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Air And Ash: TIDES Book 1



Synopsis

Master and Commander meets Sarah J Maas in a seafaring adventure of duty, love, magic, and a princess's quest to protect her kingdom on her own terms. After a lifetime of training, seventeen-year-old Princess Nile Greysik, a lieutenant on the prestigious Ashing navy flagship, sails into battle with one vital mission and fails. Barred from the sea and facing a political marriage, Nile masquerades as a common sailor on the first ship she can find. With a cowardly captain, incompetent crew, and a cruel, too-handsome first officer intent on making her life a living hell, Nile must hide her identity while trying to turn the sorry frigate battleworthy. Worse, a terrifying and forbidden magic now tingles in Nile's blood. If anyone catches wind of who Nile is or what she can do, her life is over. But when disaster threatens the ship, Nile may have no choice but to unleash the truth that will curse her future. AIR AND ASH is the thrilling first installment of the TIDES series. Recommended for fans of Sarah J. Maas, Tamora Pierce, and David Weber.

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Customer Reviews

I really liked Cadet of Tildor and was so happy to hear that Alex has written a new series. Nile Ash is

one tough, kick-ass princess and girl. She loves the sea (just like Moana!- sorry, I just had to add that in here :D) and will have to hide her real identity in order to survive on a cruel war ship. Nile must learn to trust herself, when she discovers that she is gifted, which is hard to do when you are on ship in the middle of the ocean, just trying to fit in with the other sailors. Gifted people are people who can attract one of the five elements (fire, metal, stone, air, and water), however, there are huge side effects to being gifted, which can kill you if you are not careful and learn to control your gift. Not everything is fully explained about the gifted in this book- I think because a lot of people are still unsure about the gifted people, and it adds a sense of mystery to plot. There is romance in this novel, and it's one of my favorite kinds of romances- "hate than love" romances. Nile and a certain first officer are always at odds with each other. Their constant bantering and fighting about everything on the ship, creates the perfect sexual tension in the novel. It was a slow burning romance- so we didn't really get any action until the end BUT it was awesome and I definitely look forward to the next book for some more secret steamy scenes. Another little bonus to this romance- is the forbiddance| there cannot be any relations between officers and sailors on the ship, it's against the law. I love the pacing of this novel- there was plenty of action and sailing. I think it would be so cool to live on an old ship like the ones in this novel| but then I remind myself that I would probably die from some disease because the ships are usually crowded and not clean. Now back to my actual review... I would have liked to see more background details on the other kingdoms. I think some of that can get boring to read but I felt like I needed a couple more references to really solidify how different each kingdom was. I love a great novel with ships, sailing and pirates| (no pirates in this novel- but certainly a rebelling empire haha). I would recommend this book to anyone who likes Bloody Jack series by L.A. Meyer, Pirates! by Celia Rees, To Catch A Pirate by Lorraine Heath, and to anyone who like fantasy adventure stories! This book did end with a cliffhanger| but that just makes me want to read the sequel even more! Alex Lidell delivers another exciting YA sea-faring adventure with a dash of romance and magic!!

From the moment I finished the prequel novella, I needed to get my hands on this book. I was stuck in a major reading rut and this and my reread of the ACOTAR series by Sarah J Maas are the only books I've been able to read with ease for the past few months! Lidell has a writing style that I very much enjoy, and she weaves a fun and heart pounding tale in this first installment of the Tides series. Nile is not your typical princess and I loved her character. She was well balanced and flawed. Incredibly realistic. The other characters too, were lovable or loathable (respective to what they

were intended to be), but all felt natural and not exaggerated. The world building is so subtle yet feels so thorough and not overbearing. Over all I was incredibly impressed with the level of detail in the ship scenes, which account for most of the book's setting. It was not my favorite ending of all time, but sets up for book two very well and I cannot wait to pick it up and rejoin Nile on her quest.

This book was down right out of this world. I had it read in a day and I can't wait for the next book. The opening sucks you in, captures you and you have no choice but to continue reading. Ash is a wildcat. She's know her trade, her skills and she trust her instincts. She is a sailor to the core, and being one myself I was thoroughly impressed with the ranking, the terms and the structure. You can tell right from the start a lot of research was put into this book, to make it as authentic as possible. The setting and the world building was fascinating. I wasn't lost, I had a clear picture, and there wasn't any extra filler or babble to take away from the plot. I would have liked for Ash's mother to have a bit more screen time. The little bit that she is in, was intriguing and I wanted to know more about the Queen. You can tell that she truly cares for her daughter, even if Ash doesn't quite see it herself. The romance, was subtle but ever present. Ash though confident in her skills as a sailor, has none in the art of flirting or simply being a girl. She's awkward, feisty and doesn't know when to keep her mouth shut. I liked her from the start, she's a sold heroine, she doesn't back down, and I believe she will not stand by a watch as her friends become targets. Domenic, hot, hot, Domenic. Need I say more? Sure at times I didn't quite like his attitude, but as I said, I'm a sailor, I know rank systems and the importance of chain of command. I couldn't fault him, if my guys were that sloppy, I'd have them on extra duties in a heart beat. He's trying to be a leader, when his captain is undermining him and not actually leading his ship. I believe that captain should have a unfortunate accident... just saying.. I also very much enjoyed Catsper. He was the no nonsense kind of guy, that and he told it straight, but he'll have your back as long as you have his. He's also quite hot, swoon worthy. He basically becomes Ash's first allies, and soon friend. I love how he taught Ash how to fight. He wasn't gentle about it, and it was amusing to read. I hope he has more screen time in the next book and helps Ash and Domenic with the sh** storm that's coming their way. I highly recommend this book, the high seas, magic, war, blood and a hidden princess. It's like Christmas in a cup. This dangerous adventure will have you trapped, on edge, and have you rooting for the disgruntled princess and the vicious first mate. Happy Reading E.A. Walsh

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