



A Silent Tide

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Beginning with the brutal 1927 ambush of Chesapeake Bay rumrunners at a fog shrouded cove on Maryland's eastern shore and culminating with a final showdown eighty years later when truth meets justice at Harpers Creek Marina in Mathews, Virginia, "A Silent Tide" brings to life the 2007 story of a bay side community racially rocked by the murder of favorite son, all-state athlete Jimmy Jarvis, and the trial of Jamal Billups, the African American man charged with the crime.

"A Silent Tide" follows the path of attorney David Forbes who, with his wife and two children, moves to this small southern community to escape his hectic world as a Federal Prosecutor in Washington D.C. What Forbes wanted was the quiet world of a country lawyer and to raise his family in the land of steamed blue crab, salt water marsh, nesting ospreys and the great tranquility of the Chesapeake Bay. What he got was an idyllic life sent into a tailspin when he gets appointed to represent Billups and commits the unforgivable sin of believing his client is an innocent man.

From the decks of deadrise fishing boats and the boardrooms of Washington law firms, to the drug warehouses of East Baltimore and a Los Zeta heroin distribution center in Sinola, Mexico, "A Silent Tide" propels the reader on a page turning ride as Forbes weaves his way through a world of drug smuggling, corruption and murder.

A Silent Tide Details

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Author : William E. Johnson

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From Reader Review A Silent Tide for online ebook

Beth Gibson says

I read this entire book in one weekend -- it kept me guessing about what would happen next throughout. Mr. Johnson does a fabulous job of developing the characters and setting, and I particularly enjoyed the historical scenes. I would recommend this to anyone wanting a fun beach read or a suspenseful story for a cold wintry night.

Julie says

Fast read, some parts overly detailed. I felt like the ending was rushed and some what of a let-down. I felt like there were some loose ends that could have been tied up better. Overall it was an enjoyable some-what suspenseful read.

Karen Ann Schmid says

Chesapeake Bay Action Novel

I gave this a try because it is set in my home stomping grounds of Baltimore and the Chesapeake Bay region. It was quick and fun read. Being raised on many days aboard a 50 foot cabin cruiser, I really enjoyed this book. Living overseas now, I especially liked being reminded of my days living back in Baltimore and cruising the bay. Also having worked for the Department Justice's Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Section, I could relate on many levels. By the way, I also speak Spanish, and have spent many days in Mexico as well. Nice light and fun reading.

Tracy says

I received this book from the Goodreads First reads contest. I would give it 3 1/2 stars. There is good story and character development. I felt it was somewhat predictable and at times drawn out. There are several interesting characters and really enjoyed the setting. I was not familiar with the area and feel he did a colorful job in his description. This is Mr. Johnson's first novel. I would be interested in any future novels that he writes.

Lynda says

In 1927 prohibition was in full swing, barrels of rum were delivered stealth-like, undetected and protected at all costs in Chesapeake Bay. One such delivery left a nine-year old boy alone with haunted memories one tragic, foggy night. Fast forward eighty years to 2007, Chesapeake Bay lured pleasure crafts, commercial workboats, and illegal activities. Mathews, Virginia appeared idyllic to outsiders, only the residents knew the

truth - fear, prejudices, intimidations, and murders darkened their town. A former drug prosecutor of the U.S. Attorney General's office, David M. Forbes arrived in town eager to make the transition to a county lawyer. Little did he know the acceptance of one case touched off a maelstrom and created a divisive town, retributions, and endangered many lives.

A suede-like textured cover with a serene water scene, chapters divided into three distinct sections, and the spacing of paragraphs were appreciative. Handsome descriptive writing created ongoing visions for the mind vividly filled with sights, sounds, and smells; reading was relaxing and pleasurable. Interesting dialogues, sometimes informative were enjoyable and at times had me chuckling. Each chapter was a revelation furthering the story, providing a firm foundation strengthened with details to solidify the characters as believable. Excellent development of characters with a variety of personalities added depth to the story. Yes, a few of the characters were expected, the traditionally-held images of the old Southern type and the white knight charging in to become the hero. The good versus evil, touching moments versus violence, and the courage to stand together versus the mob mentality added dynamics and intensity.

The standard mysteries have the killer unknown until nearing the end, "A Silent Tide" was the reverse. With the killer known, it was intriguing to read how the story was going to prove this fact was accurate. A fast reading pace, action-packed scenes and the peeling of layers to get to the core contributed to the success of a remarkable novel, very satisfying.

"A Silent Tide" was received free from Goodreads First Reads. This novel rated 4.5 out of 5 stars for me.

kathryn smith says

You never know

this rating because it is a page Turner. it was a good read. I don't usually read fiction and liked the introduction, so I read it. Anyone who likes fiction, mystery, suspense will enjoy this book.

Ann Bowyer says

It was a great read though I found the ending a little disappointing. The plot was cleverly worked with two time lines.

Carol Raynor says

The suspense kept me reading from the first chapter until I finished the book. I absolutely could not put it down. I felt like I was actually "watching" the drama play out. When you can smell the ocean while you are reading, you know the author has captured the setting with amazing description. Wish there were more stars to give this book. Permanent addition to my library. Buy two of this book because if you lend it out - you won't get it back.

Barb says

I received this book in a First Reads giveaway and I really wish Goodreads allowed for 1/2 star ratings. This was a good story but left me a bit cold at some points, which is the only reason I didn't give it 4 stars.

The plot was great and the pace was just right; not too fast that it left me wondering what just happened and not slow enough to drag. My major problem with the book was that we were told from the get-go who murdered the football hero. I'm the type of reader who likes to figure things out as I go along, picking up on clues and hints dropped by the author. I especially like stories where I'm led in one direction and then find I've been totally misdirected (Presumed Innocent, for example).

I also had a problem with the characters. They often seemed to be caricatures of themselves; the small-town, bigoted sheriff; the troubled young black man; the high-powered attorney who steps back from fortune to live a pastoral life with his family. The only character I truly liked and rooted for was Jamal, and we didn't get to hear from him much.

I'm sure many will enjoy this book as the author obviously knows his stuff and the details all ring true. Sorry to say, it just wasn't great for me.
