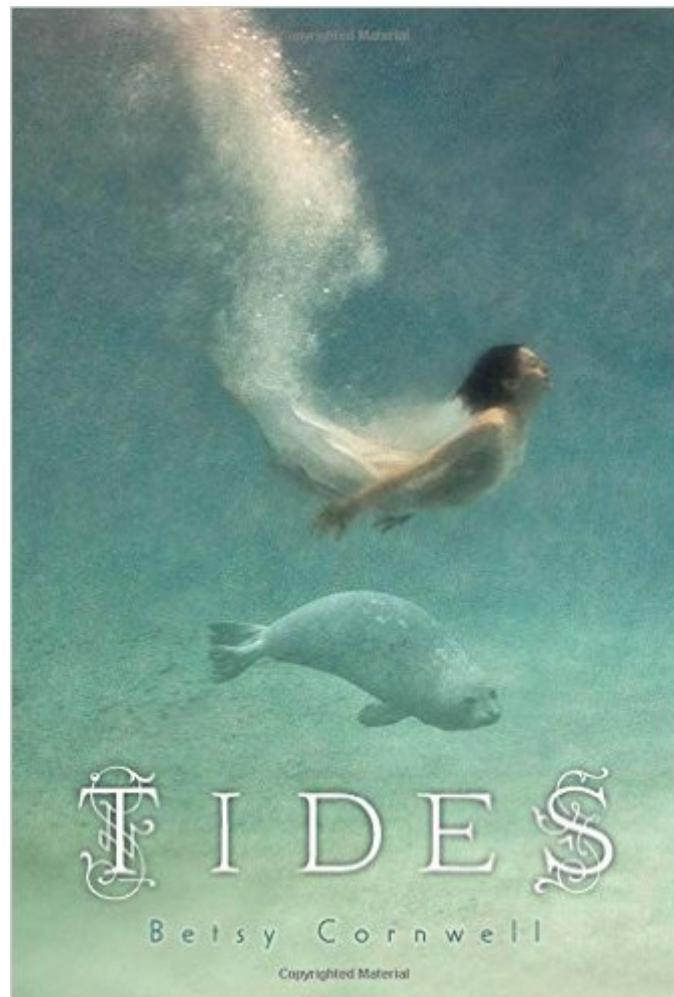


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# Tides



## **Synopsis**

When high school senior Noah Gallagher and his adopted teenage sister, Lo, go to live with their grandmother in her island cottage for the summer, they don't expect much in the way of adventure. Noah has landed a marine biology internship, and Lo wants to draw and paint, perhaps even to vanquish her struggles with bulimia. But then things take a dramatic turn for them both when Noah mistakenly tries to save a mysterious girl from drowning. This dreamlike, suspenseful story, "deftly told from multiple points of view," dives deeply into selkie folklore while examining the fluid nature of love and family.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books (June 4, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054792772X

ISBN-13: 978-0547927725

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (51 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,700,091 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Adoption #478 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Other #506 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

When Noah scores an internship at the Marine Science Research Center, he is thrilled. The director is one of his heroes. He and his sister, Lo, move in with their grandmother for the summer. Soon, Noah befriends one of the locals, a pretty dark-haired girl named Mara. But Mara's not just any teenager - she is a selkie, a seal that can transform into a human by removing her skin. She's not the only one, either; she lives with her pod in the ocean surrounding the islands. Five years ago, a member of the pod disappeared, and ever since their leader has insisted the selkies stay away from humans. But Mara, insatiably curious about the human world and attracted to Noah, just can't stay

away. This book throws a lot of teen issues into the narrative: dealing with loss after a loved one disappears, bulimia/eating disorders, same-sex relationships, and the usual range of coming of age angst and first relationship drama. Even human trafficking makes a sort of appearance. Trouble is, there's so much being thrown at the reader that not everything is explored adequately. For example, early on in the book it is revealed that the grandmother is in a committed relationship with a younger woman. Her grandchildren just smile and nod and say, "Oh, I'm glad you're not lonely." Granted, maybe kids are more mature these days, but the fact that neither child was like, "But what about Grandpa?" or "How could you keep such a secret from us?" just didn't feel realistic. In fact, I was hoping that at some point the grandmother would deal with her relationship with her husband, especially after it was revealed that she and the woman had been in love since their teens. Did she marry her husband so that she could travel the world, and if not, how did she feel about him? What was their relationship like?

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