



Stealing the Wind

Shira Anthony

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Taren Laxley has never known anything but life as a slave. When a lusty pirate kidnaps him and holds him prisoner on his ship, Taren embraces the chance to realize his dream of a seagoing life. Not only does the pirate captain offer him freedom in exchange for three years of labor and sexual servitude, but the pleasures Taren finds when he joins the captain and first mate in bed far surpass his greatest fantasies.

Then, during a storm, Taren dives overboard to save another sailor and is lost at sea. He's rescued by Ian Dunaidh, the enigmatic and seemingly ageless captain of a rival ship, the Phantom, and Taren feels an overwhelming attraction to Ian that Ian appears to share. Soon Taren learns a secret that will change his life forever: Ian and his people are Ea, shape-shifting merfolk... and Taren is one of them too. Bound to each other by a fierce passion neither can explain or deny, Taren and Ian are soon embroiled in a war and forced to fight for a future—not only for themselves but for all their kind.

Stealing the Wind Details

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Author : Shira Anthony

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From Reader Review Stealing the Wind for online ebook

? Todd says

I absolutely loved Taren and Bastian. Ian came across as a little too insecure most of the time where Taren was concerned, but whatever.

What I really like about this book was that it did *not* completely dilute the storyline with gratuitous sex scenes as page fillers. The last book that I read was about 90% "God, they're doing it AGAIN". Not to authors: That gets really old.

It was very cool how the book starts out with you kind of thinking that the bad guys are the power-hungry Vurin and his evil mainland Ea, then realize just how off base those thoughts were.

The whole 'feelings' part between Taren and Ian was slow in coming, but the plot kept me dying to see what was going to happen next. It's going to be tough holding out until MAY when the sequel comes out and they go to war. *tingles*

4.5 very solid stars.

Margo - this job thing really screws up my ability to read/review says

Summary

Stealing the Wind by Shira Anthony is the story of a slave boy's journey to manhood and the discovery of his hidden heritage. There are lots of allusions to great destiny, history, and sinister intentions, but the build up is shallow and incomplete. The plot has a lot of random elements which are strung together choppily. The romance isn't satisfying, and neither are the mermen shifters. Their world just doesn't come across the page well enough to make me feel like I'm swimming along the reef with them, nor do I end up really caring what happens to the main characters. It's not nearly enough fun to justify the \$6-7 ebook cover price.

Fantasy World

The mermen are given two hidden villages and some ruined temples, but not a lot of other cultural depth. There seems little difference between the mermen and regular humans except for regular swim outings for the mermen. It feels like the author is saving too much for the next two books planned for the series instead of providing a solid foundation in this book.

Tingle Factor

Stealing the Wind contains explicit male/male sexual practices and a menage scene. There are some hot scenes, but unfortunately not really between the main characters. The sex in their shifted form was rather bland and not very inspiring.

Romance

The dream sequences are much more romantic than the actions when the main characters are awake. I was also rooting for Taren to go back and try to hook up with the pirates again. He deserves better than Ian's fumbling, belated attempts at a relationship.

Drama

There is an evil ruling council and one of their henchmen is usually on hand to provide conflict. In addition, Taren's fate is always in doubt as things beyond his control keep happening to him. Since the story is written from his point of view, the uncertainty provides a fair amount of tension.

Hero #1

Taren has been a slave his whole life and is grateful just for warmth, clothing, and food. He thinks he has found a home on a pirate ship and even has hopes of gaining his freedom. Taren is a simple man, and the crazy politics which swirl around him seem crazy. I sympathized with Taren because none of it made sense to me either.

Hero #2

Ian isn't very likeable and his choices don't make sense. The way he's written makes me want to kick his ass more than kiss it. He appears to be written as more of an anti-hero, but he's not enjoyable as either a good guy or a bad guy.

Deeze says

If you are looking for an adventure on the high seas but with an extra kick then this could well be the book for you.

This story is far more complex than it at first seems.

Taren is a plain simple young boy that hides a deep mystery. Watching him grow and seeing glimpses of things to come kept me intrigued.

I admit I wasn't a fan of the start with Rider and Bastian, but after getting past that I grew to love both men and in a way was even sorry when I realised their relationship with Taren would not be the same.

Ian annoyed me at first. So many times I wanted to shake him to speak up. His hints and secrecy caused problems unnecessary in my mind.

The main mystery of the Ea was a little complicated for me to follow, (I tend to get easily lost,) but I started to understand more as the story in this chapter concluded.

The last chapter had me reaching for the tissues, learning about Owyn was pretty heart wrenching.

Overall and despite the beginning and certain times when sex seems to be at the fore, in thought if not in deed, this is a much bigger story than most I have read in any shifter theme.

The author did a wonderful job in the way she took me below the sea or on board a ship.

My biggest complaint is I now have to wait to read the next part. But I certainly look forward to the next instalment. While the romance side of this book is complete, there is far more story to tell.

ETA

Second time reading as exhilarating as the first. So glad I can now jump straight into book 2

Jo * Smut-Dickted * says

Believe it or not I'm not real big on shifters for the most part. I read them - but I don't necessarily seek them out. Not sure what caught my eye on this - but most likely the fact Taren was a slave (you know I canna' resist a good slave story!) and boy is this book so much more than you think. I didn't find it confusing at all - I thought the development was just right. There is really no hero here - just men or, er, part men anyway. Men who do good things, honorable things. Men who do not. No ambiguity - just men making decisions in times that call for sacrifice. The gradual reveal really had me invested and the writing and prose is haunting - at times lyrical - flowing like the ocean which was so appropriate. It's not ornate or flowery but it carried tones of formality and history at times. Not sure how else to describe it.

If you like to have everything laid out for you in short order this is not your book. If you are unwilling to read a book that clearly must be continued in another - this is not your book. This is definitely part 1 of a multi part story. It didn't feel serial to me as in the little 50 pagers coming out now - it did feel like the first in a series where I am going to get the next step in the journey in Book 2. Highly recommended.

Meags says

4 Stars

Taren Laxley is an orphaned slave whose whole life changes when he gets kidnapped by pirates. Captain Rider is enticing as all get-out, so when he offers Taren his freedom in exchange for three years of servitude upon the *Sea Witch*, Taren is quick to accept, even knowing his new service includes sharing a bed with the captain and his lover, Bastian.

For two years Taren lives well and good, thriving aboard the *Sea Witch*. He works hard by day, becoming a skilled sailor in his own right, while sharing his nights finding pleasure in the arms of Rider and Bastian. Although still in servitude, life for Taren is far better than it has ever been and he's content with his lot in life, caring deeply about Rider and Bastian, and the crew of the *Sea Witch*.

When a storm results in Taren going overboard while rescuing a younger crewmate, Taren becomes lost at sea. When he next wakes, he finds himself on a new ship, the *Phantom*, captained by the enigmatic and beguiling Ian Dunaidh. Although Taren now finds himself being held prisoner in the lavish confines of the Captain's quarters, he can't help but feel deep in his bones that something is vastly different and all at once familiar about Ian and his shipmates.

Taren soon discovers two life altering truths. Firstly, mermen shifters exist and he's now surrounded by a ship full of them. And secondly, and most surprisingly, he's one of them.

With Ian's guidance, Taren learns all about his true nature and his people, the Ea, discovering an entire world of magic and rivalries that he suddenly finds himself thrust into the centre of.

This story has such a great fusion of genres. It is historical in nature, with an old world feel to the places and the people described within, while also featuring some fairly unique fantasy elements, such as mer-shifters, who are a hidden race within the human world. Even the romance elements were grandiose, with themes such as reincarnation and the idea that there are **soulbound** couples in this world, like Taren and Ian, who are destined to find one another and share an epic love in every life they live. It was a deliciously romantic notion and I can't wait to read more about their new love, as well as the loves they shared in past lives, that seem so intrinsically linked to the events transpiring around them in the present.

I was fascinated by the history of the Ea people, but I was also incensed by the members of the grand council, with their seemingly barbaric and unforgiving attitudes, which were extremely anti-human and unaccepting of outsiders, such as Taren. I'm sure much more will be revealed about why the Ea hold the rigid beliefs they do, but until then, most of them are on my shit-list for the brutal treatment of Taren during this story.

Although this story featured ménage elements at the beginning, romance traditionalists should rest assured that once Taren met Ian, there was no longer any hanky-panky with his original lovers. I know this aspect of the story has turned other readers off, if the reviews are anything to go by, but I wasn't affected by this at all. I'm not generally a fan of ménage in my romance reads, but I found myself liking and caring a good deal about Rider and Bastian, much like Taren did, so I wasn't offended by their relationship while it was happening. The fact Taren was only ever with Ian after meeting him, goes a hell of a long way towards me accepting the threesome stuff that came earlier.

Ian and Taren were very sweet and undeniably hot together. I will admit though, there was this one sex scene that occurred while both men were in their mermen forms which I had trouble processing. I know it was meant to be hot and sexy, and what I understood of it was definitely that, but I simply couldn't wrap my head around the logistics of what was happening. I legitimately needed a schematic to understand how these shifted mermen were getting it on mer-sex style, with the parts that were going in the where, with the what-now!?! Because, seriously, WHAT!?!?

Baffling mer-sex aside, *Stealing the Wind* was a very fantastical, exciting, and definitely romantic read. I enjoyed this story a great deal and I look forward to devouring the rest of the series in record time.

Lorraine Lesar says

I was so excited. My first buddy-read with the incorrigible Shin. Pirates and sexy tails. What could possibly go wrong?

Well actually from the 3* rating you can see that it wasn't full sails ahead on calm seas with a hold full of illicit booty and pirates ready to plunder, we hit turbulent seas and it slowed down this reading journey - considerably.

It started so very well, I was hooked. The author had just the right bait to entice and play with me. Pirates is good, Merman even better. Not normally a fan of infidelity, I could even look pass the Taren, Rider and Bastian triangle (who knew Taren would be such a sexy slut). The author dangled his net ready to ensnare us with the shenigans of The Council and I knew that Seria was going to be bad news, the word evil springs to mind, and I was right! Ian, even with his secrets, was well portrayed.

But at just about halfwayish, it started to get bogged down. I felt as if I was wading through mud rather than the high seas. And to be honest, the author failed to deliver. So many opportunities wasted. I fully realise that

this is the first book and didn't expect all the answers, but I wanted fireworks and the Big Bang, what I got was damp fireworks that like my passion for the earlier parts of the book, failed to ignite. Worthy of 3* but that's it from me.

Eugenia says

3.5 Stars.

At first, I wasn't sure how well I would enjoy this mermance (is that even a word? It should be). At first, it felt like an old school bodice ripper with OTT language, but soon the language settled down (or I got used to it). It was then that I was able to pay more attention to the story rather than the mechanics of the book.

I liked it. I dug the human sex and the underwater mersex. There was a fantastic cherry popping scene early on in the book that was, frankly, spectacular and truly urged me to carry forth with the rest of the book.

This is the typical fantasy trope of where an ordinary, orphaned youth finds out he's actually pretty dang special. Tragedy brings out his merself. He's also a very randy special person.

BR'd this one with some special ladies :)

Warnings: cliffhangerish, torture, ménage, enslavement.

Helle says

Fadia recommended: Stealing the Wind (Mermen of Ea #1)

This story begin with Taren Laxley that is a slave and get kidnapped because his owner owe some money to the wrong people .

In this new place is Taren beaten everyday and get just enough food to survive, he do hard work in the pub and sleep in a dark and cold place, the owner of this does not take care of his slaves.

There he meets one day Rider that is Captain of the ship Sea Witch, Rider kidnapped Taren and say that if he wish to please him, then he want him in bed with his lover Bastian that is Quartermaster of the ship Sea Witch, Bastian was also a former slave but earn his freedom to Rider that is a fair owner and only punish if they really have done something wrong and never misuse his power. Three years on the ship as a sexslave and if Rider trust them then he will also have a job on the ship, Laxley will always have food and a warm place to sleep and in the two years he is on board on the Sea Witch, he is lovers to Rider and Bastian.

Fiall a young boy on board the Sea Witch is so unlucky to fell overboard the ship in the storm, Taren saves him from drowning in the sea, but even have this misfortune to beat his head and lose consciousness, something happen to him in the sea and not only a dream.

Ian Dunaidh save Taren, but now he is a prisoner on the ship Phantom that Ian is the Captain on. Ian want to know about Tarens parents, but Taren can not tell anything, because he was so young that he does not

remember his parents.

Ian seem a first like a person you dislike, because Bastian have told something that make you think of him as a enemy. Ian want Taren to submit to him and in the end he make Taren sick.

Taren want to escape and Ian somehow know this.

Taren: "Can he read my thoughts" ? Ian know somehow also that Taren is one of them "no normal man" All Ea were Dual-natured, animal and man. Only adolescents new to their Ea form lacked self-control.

This lack of self-control make Taren sick and he need the healer of this ship to get better, but the "transformation sickness" that only adolescents suffered with and even then it was rare that they experienced much more than a slight discomfort. Taren get sick with high fever and is helpless in many days after his illness, but there are also his dreams.

Taren dream about Ian shift form and then swim in the sea.

They awaken to the call of the sea and transform.

Ian called "come, follow me. Your life awaits" Taren "please. I want to follow, but I don't know how"? This is a dream Taren have.

Ian take Taren to the Island Ea'nu, but there the Council see him as a spy and torture him and this Island that should have been a place of freedom is a regime now, were you never have the chance to get out of there, because the people that talk about to see and experience the other countries is going to jail and die there. It's a evil place, with no freedom and no dreams anymore. The Council is old and misuse their power to suppress their people, what little money they have are taking away by the Council and (army?).

Ian make many huge error and almost lost Taren more times than I want to think about, in the end he do the right thing and Taren forgive him, Taren have a kind heart even after all this hell he have been through.

The dreams are memories about a past life Taren=Treande and Ian=Owyn in the past life they were also lovers, they have forming a strong bond and is soulbound to each other, they promise in the past life to find each other again and protect each other.

Only because Rider and Ian was past lovers and still friends they get help from the humans and can get the help to understand what their goddess want them to do, this is not only a fight for their safety and love, but also to help their people.

I really want to know more about Taren and Ian, their reincarnation past, present and future. Bastian and Rider that also is lovers, Riders past with Ian and Bastians past as a slave.

Fiall and Aine the boys from the ship Sea Witch and Phantom. Barra the sailing Master on the Phantom and past sex friend to Ian, that really love Ian more than that. Renda the healer/Quartermaster on the ship Phantom.

Vurin that is a mage with the gift empathy and seer that know Taren have the the gift of sight, Vurin will need Taren and Ian to learn their power and to free their people.

I really hope this is a serie, because there is so many things I need to know and this story is amazing with mermen and reincarnation, I understand that Taren and Ian are the ones that can make all things right again and the war they need to prepare for get their race freedoms back. There is a lot of mystery and what about the stone/diamont?

I want more please, to know more about the magic and abilities, the race and traditions etc.

I recommend this book to the ones that love to read about shapeshifters and Myth, to see mermen in other ways than the traditionel way. To know about past lifes reincarnation and the hope for freedom and make peace with the humans, to have another chance in life to protect the one you love.

Ingie says

Written May 10, 2014

4 1/2 Stars - A delightful romantic adventure story - heartwarming and interesting all the way

Lapping waves and bubbles - I want to be there. Gina LOVED it (Gina's 5 star "OMG"-review) and then I had to read it as well. ~ Thank you for that surprising mail, lovely!

I want my own *Merman* to be able to swim along with around a beautiful coral reef. This was a wonderful story and I have to find time for book # 2 as soon as possible.

Taren Laxley is a young slave living in *Raice Harbour*. When he is kidnapped to a pirate ship, the *Sea Witch* by *Captain Rider*'s men is he in shock. The captain turns out to be a quite okay somewhat older, but good looking, man and when Rider offer Taren freedom in exchange for three years of labor and sexual servitude, Taren can't but agree. The pleasures are great and two years proceeds rapidly. Taren really enjoy his new life on the pirate-ship and kind of love the nights with the tender captain (and *Bastian* of course ..).

But the "destiny road" changes during a stormy night. Taren with his big heart is trying to save a young ship's boy from the huge waves, and he succeed, but rinse himself away in the angry sea. A few days later, he wakes up on an unknown ship.

Teran had been rescued by **Ian Dunaidh**, the tough, slightly harsh and domineering but also seemingly ageless captain of a rival ship, the *Phantom*. The attraction between these two men is strange, unsolicited and immediate. ~ Taren learns a secret that will change his life forever.

...And the lovely fairy tale begin.

“We call ourselves Ea. Neither man nor beast. The humans call us mermen.”

Taren is a cutie and I liked him instantly. He is so gentle, willing but very inquisitive and knows what he wants. His encounter with an alpha, such as Ian, of course, not conflict. The heat and tension between these two men are there all the time.

Ian anticipates a big secret and something that must be tried, and Taren is, to say the least, quite surprised by what happens.

‘He wasn't sure what he'd expected of the kiss.
He'd never kissed anyone under the water. Ian's mouth felt hotter than before. The saltwater caused Taren's mouth to vibrate with sensation, as if Taren could taste Ian's desire.’

Steam & Smut warning? - This started as a quite *erotic mermaid shifter story*. Hot, smexy, yummy sweet and a lot of fun and a bit kinky (threesome) moments in the first part of the book. But later it turned to be a captivating and tender, romantic adventure tale as I really enjoyed. So do you think it starts too erotic, don't give up, the story-plot will soon be there.

Stealing the Wind is a kind oddish fairy tale in a historical fantasy (merman-shifter) world. - A romance genre I love - We meet a fantastic, colorful and portrayed world filled with old legends, old wrongs and disputes, villians, pirates, large sailing vessels, dirty harbors, beautiful coastal villages, abuse of power, fear and also some hard cruelties (torture). The suspense part was really good.

...And of course a lot of LOVE, emotions, tender kisses, hot kisses and sexy encounters (above and below the water surface). ~ Taren's life wasn't easy but he fought and won the top payout. Oh yeah, he really did.

In summary; surprisingly good, well thought out, very emotional and adventurous exciting. This was so much more than a wet gay dream about sexy mermen. ~ The next part of this series, Into the Wind (my review), feels absolutely necessary to acquire soon.

I LIKE - I've a new passion - sexy men with a long "fish tail"

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# "Mermen of Ea" series:  
and maybe a third part?

# Want to find more "Mermen" romances?

*'Listopia' ~ M/M see Gay Mermen and m/f see Good Mermen books.*

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### **Shira Anthony says**

The first installment in my Mermen of Ea Series. The series focuses on the Taren/Ian pairing and continues over the books (3 planned):

- 1) Stealing the Wind
- 2) Into the Wind, and
- 3) Running with the Wind (tentative publication Spring, 2015)

The second book in the series was released on May 5, 2014, and takes up Ian and Taren's adventure where book one leaves off. You'll meet a new character in book two, Into the Wind, who will play a major role in the story and will have his own pairing.

The mermen of Ea are not frilly, fishlike mermen. They are powerful, sexual beings who can possess certain magical gifts. Although there is a MMM menage scene at the beginning of the first book, the pairing of Ian and Taren is strictly MM.

Books in this series should be read in order.

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### **SheReadsALot says**

I didn't read the blurb...it's fucking **mermen!** Hello!

I'm fucking there!

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### **Shin Mon Thway says**

I'm sorry if this review sounds offensive but you know a book is not for you and meh when you are like "**Is it going to finish soon? Why is it taking too long to finish?**" and checking page count and how many percent left to finish reading it. Literally, from 75% to 100% .. it took me 3 Days. ? So .. yeah .. you get the picture.

**I don't even know how to describe the characters because there are too many unknown factors. Until 75-80% of the story, both MCs were not able to figure out their feelings. And everything is vague, sooooo vague and uncertain. I feel like this is an introduction of a promising novel and while this intro could be achieved attractively and effectively in 4-5 chapters, it was dragged along for 26 chapters. Literally, about 10 chapters were imprisonment of Taren during his stay on Phantom and on Ea'nu island without any relationship aspect or romance. Long and winded and boring conversations and unsorted feelings. I only truly loved this book until 13% of the book and I was really hooked until**

**then. After that, eh .. you know the story. ?**

**I'm really unhappy that this was my mischievous buddy, Lorraine's first buddy read with me and it was such an unfulfilling read. ?** I know lots of people love this book and I really wanted to love this book too but I just can't. So much potential and yet, failed to deliver a good story.

2.5 I want more stars

?????

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### **Emma Sea says**

~~Smutty merman slave fic for the win!~~

No. Not a smutty merman slave fic. Not. Nuh uh.

I completely loved the first 14%. LOVED it.

*"The leader leered at him. "Yer a right pretty one, boy."*

Oh, no, poor slaveboy being groped by debt collectors, tavern carousers, and one big strong pirate captain, armed with butter (butter?! what the hell, whatever works for that spontaneous fingering at the communal dining table, right?)

Woot!

Then, BAM! Why, at the opening of chapter three was I suddenly transported into a completely different book, one set "Two Years Later" filled with ~~The Big Misunderstanding~~ endlessly repeated Small Misunderstandings, a infinite lack of time for explanations, and a lot of swimming. Why? **Why** did the sensuous Bastian and huge-dicked Pirate Captain Rider have to disappear? You had me, Ms Anthony. Hoo-Rah for Captain Rider! I'll swash his buckle any day, baby. Why, why, why, did you take that story away from me? Did you grow bored?

Between you and me Ian was a grave disappointment. Why did he stop trying to win Taren's submission with lusty, seductive, tender hand-feeding? Don't give up, Ian! You can do it! Salted fish has never been so decadent!

From 27% I realized this was not going to be the delightfully smexy mer fic I had hoped for (and that the first 14% led me to believe it would be). I grew slowly more and more bored. I started lightly skimming just after half way. It never improved, and my patience for the doofus MCs decreased exponentially with every following per cent.

At 69% I hoped the evil guys caught them all and tortured them to death so I could be released from the endless lack of communication.

At least I finished it. And I never have to read it again.

It wasn't *that terrible*, it's just it wasn't what I expected, and the beginning was all fun and yummy and good that I don't understand why the rest had to be so . . . not good.

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### **Chelsea (chelseadolling reads) says**

Guys. Julie and I read this on a whim after coming across it while doing research for the smutty book club, and omg. In terms of a smutty/erotic novel, this actually had a relatively decent plot. This was glorious. Most surprising read of 2017 for sure ?

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### **Barbara? says**

You know how sometimes you find a book that just works...one that has things in it that would normally have you hitting your head against a brick wall and throwing something like your iPad maybe? Well this was that book for me. Despite it all, I could not stop reading. It kept me engaged and enthralled the entire time. From page one I was hooked. The writing was amazing. The setting and characters, all of it interesting and beautiful.

This is the story of Taren and Ian. Both of the same species. Both raised differently. One with parents, one without. One a slave, one free. Two souls meant to be together denying space and time.

*"His entire life he'd been taught to please others, but that had all been in preparation for this. What a strange thought—that he'd waited for this man. And yet he believed it as surely as he believed that his fate was inextricably intertwined with Ian's."~Taren*

I'm not normally one who likes to see one of the mc's with other people. It messes with my head. But I gotta tell you, Taren with Rider and Bastian...H.O.T. At first I was really wanting them to all be together. But when Ian appeared, I just knew he was who Taren was meant to be with.

*"Mine. Not a possession, like a slave, but master of his heart."~Ian*

And who knew merman sex underwater was so hot!

Such an interesting world this author has created. On to book two!

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