



Forbid the Sea

Seanan McGuire

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For ten years, the young King of Cats known throughout the Kingdom of Londinium as Tybalt—once known to family and friends as "Rand," a gentle Prince who had never aspired to the throne—had ruled his Kingdom alone, refusing to let any other of his kind enter the city while it is in his care. But even a King can get lonely...

When Tybalt meets a Selkie stranger named Dylan, it seems almost inevitable that they should become entangled with each other—the lonely King and the man without friends or family in London were virtually designed to be together. But sadly, designs can only hold for as long as they are left alone, and when the Undersea inevitably arrives looking for their missing son, Tybalt will have to choose. His Kingdom, or Dylan?

Either way, he loses.

Forbid the Sea Details

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From Reader Review Forbid the Sea for online ebook

Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says

4.5 stars

Oh my god, Tybalt, my baby.

"Forbid the Sea" is a tale of a past affair of Tybalt's. He falls in with a selkie named Dylan that he happens across while lonely, the only Cait Sidhe in Londinium. Obviously, I love knowing that Tybalt's bi, and I also love seeing why Tybalt's so protective, so concerned, and always there for Toby. Also how trusting he is to still accept her dangerous choices and just asking to be backup whenever possible.

FEELINGS.

Casey says

Forbid the Sea is the second Tybalt short story, and should be read after Rat-Catcher. Like its predecessor, it takes place far before Toby was ever born.

After the events of the previous short story, Tybalt is living alone in London. He meets a selkie, Dylan, and starts a romantic relationship. However, their relationship is not fated to last long.

It's another tale of tragedy for Tybalt! Maybe it's because Tybalt has a love for Shakespeare and the theater, but I have a feeling his whole life is just going to be one tragedy after the other.

A solid short story, and I wonder if maybe there would be a Tybalt novella about his early days? I would like to read that.

Holly Hand Grenade says

"This was a summer fancy and I knew it, but no Cait Sidhe, ever, has been casual with such things."

Well, you should read this one whenever, I suppose. I read it directly after Chimes at Midnight and that was fine. It's a free Tybalt short story from the author's website and it kind of broke my heart a little.

It takes place ages before any of the other books and while I'm glad to know a bit more about our resident King of Cats right after he donned his crown; holy hell, within that small window, there were so many *feels!* I love Tybalt.

Ina says

3.5 stars

Wow, McGuire sure as hell loves tragic same-sex romances.

When I started reading this short story, I expected to meet Tybalt's past wife. Boy, was I wrong. Tybalt and Dylan's romance was just as bittersweet as that of Annie and Liz. I'm really starting to hate Selkies. All Fae societies have stupid rules, but Selkies really take it to another level. I still don't quite understand all the rules about passing the skin among them, but I hope it will be explained closely later in the series.

Considering everything Tybalt went through (losing a sister and his whole Court, being alone for ten years and then losing another person he became close to), I'm really surprised he is as okay as he is in the present. It broke my heart a little bit to read about how lonely he was.

At least he has Toby now.

Jo says

If boredom has a form, it looks like an empty alleyway where no laughing sisters wait to tease. It looks like a Kingdom of ash and silence, filled with the ghosts of those who have left you behind. In the Kingdom of the Bored, I was the only King, and I might hold that crown until I mercifully died.

A very sad novella, where we see more into the past of the lonely King of Cats. Tybalt is one of my favorite characters in this series, and we had to wait so long for him and Toby to finally admit their love. Seeing more of the loss that Tybalt has experienced in his long life before Toby, just broke my heart, and made me love him even more.

Just like with the other novella, In sea-salt tears, it breaks my heart the way the selkies has to live their lives. The fae world is never fair, and almost never kind.

Jen Davis says

Another series prequel on Tybalt, set about 10 years after the events of "Ratcatcher." It's free on the author's website. Tybalt is alone in London, after all of the Cait Sidhe and Fae left town. And he doesn't really realize how lonely he is until he meets a selkie named Dylan. The two become fast friends and lovers. (This is m/m, but there is no on-page sex. Remember, the sexuality of the Fae in this world is very fluid.)

Anyway, we see Tybalt make his first emotional connection in a long time, only to see him lose it. It's a pretty melancholy ending and helps show why he is such a lonely soul. (29 pages)

Stella says

[hey let's sleep together.' (hide spoiler)]

Amy (Other Amy) says

...you may as well

Forbid the sea for to obey the moon...

-William Shakespeare, The Winter's Tale

...

Immortality does not make a person immune to time; if anything, it makes it easier to believe that time is somehow meaningless, that every hour, once spent, will be replaced with a dozen more. The world doesn't work that way. Perhaps it did once, but that was in Faerie, and Faerie, as we all know too well, is another country.

One of the overarching themes of Seanan McGuire's *October Daye* series is that Faerie is dying, a slow moment by moment loss of mystery and decay of magic brought about largely by the arrogance of the Fae. These stories are loss writ large, across the tragedies of a handful of beautiful, wonderful heroes we her readers have come to know and love so well. We read, knowing each time that she is going to rip our hearts out, rip out her own to tell us this story.

And, damn, but she's done it again. Another beautiful loss. I admit I was cringing a little at first; I didn't really want to see Tybalt in another romance. (I hate romance small r in most all stories, but when I 'ship, I 'ship hard.) But then the light turned and I realized just who the actual interest was and she had me hooked, set up like a fool for the blow I knew was coming. (Regarding that interest, don't click if you don't want it spoiled (and don't read the book summary or any other reviews), but I can't contain my glee:(view spoiler))

What I love the most about her is how well she understands who her characters are. Nothing ruins a story faster than an author who betrays her characters for a plot (or anything else), and you just don't have to worry about that with McGuire. Everything in Tybalt, Cait Sidhe that he is, says cat at all times: his boredom, his willingness to chase down a whim, his refusal to do the sensible thing. This whole story, perfect cat-ness. And, wow. That epigraph.

So, the point. You need to have read at least through *One Salt Sea* in the series, or this story will not really carry the power it should, as some things will not make immediate sense. So, if you've read that far, it's free at <http://www.seananmcguire.com/tobyshor...> in epub, mobi or pdf. Go. Read now. You will be glad you did. If you haven't started the series, I highly recommend *Rosemary and Rue*, at least to see if McGuire's rendition of Faerie (the only one I have ever cared about, myself) is the fairy tale for you.

Devann says

LOVE THAT BISEXUAL TYBALT! ♥ A short story that takes place about ten years after *Rat Catcher* and features Tybalt and a Selkie named Dylan. It's both cute and sad and I love any insight into Tybalt's past because he's probably my favorite character aside from Toby.

Susana says

As always with everything that Seanan McGuire writes, i just wanted more pages to read..

This was a bittersweet story about Tybalt, who had been Rand the young prince of the Caith Sidhe, up until the succession fight with his father.

This sheds some light on the reason why Tybalt was the way he was, at the beginning of the October Daye series. He really was used to being alone...

I haven't read the first short named "Ratcatcher", so there were some references to other characters that i had never heard of. Maybe one day, all the October Daye shorts will be edited in a single book..yes? ;)

Nique says

Heart breaking

Sarah says

Forbid the Sea is set about ten years after events in **Rat-Catcher** and can be downloaded for free from Seanan McGuire's website. Tybalt saved the rest of the Cait Sidhe by becoming King and sending them away to safety but he remained in Londinium alone to make sure nobody returned too early. Although the fae have begun to return he remains the only Cait Sidhe and he has kept himself away from the rest of the courts, he entertains himself by haunting the local theatres in his cat form and I don't think he even realised how alone he'd been until he meets selkie Dylan.

Dylan is alone in the city and away from his family for the first time so it seems natural for the two to spend time together. What follows is the start of a beautiful friendship and the beginnings of a budding romance but we've seen what happens when fae fall in love with selkies before and it doesn't usually end well.

I love Tybalt so I will devour any story from his point of view but I have to admit I wasn't sure if I wanted to see a romance between him and anyone other than Toby. Let's face it though this story is several hundred years before she was born and I think the guy's allowed to have a past! I actually found the relationship between Tybalt and Dylan was really sweet and even though I knew it couldn't end in a happily ever after I was hoping they'd get longer than they actually did.

Nicole says

This story is melancholy and rather sweet, definitely showing a more sensitive side to Tybalt's character than October Daye is aware of, at least in the first couple of books. We find out what some of his damage is, how he claimed the title King of Cats by killing his father in order to save the entire Court. Part of the high price for his act is loneliness, but he's selfless enough that he wouldn't go back and change what he did even if he could. In trying to escape his loneliness, Tybalt begins a dalliance with a Selkie who turns out to be a fugitive and brings himself more pain. I enjoyed the period detail of the story (set in the 1670s) and Tybalt's narrative voice. It wasn't surprising to find out about his affinity for the stage, given the way he speaks and behaves.

Arie ? says

I had come to one indisputable conclusion: if boredom has a form, it looks like an empty alleyway where no laughing sisters wait to tease. It looks like a Kingdom of ash and silence, filled with the ghosts of those who have left you behind. In the Kingdom of the Bored, I was the only King, and I might hold that crown until I mercifully died.

Tragic and beautiful in the way all Seanan Mcguire shorts seem to be. I haven't been able to get my hands on the previous Tybalt story (chronicling how he became a King of Cats) so I feel like I might have missed a few things, but overall this gave a great look into a very lonely time in Tybalt's life. Plus, a historical London setting and we get to see things from the cat perspective.

Theresa says

3 Stars... This short story set in the "October Daye" series takes place in 17th century London focusing on Tybalt's time when the Cait Sidhe have disappeared and he has taken over the kingship... It explores a relationship he had with a newly skinned Selkie amidst a very lonely and troublesome time for himself; the story explores the bonds of friendship and intimacy that lead to an act of betrayal and heartbreak... I enjoyed hearing Tybalt's voice and piecing together more of his long life gaining increased insight into his personality and motivations:)
