



Updrift

Errin Stevens

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For Kate Sweeting, love isn't in the air. It's in the water.

Since her father died, Kate Sweeting's home life has been in the pits, her well-being on life support. Her future looks desolate until she and her mother, Cara, make another plan: abandon their shriveled existence for more promising prospects on the coast, where Cara can play small-town librarian-bachelorette and Kate can figure out what's up with that secretive Blake family from the beach.

Everyone is eerily captivated with Kate and her mother, and Cara is the first to figure out why when the man of her dreams arrives all dripping and devoted and closed-mouthed about what he intends. Kate is willing to go along with their subterfuge for a while, but eventually makes a charge for the water to learn what her mother is hiding. Gabe Blake is there waiting for her...and so is someone considerably less friendly. By the time Kate navigates her way home, everything will have changed for her—what she feels, what she wants, and what she'll risk to be with the man she loves.

Updrift Details

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Author : Errin Stevens

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From Reader Review Updrift for online ebook

Sydney (sydneysshelves) West says

I'm deciding to DNF this one because there are just so many problems with it that I'm struggling now to continue on.

Let's start with the writing: There is so much TELLING! Like it's mostly the narrator prattling off a list of stuff that's happening. The POV is third person but switches who he focus is at random increments and introduces new character focuses 1/3 of the way thru the book.

The pacing was just awful . In the beginning I never could figure out what age the characters were when stuff was happening. And there would be a time skip and I couldn't tell how much time had passed. I got really frustrated.

Boy tells girl he is a mermaid and she just giggles and says I always wanted to date a merman

At about 40% of the way thru the book the girl MC and the boy MC have been made to wait for each other without seeing each other but once and very little interaction thru two years of high school and two of college. The boy says he NEEDS to see the girl and she just drives on down and tells him she has always loved him. ROLLS EYES. He explains that when his family does this thing where they hold your hand against their hearts and the other hands' wrist they are checking if you are ovulating and she is and he loves her so it's time to put a baby in her. Kate says "okay we will figure it out" I am on the floor in disbelief. He says "it could be twins. That would be nice" UM NOO. Then after lovemaking he casually slides in that they are going to medical school together . But she already has a degree and a job as a job journalist. Like he is just making decisions for her. I couldn't do it. Nope no thank you.

Tasha and Megan Mahoney says

Overall Rate 4

Performance Rate 5

Story Rate 4

This book is going to be hard to review. Not because I disliked it, on the contrary I think it's fantastic but it is so good that I don't want to ruin any of it with spoilers. Oh well here goes...

After the death of her husband, Cara decides to move, with her daughter Kate to become a librarian in a small coastal town. They find contentment there, and make some good friends including the mysterious Blake family. Cara falls in love with John, they marry and Kate is happy for her mother and really likes her new family set up. Her sadness is that she knows her mother, step-father, and her friend and childhood love Gabe Blake are keeping her in the dark over something...

Updrift is a really gripping tale, even though there are a couple of lulls at times (they are necessary to the story and not boring) but the narration maintains energy throughout these areas. The characters are mostly

likeable though I did find myself feeling frustrated with them at times for Kate. Their secrecy is necessary and the reason for this becomes clear about halfway through the story.

This is where the story really gains pace and adventure and it is also where I stop talking about what is happening, no spoilers from here on out..

Some stories work wonderfully in audiobook format, this is definitely one of those books.

Lets focus on the Narration and writing as the final part of this review...

Errin Stevens writes with such flair and a wealth of imagination. Parts of the story reflect real world day to day problems while other parts are more fantasy and they are merged seamlessly.

The narrator Sean Posvistak is absolutely fantastic! He blends characters talking along with the storytelling without any awkward pauses. It felt like he was reading to me and acting out the narrative at the same time.

I received this audiobook as part of my participation in a blog tour with Audiobookworm Promotions. The tour is being sponsored by Errin Stevens. The gifting of this audiobook did not affect my opinion of it.

Addison Carmichael says

What do I think? For one--I wish I were a mermaid!! I mean, a "siren" (actually I love that term). There was a lot packed in this novel that could have easily been broken out and expanded into a few different ones. But the main love story with Kate and Gabrielle was absolutely adorable from the start, and riveting at the end. Without giving spoilers, the true excitement begins halfway after they "bond", and Kate is pursued by a siren prince obsessed with her, as well as Gabe's response to it. I so much want to tell you, but you'll just have to buy the book to find out (LOL)! There's a teaser at the end that makes me eager for the sequel, and you can be certain I'm getting it right away. Highly recommend for all ages--nothing inappropriate for young teens, but still interesting for adults. Awesome read!

Tricia says

UPDRIFT BY: ERRIN STEVENS

Updrift wasn't exactly what I was expecting, but it was still an enjoyable read. I guess I was expecting a little more action and fantasy in this book, and while it did ultimately deliver on both of these, it did take quite some time to really do so. BUT where these elements were lacking in the first half or so of the story, there was really strong character and relationship development. In my opinion this was probably the strongest element in this story. So while it wasn't quite what I was expecting, I still enjoyed the journey to get to the parts I was anticipating. I think there was a lot of exploration into coming of age, falling in love, being a friend, a daughter, a mother, an aunt, basically the whole family dynamic in general. Stevens develops and nurtures each relationship with a lot of time and care, and I appreciate that.

Once we got more into the fantasy elements of the story, I found it quite interesting. I really liked that the men (Sirens) were the feature here. I feel like so often with "mermaids" we are getting the female take on them, so it was nice to see Stevens' version with the Sirens taking the lead.

I liked the idea of them as a generally peaceful and devoted race. The fact that they mate for life was a sweet touch. I really enjoyed seeing a little of their home in the sea and their customs. Although I feel like there is a lot that could still be done with that aspect of the story. I had really high hopes for the world building here, but I feel as if there could have been more there. I would really love to see this world be expanded upon in the next book. I think that would take these books to a whole new level. All in all I enjoyed this book. I am looking forward to seeing what the next book, Breakwater holds in store!

?Tamara says

Adorable story!

Kate and her mother Cara are new in town in moving after her father's death. She immediately be friends a young boy named Gabe. The circumstances in which they met or a bit hazy. Nevertheless they become lifelong friends. Having grown up together they eventually become adults and fall in love which pleases everyone around them. But there's just one problem... Gabe is hiding a very big family secret. One that could definitely rock the waves in the ocean of Kate's life.

This book was great but I did find a few issues with it. Let me address those real quick:

The beginning of the book is very difficult to follow and develop a straight timeline. I think when they first arrived Kate was 5 years old. As she grew older we revisit the story when she turned 17. But I could be wrong. But you do not actually learn that Kate is indeed 17 years old until chapter 6. Before then it seems like a little bit of a guessing game. Perhaps a little fine-tuning on the beginning of this book would help the reader to understand a lot better.

There are characters that seem to pop up out of nowhere at times and have not been introduced or developed or don't get those two until later in the book. It would be great if when the characters are being introduced that we get a little backstory on who they are and how they relate to the main characters we already know. I have found a few grammatical and punctuation errors in the book as well. Re-editing this book would definitely be a good idea.

All these points aside, the story was absolutely adorable. I really enjoyed reading this coming of age fantasy novel. The ups and downs in the story are written almost perfectly. The characters are believable, even being set in fantasy, and very relatable. Great praise to Errin Stevens for weaving such an intriguing web that pulls you right in for a nice little swim with a siren.

After errors the are fixed, I would definitely recommend this book to everyone.

Sherry Fundin says

YAY! Mermaids! Love mermaids and the cover, so reading this is a no brainer. I immediately thought of

Splash, only in reverse, the girl 'falls' in the water and falls in love with the 'boy'. I'm hooked.

Updrift by Errin Stevens is Kate's life from the time she is five years old to adulthood. I love seeing her grow and develop from an introverted nerd, to a strong, determined woman with desires that will not be denied and one who knows the difference between right and wrong and will step up.

After the death of her father, Kate and her mother move from Kansas to Griffin Bay, North Carolina for a fresh start.

Kate is confused about all the secrecy surrounding her and the push for her to fill her days with tons of schoolwork, an internship, and little to no socializing, especially with Gabe. And Gabe? And, now that they were meeting after being kept apart for so long, is he still interested in her? Were they being kept apart on purpose...And, what now?

Kate and Gabe do not sense the danger coming their way, but I do and I fear for them. What could they do, even if they knew?

I love all things in their mer world. They have their own set of rules and customs, but there are those who think changes need to be made. After all, it is the 21st century.

I haven't read a book quite like Updrift and Errin Stevens' mer world had me thinking, hey can I play too? Who wouldn't want to swim with the fishes...in a good way?

I loved it and if you love mermaids as much as I do, this is one you want on your reading list. I want more, and thank goodness I have Breakwater, the second book in The Mer Chronicles waiting for me on my Kindle. As a matter of fact, I cannot wait and will begin...NOW.

I voluntarily reviewed a free copy of Updrift by Errin Stevens.

See more at [fundinmental](#)

MrPinkInk Jacques de Villiers says

"Use the term siren, please," he begged. "I always picture myself in drag when I hear mermaid, and I'm not very pretty." He shuddered.

This is my favourite line in the book.

I have wanted to read Updrift ever since I met Erri on Instagram over a year ago and I honestly have to say that I absolutely loved this story! It's exciting, it's new and fresh and it has all the feels!!

I have nothing bad to say about this book. Sure, part 1 is a little slow but it's not boring or dull in any way. There's humour, drama, suspense; and the romance! Oh, I wish some guy would sweep me off my feet like Gabe does with Kate... sigh.

I have heard a lot of people compare this with The Little Mermaid, and though it has references to TLM, it is a completely new take on mermaids - for me, anyway; I haven't read many mermaid stories - which is very refreshing.

Errin is an amazing person which is carried through in her book. Her writing style consists of long sentences, almost paragraph like, but it is similar to the way I think so the words just flowed; I couldn't read this book fast enough!

Character development is amazing and the world building is extremely good!

I give Updrift a stupendous 4 1/2 stars and I highly recommend this book to everyone.

Thank you, Errin, for writing such a beautiful story; I will cherish it forever!

Danica (The Hogsmeade Reader) says

A copy was given to me in exchange for an honest review.

As much as I wanted to like this book, it was quite disappointing.

The story's premise was interesting, yes. That's what made me want to read it in the first place, but the story was dragging. I put it down one too many times, even considered DNFing it, but decided not to. After ignoring it again and again, I gave it another go.

I finished it, but it still didn't change my opinion about it.

The pacing was slow.

The characters didn't really leave that much mark on me.

But, I'd say that the story was interesting enough for me to keep reading it until the end.

Casey Ann Books says

If any of you guys know my bookish taste, you would know I love a great mermaid novel, and Uplift is one amazing one.

An intense romance to end all romances. Updrift is a very original story. The "rules" in mermaid novels are completely different from the "rules" in this novel! and that's why this book is very unique. Mermaids and Sirens everywhere it's awesome. The relationships in this novel were INTENSE! Like SO intense and I loved every minute of it. I loved Gabe and Kate's relationship! Errin has written them so wonderfully and I was on the edge of my seat through out!

You can defiantly see the love and care Errin has put into this novel! I think it's descriptive and effective. Erin has created word images so vivid that it is almost like watching a movie. She takes you for a romp through the beautiful ocean as Kate navigates her way home, everything will have changed for her - what she feels, what she wants and what she'll wish to be with the man she loves. It had my heart racing and had me excited from beginning to end.

Brightness says

Well this was the book to get me out of my reading slump. I started Updrift and found it beyond difficult to ever put it down.

Other than Han's Christian Anderson's *The Little Mermaid*, I haven't ventured much into the waters of siren mythology. So I found the modern take on the folklore of *Updrift* to be fascinating and refreshing.

The romance here is spot on. I found myself riding the waves of sexual tension with pleasure. And the intrigue kept me turning pages far into the night.

Beautifully written, *Updrift* has been one of my favorite reads this year and my hands are itching for the sequel.

Zaide says

With so few mermaid tales out there I was thrilled to discover *Updrift*, even more so when I realized that the mermaid's in the book were actually the guys – or *Siren's* I should say.

The story is simple enough, Kate and her mum move to a new town where they both form strong bonds with a couple of the local men. The book then follows them through many years and life changing events. For me, this is where a lot of my issues with *Updrift* lay.

When the story begins Kate is just six years old. The first part of the book (which is about half of it) then quickly follows her as she ages to twenty-one. With it covering so much time so quickly it felt a little like it was rushing through her life, mentioning life altering events like weddings and new career's as though they were simply choices of what to wear.

Some pretty big things happen in the space of just a few pages and Kate barely reacts to them. This was another sticking point for me, Kate didn't react to things the way you would realistically expect someone to. Her reaction to Gabe's big secret and the consequences of it was completely left field for me, she didn't have even a shred of doubt or stop to really consider what this decision would mean for her life and her future, she just dived in head first. Books like *Twilight* get a lot of stick for Bella being hopelessly in love with Edward to the point where she makes reckless decisions solely based on her feelings for him and that is so much worse in *Updrift*. At least in *Twilight* Bella spent time in Edward's world and truly understood what her future was going to be like with him, In *Updrift* Kate makes her commitment with minimal knowledge and only her desire to be with Gabe driving her. This isn't the kind of role model I want for young women this age. (view spoiler).

I won't go too much into my feelings about Kate as I think it's already clear that I didn't really care for her. She was pleasant enough but she didn't think things through and she seemed blinded by her affection for Gabe. She studied immensely hard to get her degree a year early and to secure a great job and then was happy to just give all that up for him. (view spoiler)

In terms of the other characters, Gabe was actually ok. He grew on me throughout the book and though he too was a little irresponsible he was better than Kate and of the pair his were the only feelings I truly believed in, I actually felt like he did care for her. Outside of the two main characters there was a whole range of side characters, from each of their families, and all seemed to have their own mini storylines going on that made the plot a little messy and made it hard for me to connect well with a lot of the characters. (view spoiler)

I've been very critical of several aspects of this book so far but I will go as far as to say that the writing was very enjoyable. Errin has a very smooth style and it gave the book a fresh and modern feel. Her ideas on the culture of the Sirens were very original and I would've loved to have seen more of this in the book. I know

that there is a sequel, *Breakwater*, where the main character appears to be aware of the Sirens so perhaps this one will be set more in their world.

The paperback itself is also beautifully illustrated and each chapter is headed by a picture of a shell which I found to be quite a nice touch.

In terms of the ending, it is very much a HEA which follows the only real portion of angst in the book. For me, I wasn't too keen on the storyline involving Peter. It felt a little bit out of the blue, almost like it was added as an afterthought as a way to inject some drama into the plot. That being said, there was a nice section afterwards which felt more like an epilogue to me than the actual epilogue and it tied things up for Kate and her family very nicely.

I have tried to be as honest as I can when reviewing this and it isn't my intention to deter anyone from giving *Updrift* a try. All I wanted to do was highlight some of the issues I had with it and explain why they affected my enjoyment. I always struggle when writing fairly critical reviews because it's always in the back of my mind that this is someone's work and they've poured their heart into it. In no way am I saying that *Updrift* isn't a good book, but unfortunately it just didn't work for me personally.

So, would I recommend this to anyone? Yes, if you're a fan of mermaid tales and if the things I've mentioned above don't seem like deal breakers for you then why not grab yourself a copy and see how you feel, you might thoroughly enjoy it!

Jay G says

Want to see more bookish things from me? Check out my YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfer...>

2.5 Stars

VIDEO REVIEW: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wR8h7...>

After the passing of Kate Sweeting's father when she was 3, her mother, Cara, has never been the same. They decide to move from Kansas down to the shores where they meet the mysterious Blake family. After a many years of living down at the shores, Cara finds the man of her dreams. Kate is happy for her mother's new found happiness, but after a while, she feels that her mother is hiding things from her and she wants to get to the bottom of it. Kate immediately turns to the mysterious Blake family for answers, but no one will give her any. That is until Gabe Blake, her lifelong friend, brings her into his world, a world full of sirens and mermaids. But Kate is in danger and its going to take everything in her to make it home to her family before everything changes.

I found the book to be to slow paced for me at the beginning but by the last 100 pages, it became more interesting. Once the action started, I did enjoy the story a lot more. I loved the mother-daughter relationship between Cara and Kate, it was very easy to feel the love between the two. I also found the book a little confusing until things began to be revealed about half way through the book. I like how the book was broken into 3 separate parts. Part One focused on the back story of Kate and Gabe meeting, part 2 turned to the romance and part 3 focused on the mystery and suspense of the novel. I really liked Peter's character and thought that his character was very well done. I really liked the ending of the novel because I didn't see the ending coming at all, which was very refreshing!

I liked how the author chose to create her own 'rules' for the Siren community that I haven't seen in other mermaid stories. I liked learning all the things that the Sirens were able to do and the different ceremonies and values they held. It was refreshing and an interesting new take on the mythical creature. One complaint I have is the dialogue... I found it to be annoying how often the characters used each other's names to address each other because in my opinion, this does not occur in every day life in the real world. This is a personal preference and it may not bother other people as much as it bothers me. Otherwise, I did enjoy the characters and how they grew up through out the story. PLUS NO INSTA-LOVE HURRAH!!!

I received this book as part of a vlog tour in exchange for my honest opinion

Chez says

First I want to thank Errin Stevens for sending me a review copy of Updrift!

I found this book quite difficult to get into in the beginning.

We start off with Kate being a child and moving with her mother to a new town. We got a taste of her home life and her family. I really enjoyed the beginning, but I found it very fast paced. This wasn't necessarily a bad thing, although it made it hard to focus. A lot of things were happening very quickly after each other. A hundred pages covered 17 years in Kate's life. Because of this I didn't really connect with the characters until everything began slowing down. I did like them, I just didn't form a bond with them like I wanted to.

When the second part of the story started, it began to slow down and I started to see more of the relationships the characters had built. In the speed-through of Kate's life I didn't see that very much. I knew the relationships were there I just couldn't focus on them.

That being said I did really enjoy how the characters were with each other. Especially Kate and her mom. They had a natural understanding and were there of the other. They didn't fight like a lot of teenagers and parents in books do, but they were happy and made the book so much cuter!

The characters were overall just really relatable. I know a lot of characters are, but these were people I could see walking down the street across from me. None of them were overly achieving and I found myself enjoying the smallest things.

The storyline was interesting. It was simple but effective. I was impressed by the way the plot was worked out. The twists that were put in the tales of sirens and their ways were really good blended with not only the stories, but the real world.

I do admit that I was confused at some points but quickly picked back up and understood when I read further. I found Errin's writing style very refreshing. It made you flow through the book as if you were one of the characters, and not just reading about them.

I recommend this book to people who want to read something cute and lovable, but still magical!

Candes says

Warning - harsh, maybe brutal I really wanted to like this book. Bottom line, I felt like this was an info dump. It was the prime example writers are told NOT to do... show not tell. I felt shoved through this story as fast as Kate's hijacked life set by her mother and Gabe's mother. Brutal, I know. Snobbish? Most certainly.

I always try to find the good in stories and there were glimmers of hope sprinkled about but not seized upon. As a reader I was told about dialogue but not made a part of. I was told how Kate wanted to stay home and raise a child but let's check off that obligation to feminism box that she owed it to the universe to do SOMETHING with her degree. Everything was predictably tied up pretty little tidy bows. That's not realistic. Where was the romance? Gabe liked Kate A LOT (towards the end it showed but too late) Kate liked Gabe... enough to NOT even been tempted in high school or college when she was forcibly kept away from him. Gabe didn't seem to struggle with the separation and if he did we were told by Gabe ... that he did. "Oh hey, I'm a mermaid." "Nice. Let's spend the rest of our lives together." I didn't feel a part of this story. Maybe book two shows her writing evolving but I will never know. I think this could have been a decent book. There's some great ideas here, a touch of magic, but they didn't make it past the outline stage. Loved the ceremony when a siren dies. Beautiful concept. Ok 'nuff said. So, I'll shut up and start writing my own dern mermaid story.

Rebecca Reagan says

I received this book for free through a Goodreads Giveaway in exchange for an honest review.

It had a rough start for me... But to be fair I started reading it during Christmas week and was in and out of it with family distractions.

It felt much more fluid about halfway through. I loved the deep romance that the sirens experience and the magics they possess. I had been craving a mermaid novel and was pleased to find one that wasn't toooo young and fluffy.

All in all, it was a nice story. =)
