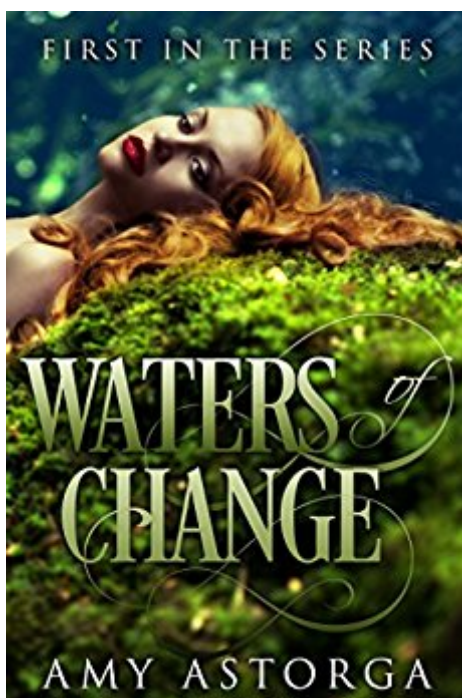


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Waters Of Change (Waters Of Change Trilogy Book 1)



Synopsis

"Life at the surface isn't a decision that can be made. It's something you have to be chosen to receive. What mermaids lack that humans possess, isn't legs. It's a soul." • Gwendolyn and Emma were best friends. Until Emma vanished. Since then, Gwendolyn's life has been flipped upside down. She is being troubled by a past that has no answers, a crumbling relationship with her longtime boyfriend, Ryan, and a set of paranoid parents who are afraid to let her go. Curfews and locked windows can keep out harm, but nothing can stop the urges. Sudden, overpowering, and unnatural--Gwendolyn is drawn to ocean's hypnotic shore like a moth to the flame. It's where she thinks Emma disappeared. It's where she meets Marcus. A mysterious stranger with eyes that pierce her soul, his presence is an irresistible distraction. But there are things about Marcus that she can't explain. There are reasons he's appeared that go beyond fate. The more she discovers the truth behind the man, the more she discovers he isn't a man at all. Gwendolyn's relationships are filled with dark secrets that she's determined to uncover. She will go to any length to get the answers that she seeks. And what she finds will reveal the ultimate fate of her soul. Amy Astorga's thrilling novel is the first in the Waters of Change trilogy, an urban fantasy series filled with compelling symbolism, depth, and mermaids.

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Customer Reviews

This book is a must read! I cant wait for the next one to come out!

The book description on the product page for this book makes the following claim: "A young adult urban fantasy that will redefine mermaids." I haven't hidden my love for mermaids, so that bold statement was all it took for me to download a copy of this book onto my Kindle. Unbeknownst to author Amy Astorga, I issued her a secret challenge: I've read YA mermaid fiction, so show me what you've got. I dare you to redefine mermaids for someone who has already seen them in a variety of ways and even has his own twist on the mermaid tale. Or tail. At the end of the book, which was nearly impossible to put down most of the time, when I fully understood how mermaids were being used symbolically, I breathlessly put down my Kindle. My jaw was dropped wide open. The author's claim was not only backed up, but I'm still reeling from all the implications of it. I maintain a spoiler-free policy in my reviews, so I cannot discuss this further other than to say that I strongly recommend this book if you want a truly fresh new take on mermaid mythology. Weird review this is, starting at the end of the book, right? So let's go to the beginning, the book's Prologue. Gwendolyn is trying to make her way into the hot new club in town, trying to find Marcus, the owner of said club, and give him a message of deep importance. The urgency is palpable in Gwendolyn's first-person narration. This message seems to have serious consequences for these (and other) characters, but their context is unknown. Starting with such mystery and urgency is a great way to hook a reader from the get-go, but then to start Chapter One with the statement "Seven Months Earlier" compelled me to keep reading. I needed to know what the message meant and all the build-up to it. Placing (what turns out to be) a near climactic moment at the start of the book is a bold and risky move, but when done well, it has tremendous payoff. Here, it's done well. The initial incident that sets the plot events in motion is the disappearance of Gwendolyn's somewhat estranged best friend Emma. Because Gwendolyn has spent much more time with her boyfriend Ryan (who has just proposed marriage), Emma feels like the third wheel. However, Emma visits to gloat about the boy she's just met, the new love of her life, who has already given her a unique pearl necklace and professed love after very

limited time knowing each other. Gwendolyn scoffs at this, under the guise of looking out for her friend, but Emma storms out anyway. Other than a phone message later, it's the last Gwendolyn sees of Emma. There are no clues to Emma's disappearance, and Gwendolyn reasonably becomes more and more withdrawn. Thus, her relationship with Ryan suffers. Also, Gwendolyn is experiencing a bizarre calling toward the ocean, where she meets and is saved by the attractive and enigmatic Marcus. She's drawn to him, and so starts a love triangle often found in YA literature, but it really works because of the chemistry between Gwendolyn and Marcus, particularly his protectiveness of her for reasons she doesn't understand. Gwendolyn musters up all the internal strength she has to remain faithful to Ryan, but he has been drifting perhaps towards someone else. So where do mermaids fit in? That, dear readers, I will keep as a mystery in this review. Just know that their inclusion is worth reading towards. There are countless stories out there about mermaids changing their tails into legs or searching for ways to do so. But the tagline of this book quite succinctly says something very different: "What mermaids lack that humans possess isn't legs. It's a soul." It's a powerful statement, and it speaks to the book's underlying theme of souls and morality. Sure, humans have a soul, but we also make choices that show either the light or the darkness in those souls. None of the characters in this book can be described in lights and darks only shades of gray like real, flawed people. Let's face it, we all have flaws, we have all hurt people either accidentally or intentionally and we all have the power to make choices both good and bad. Add that to emotionally charged situations involving relationships, where real people have been known not to always act rationally, and what you get is or what author Amy Astorga gives us is a story super-charged with conflict both internal and external, packaged in a way that makes it impossible to put down right until the ending. And that ending is a shocker! No spoilers here, but I found the ending thoroughly satisfying in what it says about human nature. It's unexpected, and it leaves things wide open for the next part which I can't wait to dive into. This book has a new and darker twist on mermaids, complex characters and themes, rich details, and one heck of a well-earned cliffhanger. There's no doubt that I have fallen for *Waters of Change: Gwendolyn Falling* and am giving it a full FIVE STARS.

Enjoyed the book. Liked the twist at the end looking forward to the next one.

Really loved this, it is a fast read and kept my attention. Super new author!!

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to author Amy Astorga.)

“Ever since we first met, I knew there was something special about you. It was like I found the missing piece to my soul. And I can’t bear the thought of letting you go.”

This was a YA fantasy story featuring mermaids. I felt quite sorry for Gwendolyn in this story as she went through quite a lot, losing her best friend and then having to go through so much else. It was also hard for her to go through the problems she was having with her boyfriend, who she’d been with for several years. The storyline in this was about Gwendolyn’s life changing; her best friend disappearing, her relationship suddenly being on shaky ground, as well as the appearance of a handsome stranger. The pace in this was okay, although it did seem to take a long time for the mermaid storyline to really come to the surface. I did think that the mermaid thing was done pretty well though, and it wasn’t your typical YA mermaid story. The ending to this was quite surprising, and a bit of a cliff-hanger.

6.25 out of 10

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