



Whisper of the Tide

Sarah Tolcser

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The second in the immersive series set along the waterways of a fantasy world, perfect for fans of Sabaa Tahir.

Caro has settled into a routine: Wake, eat breakfast, try to figure out who is going attempt to assassinate Markos today. The currents aren't exactly calm. Markos is in constant danger, and his claim to the Akhaian throne is largely unsupported. Without military strength he doesn't have a chance. Relief appears on the horizon when a powerful Archon wants to side with Markos in his fight for the throne. But in exchange for an army, Markos must marry the Archon's daughter. They must decide which is more important: their love for each other or the fate of Akhaia. And Caro will have to decide if her destiny is to sail with the tide, or chart her own course.

With shipwrecks, lost treasure, old and new enemies, dark magic, and devastating romance, Sarah Tolcser weaves another epic story about chasing fate.

Whisper of the Tide Details

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Author : Sarah Tolcser

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From Reader Review Whisper of the Tide for online ebook

C.G. Drews says

Ahhh this series is a lot of fun! It's so imaginative and honestly feels like a movie playing on the page?! All the pirates and sea drakons and rum and petulant princes and badass female captains. ?This is the content I'm here for, okay? Okay.

Admittedly I did love the first book better *and* I wish I'd had time to reread it before starting this one! There were exactly 98938 people I really had no idea who was (I REMEMBER YOU, CARO, MY LOVE.) And also Caro and Markus' storylines diverge in this one...which means, yup. Next to know snarky sassy bickering banter. ?Honestly that gave me LIFE in book one and I sorely missed it.

(Also apparently this is the final one?!?!? IS IT NOT A TRILOGY?? NOBODY TOLD ME AND I'M NOT PREPARED TO SAY GOODBYE.)

I really loved how ferociously PIRATEY we got here. Yes, "piratey" is a word. All the kids are saying it these days. Caro now has her own ship (that she, um, stole obviously) and she's doing her best to keep Markus alive (which goes badly because everyone wants him dead) and we are about to get involved in a plot that contains:

- ? treasure maps
- ? enemies turning into allies
- ? assassination plots
- ? marooned isles!!
- ? plots to kill the future empharch
- ? a teaset that actually gets smashed for no reason which is such a shame
- ? girls supporting girls!
- ? an actual moment where Caro says she'll let he assassins at Markos if he doesn't shut up for 2 seconds
- ? plots and schemes AND TWISTS

Caro is SUCH a fantastic narrator! I continue to adore her! I like how she was learning about serving the sea god in this one, and also figuring out who she is + how that can mesh with Markos. OR CAN IT MESH WITH MARKOS?????!?!? As the blurb says: there's a bit of a twist with Markos now needing to marry someone else to get allies and an army. And Caro is absolutely a *nobody*, sooooo. This is awkward.

I also so love how Caro meets a scientist girl and notices she's also wearing pretty clothes and makeup and goes, "Yeah of COURSE we can be into books and science *and* makeup." And seriously I am living for these messages in books to combat the years of sexism in YA fantasy!! (Although their world is still sexist, but every one of the women are complex and interesting!)

There's definitely a lot packed into the plot! It starts off pretty slowly, but the ending is like BAM BAM do u still have feels dear oh BAM BAM. So that was fantastic.

Overall?! I've seriously enjoyed this duology! The covers are gorgeous and the wrting and characters are *superb*. It's clever and slightly different from the norm, which makes it thoroughly captivating!! I WANNA GO SAILING NOW, OK, SOMEONE GET ME MY HAT.

The Library Ladies says

(Full review here at [the library ladies.com](http://thelibraryladies.com).)

Remember a time, not so long ago, when “Pirates of the Caribbean” was actually acclaimed and not a national joke? I mean, those first few movies were a blast! I may, may, have even seen the first one in theaters three times. I remember being almost giddy over just how much unadulterated, unquestioned fun that first movie was offering up. Adventure! Romance! Great characters! And some top notch humor that the other films never seemed to really understand or replicate in all the many, MANY, iterations that followed. So you can imagine just how thrilled I was when I discovered about halfway through this book, that “Whisper on the Tide” was essentially what you’d get if you took that first movie and then took Kiera Knightley’s character from the third movie, but actually made her, you know, a good character and had her run the show.

While Caro has finally discovered her true calling, with the goddess of the ocean in her ear and a ship to her name, her time of late has been spent decidedly NOT at sea. After pledging herself to help Markos regain his lost throne, she’s recently discovered that much of what this help is made up of is running a few messages here and there and sitting through various speeches and rallies while Markos looks to drum up support for his cause. And all is not going well. The ocean god is displeased with Caro’s lack of sea time adventures and Markos few followers are pushing towards a marriage of convenience that would bring in much needed support. Caro has more and more difficulty seeing a path forward that allows her to keep both of her loves, the sea and Markos himself.

For all that the description of the story, both mine and the official one, puts a lot of weight on Caro’s decision about her future, part of what has made me like this series so much so far is Caro’s no nonsense approach to life and decision making. She doesn’t wilt away from tough choices and she is endlessly practical. In many ways, she sees her ability to make hard calls as her biggest asset to Markos, whom she often derides as getting too caught up in the emotions of things. Here, these character traits move the story along and keep it from being marred in the emotional dullness of soap opera-ness that could have come about with a different character in this situation. But what makes it all the better is that through this book, Caro must learn that her own practicality and willingness to follow the harder path is not always a boon.

In short order, she’s back out on the ocean and beginning to understand how very little she knows of life as a sea captain, for all that she has her own ship and the ear of the sea goddess. The action never lets up and Caro’s adventures are filled with everything you’d want from a pirate adventure. We have storms, and ships sinking, and maroonings on islands, and lost treasure, and pirate lairs. Really, like I said at the beginning, all the best parts of the “Pirates of the Caribbean” movies, though each with their own unique spin and connection to the larger plot.

For secondary characters, we sadly saw much less of not only Markos, but Caro’s magic-wielding cousin, Kente, was also out of commission much of the time. But what we did get from her was integral to the plot, and I liked the fact that she had a role at all, as with the way the last book ended, I wasn’t sure we were going to see more from her. Markos, also, was absent for much of the middle portion of the book. I was ok with this. I still very much enjoyed the romance between him and Caro, and their banter and Markos’ own cluelessness about certain things were still some of the most fun pieces of dialogue in the story. However, by sidelining him and their romantic entanglements, Caro was given the space and time to really come into her own as a character and drive the plot on her own.

This also gave room to add a surprising new (?) character who I had not expected to see at all. I don’t want to spoil it, but I thoroughly enjoyed this addition and the character added a much needed sense of ambiguity

and moral greyness to an otherwise fairly straightforward adventure story. To continue the “Pirates” comparisons, if Caro is Elizabeth and Markos is Will, this new character was Jack Sparrow and lived up to the utter delight that any character should be if trying to fill that role.

I also greatly enjoyed the expanded idea of Caro’s relationship with the sea god. While we heard a lot about the river god and the solid, calm presence that he transferred to those who were chosen by him, we only briefly met the sea god in the last book. And true to the nature of the sea, she is much more volatile and unpredictable than the god of the river seemed to be. I was relieved that she wasn’t reduced to just another magical ability for Caro, but given her own agendas and whims that often came into conflict with Caro’s. Their ongoing battle of wills was a large secondary driver of much of the story and I was very pleased with how it played out.

In the end, I enjoyed this book even more than the first. While “Song of the Current” had a slow start, this one jumped right into the action and never let off the gas pedal. Caro was her same sassy self, but was given more room to proactively drive the plot herself this go around. I still very much enjoyed the romance, but was pleased to see that it played second fiddle to the action and adventure. And between the ocean god and the surprise Jack Sparrow-esque character, there was enough double crossing and cross purposes to keep readers on their toes about what would be coming next. If you enjoyed the first book, I’m sure you’ll love this one!

Rating 9: Take all the good parts of the “Pirates” movies, make them even better, and turn it into a book and ta da!

Aila says

IT WAS SO GOOD!

WHISPER OF THE TIDE was a stunning sequel! I came in with high expectations, but was honestly ready to give it a 3 star midway through the book, no joke. What changed my mind? I could say that the events that happened were pretty awesome, or the resolution was sooo satisfying and lovely, or how the stuff that had me side-eyeing were properly addressed. But I think plain and simple, Tolcser breathed life into Caro’s character and made her resilient, flawed, and just great in general. I adored her from start to finish, mistakes and all. And I hope fans of the book come into WHISPER OF THE TIDE with an open mind and heart to Caro’s flaws.

The book follows Caro’s first person POV as she tries to help Markos overthrow the rule of Konto Theucinian, who has a strict regime as monarch (or Emparch, as they are called here). Both Markos and Caro are on Theucinian’s hitlist, and much of the action comes from assassination attempts and being on the run. Markos is trying to get supporters to place him on the throne, as his father was the Emparch and was killed when Theucinian took power, but many people call him the Pretender and are too afraid of Theucinian to support him. The interesting part of this particular plot is that it’s there, but not the main focus. Theucinian is a force that’s unseen throughout the book - his actions are done through other characters and thus made for an uneventful protagonist.

“‘When we make a promise to serve, sometimes that promise is hard to keep. Whether you serve a god or an Emparch.’ He nodded at me.
‘Or both.’”

Caro’s life was flipped upside down after meeting Markos and getting embroiled in the politics of the land.

She found out that she was one of the chosen by the sea goddess, even though she grew up calling for the river god. Additionally, she wants to explore and travel, but stays in the city near Markos to help him with his campaign. Because of this, doubt and restlessness emerges, creating a confused main character who doesn't know where she fit in. I really enjoyed this particularly piece of introspection because her obvious insecurities made her stand out as a character, even as she puts up a strong and fierce front.

The plot thickens when Caro pushes Markos to marry another noble that will help him with his campaign. At the same time, she defies the sea goddess and becomes stranded in an island with an unlikely ally. Or is it enemy? With that, the fun begins.

“Three months ago I'd believed with every bone in my body that my fate was in the riverlands. I'd been wrong. Was this really fate... or the god attempting to manipulate me?”

I thought that I would really dislike the romance in this book. Both Caro and Markos don't know what they want, and whether to sacrifice their lives over duty. Since she pushes him away, they aren't together for the middle of the book and I low key got annoyed with him. BUT. But, when they meet again, things are in the open. Hidden schemes are unfolding and they - mainly Caro - has learned a lot since they last met. I love how the author really makes good use of dialogue and communication to sort their relationship out. Yes for no misunderstandings! And overall, I thought they were a great couple with sweet chemistry and complementing hearts full of adventure.

“Practicality had never been Markos's strong point. He could stand there and make romantic proclamations all he wanted. Myself, I preferred the money.”

I really enjoyed the ending and how most plot points got wrapped up. Another great thing about this book was SOOO many women in power. It's uncommon to see that in YA fantasies, and I loved seeing all these talented, ruthless, and creative heroines here. This book also features: mistaken deaths, fearsome sea monsters, a map to a long-lost treasure, and the taste of the sea. Tolcser writes a timeless ocean adventure that wanderlust readers will devour.

Thank you Netgalley and Bloomsbury for the review copy!

Mary H says

Maybe 4.5 stars, but I loved it! Just as in *Song of the Current*, Caro & Markos's banter & chemistry lit up the pages. I really like that Caro carves out her own fate from the expectations and demands everyone else places on her. Full review to come.

11/7/17:

crying LOOK HOW BEAUTIFUL THAT COVER IS HOLY COW!

4/27/17:

I'm about halfway through *Song of the Current*, and the way it's going, I'm going to need the sequel ASAP!

Lauren [DontGoBrekkerMyHeart] says

4.5 // 5

[No Spoilers]

I really enjoyed the sequel much more than the first book. You can really tell the author has grown and feels incredibly more confident within the world.

Instead of having to focus on the world building, we were able to focus on the characters more and their struggles.

The plot certainly took a completely different direction than I thought, which was GREAT! I was thinking this story would lose its nautical tones and influences, but it ended up being the exact opposite.

The return of one of the most complex characters from the first book I think had to be my favorite part. He was hysterical, and I couldn't stop grinning the entire time. I have so many jokes marked off in the ARC because he's just so funny!

I also enjoyed watching the maturation of Caro because she was very insecure even at the end of book one. It was a gradual and nice change because people certainly do not change with the snap of their fingers. Her relationship with Markos also felt more real if that makes sense. It was really genuine and sweet.

By the way the villains in this story are so numerous and so evil, and I LOVED IT! I was shaking my book in anger and betrayal so many times- I've lost count now. My fangirl screams certainly are seen in my Instagram story haha.

This story was just soooo much better than the first, and I'm so thankful I could review and read it. I really hope there's a spin off to this world because Sarah certainly set up that possibility in the end, but I'm going to miss Markos and Caro so much!

mith says

AHHH, i love satisfying endings! a brilliant finale to a fun series.

Sarah Tolcser says

I don't remember doing this, so I think I fell asleep on my phone last night. EXCELLENT SLEEP, 5 STARS.

Scrill says

ARC received from the publisher via Netgalley for a fair review.

“A ship was not meant to sit at anchor in the harbor, and neither was I.”*

Join Caro as her adventure continues with the emparch, Markos, who is continuously being attacked as he attempts to get his country back. Caro starts to question who she is and her purpose as she struggles with the idea of being emparchess and parting with the sea. This swashbuckling romance will keep you turning pages to the very end.

The Story

From the very first chapter till the end I loved following Caro as she discovers who she is and what she really wants to do with her life. I couldn't help cheering Caro on while she struggled with her star crossed love life that just didn't want to be harmonious with her sea life.

Even though much of the story the characters were struggling to just stay alive or were fleeing capture, the story still had a plot and direction. If you're looking for an action packed pirate adventure then I would say check this series out. Between the love story, actual pirating, a treasure map, and being cast away on the island you are sure to be entertained the whole way through.

The World Building

There is so much more ship jargon in this book. I loved it in the first book with the wherries, and I loved it again in this book. It's not an overwhelming amount that if you don't know the directions on a boat that you wouldn't be able to understand, but having the language there helped bring the feel of the ship to life.

It was fun to learn a little bit more about the favoritism of the various gods, but not to the point that it took away from the adventure. I love that the ocean god has a snarky attitude that fits with Caro's.

We also get a little bit of fun with more of the shadow magic through Kente (winner of cousin of the year for being so faithful to Caro). Though at times I thought the shadow magic ended up being a little too convenient, I appreciated that it wasn't 100% fool proof and that there were still obstacles that interfered with it's capability.

The Characters

This book made me want to watch the first two Pirates of the Caribbean's. You know when they were still good. The dynamic of Caro and Melanos just reminded me so much of Elizabeth Turner and Jack Sparrow.

I thought their trust/hate relationship really helped drive the story along, as you tried to decide if Melanos was going to be a bad guy or not by the end of the book. I was a nice way to keep you on your toes.

Caro has this selfishness that she has to overcome where all her decisions seem like they're about what's best for Markos, but at the same time she just wants a bit of everything. I loved that she just didn't have everything figured out, and was willing to make some sacrifices in the end.

The Soundtrack

Eisley – Currents

[Blog](#) | [Bookstagram](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)

Shannon (It Starts At Midnight) says

You can find the full review and all the fancy and/or randomness that accompanies it at [It Starts at Midnight](#)

Honestly, I was a little hesitant to start this one. I **liked, but didn't love the first book** . But I must say, I was pleasantly surprised by how easy it was to get into this sequel! The elements that I enjoyed from the last book were still in play: Caro being full of awesomeness, her banter with Markos, and the atmospheric world building. There's a ton of at-sea adventure in this book, and Caro sailing feels so, *so* right.

But there was definitely more at stake in this book. It seemed much less "safe" than the first, which was actually my biggest gripe with *Song of the Current*. So for this to seem a bit more urgent, more dangerous, made it a much better read for me. In fact, I was pulled in almost immediately by the direness of it all. The plot never lagged for me, and I was engaged the whole time.

There's also some new/better-fleshed-out side characters in the mix that made the book all the more enjoyable. One of my favorite aspects of this book is Caro's relationship with a villain of sorts- to say anymore would be spoilery, but it was fabulous. The banter and snark that we've grown to love comes out in full force. The only thing I wasn't totally thrilled with was a bit of predictability and a little bit of "lack of communication" trope from our romantic duo.

The ending, if it is the ending of the series (I have no idea, but it seems to be only the two books for now?) is definitely satisfying. So if it remains a duology, I think readers will be quite pleased with the direction this book takes.

Bottom Line: Definitely stronger than the first, I highly enjoyed this sequel set in a watery world of political chaos.

Cindy ☆? Savage Queen ? says

At last a synopsis!

But the hint of a potential love triangle...

On the plus side *With shipwrecks, lost treasure, old and new enemies, dark magic...*

-

The cover is beautiful and I love it!

Miranda (MrsLeif's Two Fangs About It) says

After reading **Song of the Current**, I was DYING to get my hands on the sequel! I am so excited that I FINALLY read it and it was so much fun! This book was full of adventure, badass moments, romance, banter, and so much more!

One of my favorite things about this book was the high-stakes feeling that was weaved into every chapter. The plot of this story kept me on the edge of my seat! I was always dying to know what was going to happen next and I was constantly clutching my chest in fear for my favorite characters. The author did a great job at creating an exciting book that never lost its momentum!

I was happy to see all of the characters, old and new, develop A LOT in this book. The author really focused on fleshing out the characters in this story, which made them even more lovable than I thought possible! I seriously loved all the characters in this book! Each character is memorable and perfect in their own charming way. If I had to pick a favorite character though, it would definitely be Caro. Caro is such a witty and badass female. SHE IS MY QUEEN AND I LOVE HER!!!

The romance was just as swoony and lovable as ever in this book. I loved the romantic development and the steamy moments that resulted from the development! My only issue with the romance was the LACK OF COMMUNICATION! The communication issues lead to some angst, which I know keeps the relationship interesting, BUT I JUST WANTED THEM HAPPY AND IN LOVE!

This book was the perfect follow up to **Song of the Current!** Fans of the first book will not be disappointed with this sequel!

4 / 5 Fangs

**This ebook was given to me in exchange for an honest review. **

MrsLeif's Two Fangs About It

Facebook

Twitter

Chelsea Humphrey says

3.5 STARS

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't wholly enjoying all the YA pirate fantasy fiction that's being released, and the *Song Of The Current* series consistently has the most gorgeous covers. The first book in the series was a solid debut to an intriguing twist on some of the ancient folklore in the genre, and I felt *Whisper Of The Tide* was just as solid of a sequel. The story continues in the following of a strong female protagonist, and this plot also features mystery, action sequences, and just enough romance. There was a satisfying wrap-up to most of the threads that were left open in the first novel and upon finishing the book I realized just how much I've enjoyed reading about these characters, and also just how much I'll miss them again. Highly recommended to fans looking for another pirate fantasy adventure, but definitely start with *Song Of The Current* to keep from being confused and spoiled for the many twists and turns.

**I received a review copy from the publisher via NetGalley.*

Raven_Blake (dreamy addictions) says

Same Review Also Posted On My Blog: Dreamy Addictions

"You had to know what you wanted - but knowing wasn't enough. You had to be willing to fight for it. To be so strong even the sea could not defy you. That is how strong we must be, to keep the things we love."

Last year, I read *Song of the Current* and I absolutely loved it. It was a great debut. When I heard there's a lost treasure hunt involved in this sequel, I'm so ready for it. *Whisper of the Tides* is not only a fun sequel but also a good conclusion to this series. I loved getting back into this world and meeting the characters once again. I quite enjoyed this book as much as the first one. It has a perfect amount of adventure, romance, humor, snark, and action but the one thing that made this whole journey a fun ride is definitely the dynamic between Caro and a certain Conniving Pirate. These duo reminded so much of Elizabeth Swann and Jack Sparrow from *Pirates of the Caribbean*. I loved their relationship and their snarky banters.

Caro's adventure continues in this sequel where she helps Markos in his campaign and also becomes his protector to look out for any assassination attempts from their enemies. Markos is called pretender even

though he's a legitimate heir to the throne. He needs an army to fight against Konto Theucinian, but no one wants to risk a war by supporting a young prince except for one Powerful Archon who is willing to support Markos's claim to the throne if, in exchange, he accepts his daughter's hand in marriage. Now Caro and Markos needs to decide which is important, their love or the throne. Caro always belonged to the sea and she never fitted to be an emparchess so she finally makes the painful decision for both of them which eventually leads Caro to another dangerous adventure.

I loved Caro even more in this book. Her character growth was very well done. After the events in the first book, She was kinda confused about where she fit in and where her true destiny lies. She Struggled while making hard decisions but she always stood strong. She's not perfect and made mistakes but that's what makes her so real. Markos is a delightful character. He's always sweet, fun and charming. He's kinda secondary character in this book because he had less part in this book. I still enjoyed the swoony romance and fun banters between him and Caro. I liked Kente, Caro's cousin who wields shadow magic. She was there for her whenever Caro needed help. I really wish she had more part in this book because she's really an amazing character. I also liked the Snarky Sea Goddess who loves taunting Caro. And finally, we have a surprising new character in this book who stole the show. He's a great addition to the plot and I really didn't expect to see him again. He has an intriguing and fun personality. I really enjoyed his character a lot. I'm not revealing his name because it's kinda spoilery. If you like Jack Sparrow then you'll definitely love this guy.

The plot was very interesting and engaging throughout. It has a slow start which I'm really not fan of, but after the mysterious shipwreck, I was hooked to the plot till the end. There were so many twists and turns in the book that kept me on the edge of my seat. The whole story felt like an adventurous ride. There's a lot of sea adventure in this book and I enjoyed every minute of it. The writing was pretty good, but to be honest I struggled with the writing in the beginning. The book was told in Caro's first person pov. I enjoyed reading the story from Caro's POV, but I think this would've been even more enjoyable if it was written in multiple POV's. The world building was amazing. It was one of the best aspects of this series. The world of riverlands is an enchanting world filled with magic, myths, gods and goddesses, sea creatures, and pirates. I wish we could explore more of this world.

Overall, I loved this book! It's a total entertaining read filled with adventure, magic, romance, pirates, ships, and treasure hunting. The story wrapped up perfectly with a satisfying ending. I'm really gonna miss this world and the characters. If there's ever a spin off of this series in the future, I would definitely read it. I can't wait to know what the author has in store for us next.

Sarah says

Not to brag but I've already read an early version of this and it's super satisfying and super fun.

Kelly (Diva Booknerd) says

Seventeen year old Caroline Oresteia was a privateer on board the Cormorant, alongside her father, a humbled Wherryman, now evading capture for her thievery upon the everglades of Kynthessa. Caroline is a tenacious young woman, her fortitude is inspiring. Altruistically, she is now assisting Markos as he attempts to converge military and political allies. Markos Andela is the legitimate Emparch of Akhaia, his family slain by Konto Theucinian and displaced from his kingdom.

Mitigation emerges from Lord Pherenekian, Archon of Eryth. A proposal of a fifteen thousand person artillery in exchange for the political union of Markos and his daughter Agnes Pherenekian, an unconventional young woman interested in academics and potential Emparchess. Quite the conundrum for Caroline, conflicted between her fondness for the Prince and a Kingdom in disarray.

Whisper of the Tide is a maritime adventure of resilience and endurance. Generations of Oresteria Wherryman have been guided by the River God, speaking the language of the Everglades. Except for Caroline, claimed by the Sea Goddess and destined for adventure. The relationship between Caroline and Markos is convoluted and apprehensive, Caroline placing her aspirations aside to preserve the revolution and subjugate Konto Theucinian, while desperately yearning for the wild blue yonder.

A ship was not meant to sit at anchor in the harbor, and neither was I.

The secondary characters are meticulously created, including a former adversary. Cousin and apprentice Shadowman Kenté. Merchant manager Docia Argyrus. Opportunist Sophronia Hypatos. Dido Brillante the Pirate Queen and capitalist merchant Tamaré Bollard. Distinctly tenacious women who have challenged gender equality and celebrated the female achievement.

Sarah Tolcser has created an enchanting and captivating narrative, an entertaining adventure for the marauder at heart. Avast ye scalawags and buccaneers, all hands ahoy!
