



A Gathering Tempest

Catherine Jones Payne

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A storm is brewing.

Fourteen-year-old Alexander has a secret. Several, in fact. He's in love with Jade Cleopola. He covers up for his violent, drug-addicted father. And he often goes hungry. His friends at school wouldn't understand — they're high-class mer like Jade. But Alexander has bigger problems than the latest gossip and the parties his friends live for. When his father's irresponsible choices leave Alexander facing a blade-wielding debt collector, Alexander discovers himself trapped in a tangled, ever-tightening net. He must find a way to survive in unfriendly currents.

Even if it means losing her.

A Gathering Tempest Details

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Author : Catherine Jones Payne

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From Reader Review A Gathering Tempest for online ebook

Stevie Causey says

This is a well written story that gives a new view of the characters in Payne's series, which I have yet to read but will be putting on my TBR now!

There were places where it felt like a little more emotion would have helped me relate to the characters, but I suspect it is because I hadn't read about them before this.

Lady The Owls says

Temptest

I enjoyed the story. Was entertaining but seemed so short and was leaving me wanting more. I hope to read the next book in the series very soon. Great writing Catherine Jones Payne?

Elaina Myers says

Good short story

While this is a short story, the world, characters and challenges are fairly well developed. The protagonist's story pulls you in and you feel for his struggles and the hard decisions he must face. It will be interesting to see how things develop for him and I hope he shows up in the next book, which from what I saw revolves more around his friend (who is also the girl he loves).

Kim Gregory says

I wish I had read this prequel before I read the rest of the series, I would have enjoyed it more; yet even still I liked learning how Alexander ends up in the Naiad quarter, a big point in the rest of the series.

If you haven't read the series yet, it was very good. It doesn't feel like a mermaid story, and yet you never forget that there are mermaids and naiads. This is a series about the mindset of the "kingdom" to different races and the differences between a monarchy and a democracy and how neither is the perfect answer.

The entire series was a clean read.

Michelle Levigne says

Hooked (pun intended)

Great introduction to the incredibly detailed undersea world. This glimpse into the mer society through the eyes of a boy with the odds stacked against him makes the setting relatable, despite being new. Looking forward to exploring more.

H.A. Titus says

Fun read!

I enjoyed this prequel and plan to pick up the novel. Alexander seems like a sweetheart, and while a little clueless, Jade promised to be interesting to read about as well. I love what I've seen of the mer world in this book and definitely want to visit it some more!

Laura A. Grace says

Fantastic prequel! I very much enjoyed it and gives me a new appreciation for Breakwater, especially Alexander. He was my favorite character in the sequel and hearing more of his story in A Gathering Tempest made him even more so.

Now I want to go reread Breakwater.

Marguerite says

5 Stars.

A really wonderful little prequel story about Jade and Alexander before the events of Breakwater - makes me even more excited to jump into the next book in the series, hopefully to be released sometime next year! I really love how this series and characters deals with some tough issues and themes in mature and thoughtful ways, so can't recommend it enough!

Will say, that in my opinion you should probably read Breakwater first before this short story, even though it is marked as #0.5, as it will make more sense with the characters and all the fabulous foreshadowing! Also, this fantastic short story is free, so get reading!!

CuriousCompass says

A cute mermaid story that gets better as it goes along. I'm glad I read this before book one so I have a taste of the world. Alexander is a really sympathetic character and his struggles and isolation drive the story, which was pretty engagin.

I can't wait to read the first novel, I hope Jade and Alexander end up together though or I'm gonna snap.

Fiction Aficionado says

This is a short read, but a great introduction to the series and a great opportunity to get a feel for this author's writing and the world she's created. For the record, I'm keen to see where the series goes! The underwater world has captured my imagination, the characters have my attention, and I love the way the author has totally embraced the world she had created in her word choices and the way her characters speak.

Kristin says

'A Gathering Tempest' is a short-story prequel to 'Breakwater' and it is written by up and coming author, Catherine Jones Payne.

One of the things I hope for with 'Breakwater' was to get to know the characters better. I loved the cover and the premise but I felt like I was missing something. Especially in regards to Alexander—I felt like I was supposed to accept him but didn't understand why. Though 'A Gathering Tempest' is a mere 50 pages in length—I got what I wanted. I understand Alexander better and I feel like if I were to reread 'Breakwater' that I would likely have to bump my rating up from the four-star I had originally given it.

This series is one of my favorites for 2017. The author is engaging on social media and this prequel shows that she listens to her fans. When people were saying, "I need more," she delivered. I look forward to being a fan for a long time to come.

You can currently download a free copy of 'A Gathering Tempest' from Amazon or B&N. This review was originally posted on A Simply Enchanted Life

Sheila Goicea says

Read this FULL review on my blog along with others at: shesgoingbookcrazy.com

A prequel novella to Breakwater

He'd learned a long time ago that life wasn't fair, but that didn't stop the ache in his chest whenever he stopped too long to think about it.

This review will be short and sweet, considering it is only covering fifty pages of a rather simple backstory. There's not much to say about it. The reader gets a glimpse into the life of Alexander's story before everything escalates in Breakwater. What had made him look guilty before, was cleared-up in this story by telling it from his point of view.

Alexander's life isn't like that of his fellow classmates. He's not pampered or used to excessive living. His hardship can only be overcome by his own determination because nobody will help him through life but himself. Without his Dad being an active part of his life, as well as a consistent breadwinner for the family,

Alexander must do something to keep himself safe from the threats his father had accrued over time that were now spilling onto him.

I appreciated Alexander's determination, yet, saw the folly in his choices. He is obviously too proud to ask for help when it is rightly needed. The situation he is thrust into as a fourteen-year-old is quite unjust, and justly calls for him to seek out support from others. Yet, his embarrassment stops him. Perhaps he is his own worst enemy. Interestingly enough, it may turn out for the best in the long run as he'll learn to provide for himself when others his age will just be getting a taste of maturity.

I was hoping for a little more to this prequel. I think what information *was* given on his situation was summed up and could have benefitted from more elaboration. I still appreciated the writing style, and am looking forward to the next installment in this series.

My rating: 3 stars.

C.O. Bonham says

Beginnings of Breakwater

A Gathering Tempest by Catherine Jones Payne is a prequel novella to the novel Breakwater.

Visit Jade and Alexander's school days and learn the reason Alexander walked out of her life.

Can be read first or after Breakwater. I enjoyed this look at Alexander's life on the wrong side of town. Knowing how hard his childhood was gives me new appreciation for the kind of man he is in Breakwater.

Elizabeth says

The talented Catherine has brought us a short sweet taste of the world she introduced us to in Breakwater. We have a short story from Alexander's point of view. I knocked this story out in a quick sitting, and it actually addressed one of my primary critiques of her debut novel: the rather abrupt introduction of Alexander as a character the romance that seemed to come from nowhere. While I could still do without the romance angle at all (personal preference, nothing to do with the writing) A Gathering Tempest gave us more background on a main character, as well as more build up to the tensions Jade faces in Breakwater. (And I'm not even mentioning the gorgeous cover! Which is beautiful!) I'm looking forward to more from Catherin in the future.

Shantelle says

So I quite enjoyed this prequel novella, and now I *really* am dying to read more! Seriously, mermaids (*and mermen*), underworld intrigue and politics, plus a blossoming romance? *squeals* I'm a big fan of mermaid stories when they're done right, and *A Gathering Tempest* by Catherine Jones Payne pulled me right in. I'm eager to see what happens next with Alexander and his friends. Excuse me while I scheme how to read the rest of the BROKEN TIDES series.

