



## Over Raging Tides

*Jennifer Ellision*

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The pirate crew of the Lady Luck lives by many rules, but chief among them is this: they do not allow men on board.

That's a rule that quartermaster Grace Porter is willing to break when a shipwrecked young nobleman offers her information of an omniscient map, stolen from his warship by an enemy vessel. Until now, the map was only the stuff of legend... but with its help, Grace may finally be able to hunt down the Mordgris, the sea monsters who stole her mother away from her.

Unfortunately, some members of her crew have other plans...

To find the map and face the Mordgris, Grace will have to confront her past, put the Luck between warring nations, and uncover treachery aboard the ship. And ultimately, her revenge and the destruction of the Mordgris will come at a hefty price: the betrayal of her crew.

Grace promised them they wouldn't regret this.

She just isn't sure that she won't.

## Over Raging Tides Details

Date : Published March 20th 2018

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Author : Jennifer Ellision

Format : Kindle Edition 239 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Adventure, Pirates, Young Adult

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## From Reader Review Over Raging Tides for online ebook

### Lea (drumsofautumn) says

Over Raging Tides was a super fun and quick pirate story but nothing that blows you away.

I am a sucker for pirate stories. When it's pirate stories about all female crews, I get even more excited. So I really couldn't wait to pick up Over Raging Tides and overall I was not disappointed.

I loved that we had a crew of different kind of women. Some were kind and soft, while others were just as ruthless as we expect a pirate to be.

But **I don't think that any of the characters stood out.** There's no character in here, not even the main character, that is very memorable. And this could've thrived on being a character driven story as there's some interesting personalities but we only scratched the surface. There's not really anyone in here that I truly care for.

There's **several queer side characters** and it seems like, at least when it comes to the crew of the Lady Luck, there's no heteronormativity, which was incredibly joyful to read. It would be super cool to see some mention of a less binary spectrum as far as sexuality goes and/or a trans-character introduced. The world seems to really offer a perfect place for it.

The world building wasn't exactly bad but I simply don't know enough about it. I don't really understand the creatures that had a pretty big role in this story. The storyline was entertaining but overall my biggest gripe with this is that **it was just too short.**

And while this ends on an immense cliffhanger, I'm really not sure if I'm invested enough to continue. Knowing I have to wait for the sequel, I can't see myself still being interested in any of this by the time it comes out. This first book simply had an ending too open for my personal taste. I didn't yet get enough to know if I want more, if that makes any sense.

**Overall, if you really like pirate stories and like me, you just constantly crave them, I think this is definitely something you could pick up. It's not a groundbreaking story, but a fun and entertaining read.**

I definitely think it had much more potential and could've benefited a lot from 100 pages more.

*I received an ARC of this through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.*

*Pre-Read:* the series is literally called LADY PIRATES uhm heeeeloooooooooooooo

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### Aimee ♥ | Aimee, Always says

*Mistakes are far better teachers than rulers are.*

Here's the thing about this book: If you've never read a pirate YA book before, *Over Raging Tides* can be a

pretty great read to start you off! But if this isn't your first pirate read, you might not appreciate it as much.

Don't get me wrong: this book has a lot of strong suits, but there are times when it gets a bit obvious that this book is self-published. I'm not hating on self-published authors--I admire them so much--but the lack of editing becomes evident at some point, such as this example:

*[...] cowering boy, younger even than John Wesson cowers [...]*

### **REVIEW IN BULLET POINTS**

1. The pirate-y tone of the book wasn't over done, and was in fact really easy to get into! I kept turning pages because of how easy Ellison's words are to read. The language is quirky, but at the same time felt relaxed and flowed smoothly.
2. I found it hard to differentiate the side-characters since their personalities kind of blended in for me, but I loved the heroine! Grace was strong and fought for everything she believed in. She never let her crew members' lectures get into her system and stood her ground. She was also a badass fighter!
3. The fantasy aspect in here was interesting. We have the Mordgris, evil creatures who can take the shape of a human to trick you, so they can suck you in to the watery depths of the sea. I would love to see more of them in the sequel, which I'm sure we'll be getting.
4. The overall pacing was way too fast. We have a lot of descriptive, action-packed fight scenes, but the scenes with actual plot and story didn't get enough air-time.
5. I wish this book was longer! Like I mentioned with the characters and with the pacing, this book needed more time to develop on those aspects. Another hundred pages or so would've made this book a killer!

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**Ria &#x1f388; says**

A huge thank you to NetGalley and Jennifer Ellison for granting me access to a copy of this book. I am truly grateful. [It is an honor.](#)

Grace Porter is the quartermaster and first mate of the Lady Luck, their ship. Her mother was taken by hideous and dreadful monsters called the Mordgris when she was young. She still believes that her mother is alive but hidden where the Mordgris lives. One day, their ship encounters a shipwreck, only to find not treasure but men, the last thing their crew wants to see. On the brink of being devoured by the Mordgris, Grace finds herself saving a boy and his brother and taking them in, which is against their rules. After this, a chain of events start, not just for Grace but also for the Luck.

I like the concept of switching the stereotype of men being the usual pirates. This generation is about change, and being different and unique, standing out. This book just makes the right amount of different because it

beats certain stereotypes.

The fact that the origin of this concept was from watching a Pirates of the Caribbean movie adds a drop of awesomeness to the mix. Have you seen that cover? Amazing. *Pure beauty*.

Every chapter has something different and it relates to an article of the Lady Luck. The format was cool. I admired the writing style because it is comfortable and easy on the eyes, nothing too hard.

For me, I think that it lacks details or descriptions of the pirate world, just a little. I could imagine living the pirate life but something's missing. As for the characters, most characters are molded great but the supporting could've had more "book time." All of them are different in their own way and I want to be able to learn more about them because they all seem so interesting.

Some parts were predictable but some weren't what I expected. I felt bad about is the lack of pages. That ending left me wanting more. More action. More of the pirate-y life. It just screams a sequel. The book could've been much better if it was longer. Also... **I need more moments of my ship.**

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This book would give you: (lady) pirates, sea monsters, betrayal, a strong-willed heroine, an adorable relationship of a captain and her first mate, crew of lighthearted and fierce lady pirates, a protective love between two brothers, a few moments of betrayal, a budding romance, and perhaps some treasure. If you're up for all that and for a quick and fast-paced read, this book would be a good pick.

### **Elena (and the books) says**

Thanks a lot to the publisher and @NetGalley for allowing me to read this ARC in exchange for an honest review!

Over Raging Tides has everything I've always looked for in a book: pirates? Checked. Strong female characters? Checked. Adventure? Checked. Monstrous creatures? Checked!

I appreciated pretty much everything about the plot: the idea of an exclusively-female pirate crew is amazing, the Mordgris are one of the most frightening species of monsters I've ever read of, and Grace is very likeable, which, alas, is kinda of unusual when it comes to main characters.

Oh, and, despite what I feared, there's no instant love here.

So, why am I rating this with only 3 stars?

Because this book could have been *sooo* much better.

Leaving aside the not-so-refined writing, Over Raging Tides' main problem is the length: I've read the Kindle edition, but I strongly suspect that, once published, it won't exceed 300 pages, which are definitely not enough.

The story is full of action, but the world-building is basically non-existent, the secondary characters aren't as in-depth as they should be (yeah, we know who's the friend and who's the bad guy, but that's pretty much it), and the overall impression is OH GOD WHY IS ALL OF THIS HAPPENING SO FAST?

So, yeah, we could have used one hundred more pages (more or less) for a more thorough description of the world and the characters' personalities.

Anyway, I'm very willing to read the sequel: how could I not be, with an ending like *that* ?

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### **Sara ➤ Ink Is My Sword says**

Got an ARC of this, will be reading it soon, hopefully. <3

But Lady pirates!! Consider me in.

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### **Wol says**

Full review below. Review plus custom cocktail available at The Tome & Tankard Inn.

Over Raging Tides is one of my assigned SPFBO novels that I was super excited to read (I mean, just look at that cover, for a start!) I have always loved pirate stories – The Liveship Traders by Robin Hobb is one of my favorite trilogies ever, and I loved Treasure Island as a kid. This novel has all the trappings of a great pirate story – a ship inhabited exclusively by lady pirates, a protagonist haunted by her past, creepy sea monsters, a hunt for an elusive mythical treasure map, betrayal and treachery... the list goes on.

Gracie is a driven, single-minded protagonist preoccupied with the kidnapping (and possible death) of her mother at the hands of the Mordgris, unsettling sea monsters who can take on the appearance of their victims. She is Quartermaster of the Lady Luck, and has developed a close relationship with Captain Ilene, who acts as a stand-in mother figure – both are heavily invested in discovering the location of an enchanted treasure map. Ilene (and her fellow pirates) because of the incredible treasures the map is said to locate; Gracie, to track down the Mordgris and destroy them all. When they come across a wrecked war ship and two survivors clinging to the flotsam, it seems that they may have found a path to the mythical map that has eluded them for so long. There's just one problem – the survivors are men, and men are forbidden on the Lady Luck. They are brought on board at Grace's command, but this leads to all kinds of conflict and open revolt amongst the crew. Not to mention the fireworks between Grace and the haughty lordling she has rescued. Fun stuff.

Over Raging Tides is a fast-paced adventure with a solid structure and some excellent ideas. I enjoyed the diverse and sympathetic cast, the asides regarding the laws of the Lady Luck, and the general plot. However, it had some issues that diminished my enjoyment and reduced the novel to merely quite good where it could have been great. First and foremost was a lack of development. Gracie is the only character who receives a decent amount of character development, and this is a real shame because the entire cast had bags of potential. I think one reason for this is the first person PoV – we're placed inside Grace's head, giving us some insight as to what she's thinking and why. I think the novel would have benefited enormously from a Multi-PoV approach with Leo, Ilene and Celia, which would have rounded things out a great deal. This is also true of the worldbuilding – some details are mentioned in passing, but we're not given a whole lot to work with. For me one of the great pleasures of a pirate novel is in the descriptive prose – the smoky, seedy taverns, chaotic towns, wind billowing in sails, lungfuls of salt air, vivid background characters. All of this could have used some work, and I'd have preferred a longer book (ORT is 239 pages) that included more of this type of detail.

Overall I think Over Raging Tides is a somewhat sparse novel but with great potential, and Ellision is clearly

a talented writer. This is an enjoyable YA adventure that would make a great introduction to nautical/pirate fantasy for younger readers (around mid-teens would be most appropriate, due to some occasional swearing and coy sex references). Hopefully future entries will develop the world and characters further, as the concept is fabulous.

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### **Jennifer Ellison says**

Reread via audiobook review done! I am in love with my narrator... Audio edition coming soon~

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### **Georgina says**

?3.5 stars?

I'm confused by this book to be honest. I was hooked from the very start and read it in one sitting- I love a good pirate story- but it was just a bit lacking in some places, in ways I really don't think it needed to be. I thoroughly enjoyed the pirate focus- the all female crew; the morally grey elements of both the characters and the plot; the main character's affinity for the freedom of the ocean- and yet a lot of the actual writing and storyline was under-developed.

I'm a hugely character driven reader, and the characters in this were all a bit weak, to be honest. The book really is too short, there's no reason why the characters couldn't be much more fleshed out and explored, and it definitely meant that the whole thing suffered a bit. We saw the general role that characters fit- Ilene being Grace's mother figure, Sam being her friend, Leo being a potential love interest (I assume?? Again, it wasn't overly developed), Celia being sneaky and suspicious- but no one was really delved into that much, which resulted in people's actions and motivations seeming slightly unclear and random at times. Ilene could have easily ignored Grace's attempt to sneak off with the map, especially if she felt so truly miserable about losing her, and yet she didn't. Had the characters been more developed, it might have been obvious why Ilene did this, but since there wasn't, it just felt annoying. Leo and Grace were presumably attracted to each other, but I don't see why or how. They both flirt from the get-go, despite it really not being the time or place, and it's too rushed for their dynamic to become clear- although they *could* be quite cute if there was any clear explanation and real development for the reader to see.

Grace was the only one with any real backstory explained, and even she felt a bit vague. The elements of 'mystery' were intriguing and well written right up until the book ended, having given zero answers in preparation for explanations to presumably come in the next book. A move that I'm not overly impressed with. It's only 226 pages long, and yet it ends in a cliffhanger? *WHY??* It cuts off in what could easily be the middle of a book, and it just doesn't feel like a natural or necessary splitting up of the story- I don't see why there's any need for multiple books when it could have all just gone in one slightly longer book.

Another reason for elongating the book would be improving the world building, as there is very little of it. We're given phrases like 'the Eleven Seas', we're told in passing about the wars taking place, the Mordgris are a pivotal part of the plot, but none of these things are ever really expanded on beyond brief mentions. This book would really benefit from just slowing the pace a little bit (it felt quite rushed at times), developing the characters and the world some more, and just being edited a couple more times. There were a few things that contradicted themselves, errors in the plot that were so stupid and unnecessary- things that should have easily been spotted and changed, and yet for some reason weren't.

I endlessly adore books with the focus on pirates, and so female pirates? Even bloody better. I did really love that the crew was so diverse personality-wise, with some being kinder and gentler, some being more ruthless, all of them pirates and yet varying from the norm- I just wish it had been developed more!! That's all I want!! It has so much potential to be brilliant but it feels half finished and rushed. Since it ends with the (predictable as hell) cliffhanger, I suppose I'll probably still pick the next one up when it comes out as I really can't resist a pirate book. I really hope it holds a better pace and has more in depth explorations, but I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

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### **Jen ♥ Star-Crossed Book Blog♥ says**

**Over Raging Tides was completely consuming and so easy to devour!** The writing had an effortless feel to it, which I loved, and each of the characters stood out easily in my mind. So if you like books filled with adventure, mystery, strong women and a man who is so much more than first glance would seem, you definitely have to give this book a try!

**“Captain?” My voice is low, waiting for the order.**

**She grins. “Take it.”**

**Planks are thrown from our ship to theirs, and like animals loosed from a cage, we storm our way across.**

The Lady Luck was an all women's pirate ship. Grace was first mate and the captain of the ship was Captain Ilene. They had what felt like a mother-daughter relationship and I loved learning about their past. Two other woman captured my attention completely and they were Sam, who seemed like Grace's only true friend and Cecilia who wanted Grace's position. While sailing, they ran across a battle between two ships. And once it was over, The Lady Luck veered towards the loser to hunt for treasure. While searching for treasure Grace saved two brothers, a boy her age and his little brother, and brought them on the ship. Even though no men were allowed on The Lady Luck. And from there **an addicting path was torn and I couldn't help but be glued to the pages to see what was going to happen next.**

**He scuffs his foot against the deck, but doesn't have the cowardice to look away from me.**

**“You’re...pirates,” he says, shrugging.**

**“And?” I cross my arms, waiting for him to go on.**

**“And all we ever hear of pirates are the atrocities your kind commit. Theft, death...”**

**“We’re still human. We laugh. We cry. We love.”**

**“I see that now. But it would be easier if I could still think of you as a heartless lot.”**

I liked Grace from the start. She was a strong, brave woman and she took care of those she cared for. I loved that she was a hard worker and even if she didn't always show it, she had a lot of compassion in her heart. I could easily see Grace being a captain of her own ship someday. But when Grace found herself around Leo, the boy close to her age she rescued, we got to see a more playful side of her. **There was definitely something between them, but it was a slow burn and I'm hoping it will turn into more.** And while I quickly liked Leo, I still have so much to learn about him. I feel like we've only scratched the surface and I would have loved to get into his head or had more scenes between him and Grace. Especially since he turned into someone more than Grace or I expected.

**He’s bold, I think as I step away. Too bold. He goes from spoiled weakling to something**

**just this side of dangerous. And I'd prefer him to stay in the safe zone.**

Leo and his brother got to stay aboard the Lady Luck since he could help them find a map that would lead them to treasure. But nothing was simple and so many difficulties happened. **Between treasure maps, to a male pirate group and even the Mordgris, there was a lot of mysteries and it was fun to look for all of the clues.** And while I have some guesses for how it will all pan out, I love that I'm still left unsure if I'm right. Especially in regards to the Mordgris. They were sea creatures who seemed bent on death and had abilities that were terrifying. They could easily haunt ones nightmares.

**“Do you mind the company?” Leo asks.**

**I grin, tossing him a wink so he knows I’m joking when I say, “I think I can stand the company of a spoiled nobleman. That is, if you’re not terrified to be in such close proximity to a pirate.”**

**His eyes, warm with an emotion that sets a fire to light in me, rove my body. “I think I’ll manage somehow.”**

**Over Raging Tides was filled with excitement and intrigue and I devoured this book.** When I reached that last page, I couldn't help laughing and covering my face because it ended on a huge cliffhanger. So I can't wait to see what happens next, I'm very excited for what the future holds!

*\*I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book, provided by the author. All thoughts and opinions are my own.\**

*For more of my reviews, please visit:*

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**? Garima ? says**

We are getting lots of pirate ladies this season!

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**Mandie says**

I was super excited to read this book! It really kept my interest, but I was hoping for so much more! It didn't really have that ooomph to bring it over the edge.

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**Shelley says**

\*Source\* NetGalley

\*Genre\* Young Adult, Fantasy

\*Rating\* 3.5-4

\*Thoughts\*

Over Raging Tides is the first installment in author Jennifer Ellision's Lady Pirates series. Onboard the Lady Luck, Grace Porter is both Quartermaster and First Mate under Captain Ilene. Onboard the Lady Luck, there are no loyalties to Kings, or Queens. It is also a ship that is filled with women pirates. The twist? "No man shall board this ship." However, after stumbling upon a wrecked warship & searching for treasure, Grace makes the choice to save survivors Leo and his younger brother John from the horrible monsters known as Mordgris.

\*Full Review @ Gizmo's Reviews\*

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

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### **Alice-Elizabeth (marriedtobooks) says**

I was part of the promotional blog tour for this book, head over to my blog to see the full post as well as enter in... Two giveaways!: <https://marriedtobooksreviewsandblog....>

Over Raging Tides is a fast-paced pirate adventure with great dialogue and an interesting plotline. The main character Grace breaks the rules in a bid to find out the truth about her past, doing this however, could result in the worst possible consequences with confronting her crew about possible lies and deceit on board their ship. I really liked the concept of the Mordgris which added an element of suspense to the novel. With the length of the novel being shorter than your average YA novel, this is perfect for any reader, looking for a quick and satisfying read. The ending was on a cliffhanger but am still interested in the second book. The ship's rules also tied in nicely with the setting of being on a pirate ship.

Extra notes: It was a little underdeveloped for me personally but can I just mention that we need more YA Pirate books? :D

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### **Ashlee » Library In The Country says**

View review on my blog, Library in the Country

*This copy was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.*

Lady pirates! Secrets! Quests for treasure! Betrayal! Sea creatures!

When I first heard about Over Raging Tides, my first thought was: I *need* to read this and I immediately added it to my "to-read" shelf on Goodreads.

So, imagine my surprise when I was offered an opportunity by the author to read the book in exchange for an honest review. I could not pass it up and have been left with no regrets.

***"Life at sea is not butterflies and daisies.***

***Her gift is freedom, but it's not something she gives for free."***

Stories about pirates, mermaids, sirens, etc. have been all the rage lately and this book sated my desire for another sea-faring story wonderfully. It is a fast-paced adventure with *Pirates of the Caribbean* vibes, a mysterious backstory and it becomes a delectably interesting tale overall.

The main character - Grace - has spent most of her life aboard the pirate ship, *Lady Luck* and currently serves as her quartermaster. Unlike other ships sailing the Eleven Seas, the *Luck* is comprised of an entirely female crew and men are not allowed to step foot onboard. However, after a bending of the rules, a young man named Leo has found himself aboard the *Luck* and may be the key to finding a map most have believed to be a legend. For this map is enchanted with the ability to show the location of whatever you seek of it. The pirates aboard the *Luck* wish to use the map to find treasure. Gracie wishes to use the map to find the Mordgris, sea creatures who took her mother years before. To locate the map, the women aboard the *Luck* must set aside their rules and work beside Leo. However, not everyone on the crew is pleased with this arrangement.

***"You have found yourself aboard a pirate ship. Female pirates, yes, but pirates nonetheless. There are many things in our code, but honor is not one of them."***

I was not expecting Gracie to be as ruthless and morally grey of a character as she was, but she is a pirate after all and she fit her profession well. Grace and Leo are both cunning in their ways and good counterparts for each other. I only wish their character development was deeper. We do not learn much about Leo, his family or even his story and are not given a strong grasp on Grace's nature outside her interactions with other characters. To say the least, their depth of character is lacking in some ways. They are unique characters, without a doubt, but I'm not sure if they are memorable.

That said - the story overall is strong with a good air of mystery to it. I found myself fascinated by the Mordgris and constantly trying to picture what they look like and what they are. What is the story behind Gracie's mother? What does the captain know? Why do the Mordgris constantly plague Gracie? This book has some fairly good plot twists I did not anticipate, keeping me caught up with the story and always wanting a little more. There are several plotlines running throughout the story and it closes with a cliffhanger ending that is enticing but not shocking or heartbreaking. You'll be left wanting more, but you won't be left in tears or frustration. *Over Raging Tides* is not a standalone and I am looking forward to seeing where the story takes us in the next installment.

If you want a fast-paced, fun, uncomplicated adventure, this is the book for you!

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### **Petra says**

I received a copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I say hell yes to lady pirates!

Actual rating : 4.5

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I only wish it was longer and that the ending wasn't such a cliffhanger (seriously, how can I wait at least another year to find out what happens?)

I really liked writing style and our heroine Gracie. She was strong and smart, even though I didn't agree with

her actions I could see why she did what she did. I also liked how sweet is the romance in this book and the fact that it wasn't overdone. The whole crew is charming and interesting and I'm sorry we didn't get to see more of them and their interactions. My other complaint was that plot twist (you know who I'm talking about) could be seen from miles. I guessed what will happen from the first time that character was mentioned.

I will definitely continue the series.

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