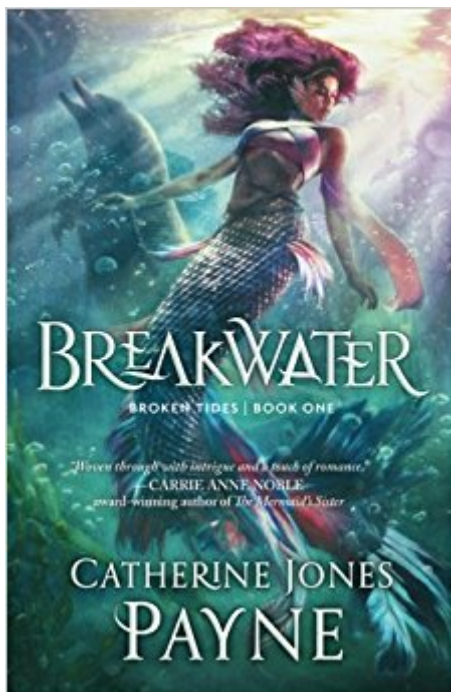


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# Breakwater (Broken Tides) (Volume 1)



## Synopsis

A red tide is rising. As the daughter of one of the mer-king's trusted advisors, seventeen-year-old Jade has great responsibilities. When her fiancé murders a naiad, plunging the underwater city of Thessalonike into uproar, tensions surge between the mer and the naiads. Jade learns too late that the choices she makes ripple further than she'd ever imagined. And as she fights against the tide of anger in a city that lives for scandal, she discovers danger lurking in every canal, imperiling her family and shattering the ocean's fragile peace. Can the city's divisions be mended before the upwelling of hate rips apart everything Jade loves?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A compelling story about helping others at great personal cost. With artful world-building, skillful dialogue, and a powerful message, Breakwater is a book you can immerse yourself in with an ending you won't believe." -New York Times bestselling author Tosca Lee "Breakwater has it all: a lifelike merworld, political intrigue, emotional wreckage, and--of course--murder. My only disappointment is having to wait for the sequel!" -Carol Award-winning author Nadine Brandes "Action. Romance. Political intrigue. And it all happens underwater. In Breakwater, Catherine Jones Payne combines the courage of youth with the polish of a seasoned professional in this stunning debut." -award-winning author Ben Wolf "Woven through with intrigue and a touch of romance." -Carrie Anne Noble, award-winning author of The Mermaid's Sister

Catherine Jones Payne is a Seattle native who loves the written word, international travel, crashing waves, and good coffee. Her earliest memory involves pulling up a rolling chair to her parents' old DOS computer while wearing a tiara, naturally, and tapping out a story of kidnapped princesses. By day she's the managing editor of Quill Pen Editorial and the editor of Splickety Magazine. She lives in Waco, TX with her historian husband, Brendan, and their cats, Mildred and Minerva.

I have had the honor of working with Ms. Jones Payne as a developmental editor for my last two novels, so I was most excited to read her upcoming young-adult mermaid mystery. Part enchanting, underwater fantasy; part courtroom drama; and part social exploration, I found this tale wonderfully charming and kept turning the pages to find what would happen next. I didn't expect to tear through it so quickly, but I couldn't put it down! Also, this book provides an approachable way to discuss the issues of prejudice and privilege (gender, class, and species) with a YA audience. I love that, and I admire that the author executes such a sensitive conversation without the trappings of appropriation or preachiness. Well done. I enjoyed *Breakwater* a lot and look forward to learning what happens next in the depths (pardon my language) of the sea.

Can I just pretend for a moment that I'm fifteen and I just discovered *Breakwater* by Catherine Jones Payne? Because, if I can? I'm gonna SQUEEEEE! Like a kid. I don't even care! See? I'm the girl who wanted to be a mermaid when I grew up. Imagine a young girl, sitting in a conservative, strict, Christian school. The kind that thinks fantasy is wrong, Star Wars is occultic and, well, Mermaids? Half-naked figments of Disney's imagination. The teacher had handed out papers for us to fill out with the statement, "When I grow up, I'd like to be." Yep, I'm the slightly odd girl who wore glasses and had her head in the clouds. The bookish girl who already struggled to fit in.

I'm being the rather outcast booknerd that I am and answered: "A Mermaid." Yes, a parent-teacher meeting was scheduled. I guess they thought that a six-year-old in a Christian school should have answered like the other little girls and said things like nurse and missionary. I mean, I'm totally not putting down those other kids for their inspirational goals but I just wanted to be a mermaid. This book is meant for Young Adults and I saw some reviews that sort of picked apart the antagonist for being shallow. Truth is? I get it. Yes, people of all ages can be shallow. As I already stated, I was a bit of an outcast, I understand how these so-called mean girls act. But, I understand how people change, they evolve. Jade was a product of her society. She had

been taught to fear the Naiad and I can understand her internal struggle. The important thing is that she put aside societal prejudices and chose to do what she felt was right. Sure, she was a little spoiled and maybe she couldn't relate with the Naiad as well as she thought. But, she took the steps (err, she swam?) towards becoming a better person. And, I think that counts for something. The only reason I'm giving this a four-star rating instead of five is that I wanted to get to know the characters more. Jade and I have an understanding but I didn't get very well acquainted with the supporting cast. Jade's mom, her friends, and her love interests—these are characters I would have liked to have bonded with on a deeper level. A complimentary copy of this book was provided by Netgalley. I was not required to write a positive review, and have not been compensated for this. All opinions are my own.

Jade is a 17-year-old mermaid who lives in the underwater city of Thessalonike. Her mother is the a trusted advisor of the mer-king, and Jade's family is upper-class and privileged. When Jade's fiancé, Tor, murders a naiad, the resulting unrest puts Jade's family in danger and threatens the well-being of Thessalonike. Jade is faced with making decisions for the greater good that will result in her making sacrifices. Breakwater is enjoyable, well-written and imaginative. I like mermaid stories, and admit I love Disney's The Little Mermaid. However, there is more to this story than a young mermaid falling in love with a human and living happily ever after. There are relevant themes of political intrigue, prejudice and helping others. Jade is a likeable character, and I like how she grows, deals with her own prejudices and decides to do the right thing. I also love Jade's relationship with Kiki, her dolphin. I would recommend Breakwater.

There is so much to love about this book. The cover--The world building--The fearless way the author tackles political issues. I was captivated the moment I saw the cover and knew I had to read it. I wasn't disappointed. Although my background on mermaid fiction rests firmly in Disney, I was surprised and thrilled in the new direction this author takes us. The world is vivid, built up by descriptions that pull you into each scene. It's obvious the author took time thinking about the world, the nuances, and realities of living as a mer or naiad. That dedication resulted in a page turning novel that is gripping and memorable.

Breakwater is a great mermaid book! It kept my attention from page one and was pretty unputdownable to the very end. There's a lot of intrigue and suspense as a war brews between two

resses- the Mer ad the Naiads who serve them. There's a touch of romance, but the book doesn't really focus as much on it as the intricacies of Mer life, royal espionage, and one girl doing everything she can to protect those around her- no matter the cost. The world-building and character development are excellent. I was sucked into and underwater world I never could have dreamed of. All in all, this is a great book.

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