



The Summer of Chasing Mermaids

By Sarah Ockler

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The Summer of Chasing Mermaids By Sarah Ockler

From the bestselling author of *Twenty Boy Summer*, a talented singer loses her ability to speak after a tragic accident, leading her to a postcard-perfect seaside town to find romance.

The youngest of six talented sisters, Elyse d'Abreau was destined for stardom—until a boating accident took everything from her. Now, the most beautiful singer in Tobago *can't* sing. She can't even speak.

Seeking quiet solitude, Elyse accepts a friend's invitation to Atargatis Cove. Named for the mythical first mermaid, the Oregon seaside town is everything Elyse's home in the Caribbean isn't: an ocean too cold for swimming, parties too tame for singing, and people too polite to pry—except for one.

Christian Kane is a notorious playboy—insolent, arrogant, and completely charming. He's also the only person in Atargatis Cove who doesn't treat Elyse like a glass statue. He challenges her to express herself, and he admires the way she treats his younger brother, Sebastian, who believes Elyse is the legendary mermaid come to life.

When Christian needs a first mate for the Cove's high-stakes Pirate Regatta, Elyse reluctantly stows her fear of the sea and climbs aboard. The ocean isn't the only thing making waves, though—swept up in Christian's seductive tide and entranced by the Cove's charms, Elyse begins to wonder if a life of solitude isn't what she needs. But changing course again means facing her past. It means finding her inner voice. And scariest of all, it means opening her heart to a boy who's best known for breaking them...

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The Summer of Chasing Mermaids By Sarah Ockler Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1012845 in Books
- Published on: 2015-06-02
- Released on: 2015-06-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 1.20" w x 5.50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 416 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Ockler's breezy, seaside romance offers a modern spin on the classic tale of "The Little Mermaid." After a boating accident steals her voice, Elyse d'Abreau leaves Tobago and her superstar dreams to seek solitude with friends in Atargatis Cove, OR. Unable to confront the fact that she will never sing again, Elyse cuts herself off from family and friends, until playboy Christian Kane recruits her to serve as first mate in a boating race to save the Cove from being ruined by developers. The race forces Elyse to confront her fear of the sea and the legendary mermaid, Atargatis, who helps her rediscover her inner power. Despite being unable to speak, Elyse's lyrical and authentic voice shines through. Teens will relate to her struggle to find her place in a complicated world and applaud her efforts to fight back against the heartless powerbrokers threatening to destroy the Cove. The story unfolds at a leisurely pace, bogged down at times by ambiguous references to Elyse's past that take too long to reach a satisfying conclusion. Ockler builds a sizzling romance between Christian and Elyse, and both characters demonstrate a mature attitude toward sex. Elyse also develops a tender friendship with Christian's mermaid-obsessed little brother, and readers will root for him as he tries to overcome gender barriers. The thread of the mythical mermaid lends an atmospheric tone, though ultimately falls short, and the open-ended resolution may leave some readers scratching their heads.

VERDICT An enjoyable additional purchase, great for beach reading.—Kimberly Ventrella, Southwest Oklahoma City Library

Review

"A sweet summer romance [that] sings with mermaid lore and characters you wish you could spend your summer with. This look at finding your voice is the perfect poolside read." (*Justine Magazine*)

"With parallels to 'The Little Mermaid,' this moving contemporary novel is a must-have for any trip to the beach." (*Bookish*)

"Lyrical and authentic... Ockler's breezy, seaside romance offers a modern spin on the classic tale of 'The Little Mermaid.'" (*School Library Journal*)

"...another fantastic summer story by Twenty Boy Summer's Sarah Ockler... The Summer of Chasing Mermaids will totally capture your summer spirit this June." (*Bustle*)

"...this fun romance develops into a truly thoughtful and inspiring read... excellent for fans of Sarah Dessen and John Green." (*Children's Literature*)

"Elyse's journey and struggles to assimilate her disability—portrayed with compassion and insight—are compelling and original. A beach read with depth that will keep readers engaged." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

The successful formula of summer romance while overcoming personal hardship makes this a good choice for summer vacations and any other time one needs easy comfort-food reading. (*Booklist*)

"Ockler dives beneath the surface in writing about her characters' emotions and family relationships, and writes sensuously about love and desire. This is a good choice for older teens looking for a well-written romance." (*VOYA Magazine*)

"Ockler's poetic writing captivates from the outset, and Elyse's backstory—including the mystery of exactly

how she lost her voice—is inventive and well-drawn." (Publishers Weekly May 25, 2015)

About the Author

Sarah Ockler is the bestselling author of *#scandal*, *The Book of Broken Hearts*, *Bittersweet*, *Fixing Delilah*, and *Twenty Boy Summer*. Her books have received numerous accolades, including ALA's Best Fiction for Young Adults, Girls' Life Top 100 Must Reads, Indie Next List, and nominations for YALSA Teens' Top Ten, and NPR's Top 100 Teen Books. She lives in Washington with her husband, Alex. Visit her at SarahOckler.com and find her on Twitter and Facebook.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kathryn Cannon:

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