird but his intense need to protect Ellie at all cost's was endearing. The romance between these two is quite sweet and it grows very strong, leading to a very 18+ scene, so this one is definitely not for the kiddos! One thing that I longed for in this character was more knowledge of his selkie side. Often Daniel thought about how, when in his seal form, he was paying his debt for the year, but this debt is never explained. I would have liked to have known more of the selkie lore so that I knew exactly what he was referring to.

The novel has great pacing and it keeps you sucked in but the ending felt quite abrupt and rushed. There was so much substance in the middle when they were back in Newquay and then their final mission is limited to very few pages. I would have liked to have seen more of a struggle to achieve their goal, after all that build up I felt a little robbed by the ending. Despite my few complaints I still recommend this one to anyone looking for something a little different. The premise was unique and the story was engrossing.

*A copy was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.*

## **Rebecca Hart says**

I wrote it... I love it :)

That is all.

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## **Stephanie Lawton says**

Equal parts romance and adventure, CALL OF THE SEA is 100% kick-ass! As a reader who appreciates strong female characters, I instantly fell in love with Ellie's determination and tomboy stubbornness, as well as her vulnerabilities--especially her weak spot for her family.

CALL is well-plotted, perfectly paced and the voices are spot-on. All the historical details ring true, yet the story is completely accessible to a modern audience. And although the story centers on the pirating life, there's no "campy" aspect to it.

I'd never heard of a selkie before picking up CALL, so that part took a little "suspension of disbelief," but Hart handles this deftly and I soon found myself in love with the "cursed" hero, Daniel. If ever there was a stand-up guy (in either form), it's him.

The ending felt slightly rushed, but that's probably because I just wanted more. I sincerely hope Hart is contemplating a sequel (hint, hint). I can absolutely see this as a series.

This was a genuine pleasure to read and I see lots of success in Rebecca Hart's future.

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## **Summer Ross says**

Ms. Hart wrote a truly engaging tale of a girl named Ellie who is different from most other girls in her time. Ellie transforms into a courageous and independent woman through the course of the novel. The interaction between Ellie and her selkie love interest, Daniel, tangled with revenge and both main characters call of the sea. I truly enjoyed the double play on the idea of the call of the sea and how it can be different for everyone. Ellie's call came from her desire to be like her father, it came from love and adventure. Daniel's call came from what he believes is a curse and is actually a more primal need to be out in the sea. The duality played well off of each other, with secrets inlaid into the characters and plot.

One of the main things I truly enjoyed about this book is Hart's heroine, Ellie. As a child or a woman she never backed down from her dreams or what she truly wanted to do. This driving force put her in dangerous situations and held true to a solid female leading role, one that others can look up to.

Hart's ability in dialogue to produce a character who was not only smart, but witty gave a remarkable appeal to the book. Ellie fights consistently with Daniel and they play off each other as if they were made for one another. The romance between them is not only heated in some parts but cold and fierce in others which has a terrific similarity to the rushing sea where closer to shore it has a warmer feeling while the further out you swim the icy cold pierces the flesh.

The one thing I did have a difficult time with was the abrupt ending. I feel the author could have pulled it further out to give it a finished feel. Otherwise, the book as a whole gets four stars.

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## **Jill says**

### **3.5 stars**

Daniel O’Roarke is a selkie, half-human half-seal. Kicked out of home by his father when he was ten, Daniel has spent the last three years in his selkie form. Tired and alone, and yearning to embrace his humanity again, Daniel applies for a job on board Captain Winters' ship the *Siren's Call*.

For Elysandra (Ellie), the ten year-old daughter of Captain Winters, her pull to the sea is so strong that she will defy her father to hide on board his ship. Swimming out to the ship at anchor, she nearly drowns until she is saved by Daniel. Hoping to stem his wild and willful daughter, Ellie is sent away to boarding school. After five years of being caged-in at school and with her call to the sea as strong as ever, she finally manages to run away to sea on board a ship captained by one of her father's competitors, and disguised as a boy.

Set in Newquay, England and the high seas, from 1655 through to 1665, this is a lovely first novel. The descriptions of Daniel's transforming from selkie to human are painfully vivid. The life on board ship as a privateer is well-described. Daniel is a worthy and likable hero.

The heroine Ellie was not as appealing and I did find her actions willful and selfish. Admittedly she is young and her call of the sea is strong. It does seem a little implausible though that she could have concealed her female identity aboard a ship full of men for five years. And the ending felt a little abrupt and inconclusive.

The protagonists are young (Daniel is twenty-three, Ellie twenty) and this may be considered a YA novel. It does read at times like a YA, but there is some sexual content and a descriptive love scene.

With plenty of action and adventure, a sweet romance (with a bit of heat), *Call of the Sea* is a very good fantasy debut.

**Steam: 2.5**

*ARC courtesy of Inkspell Publishing*

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