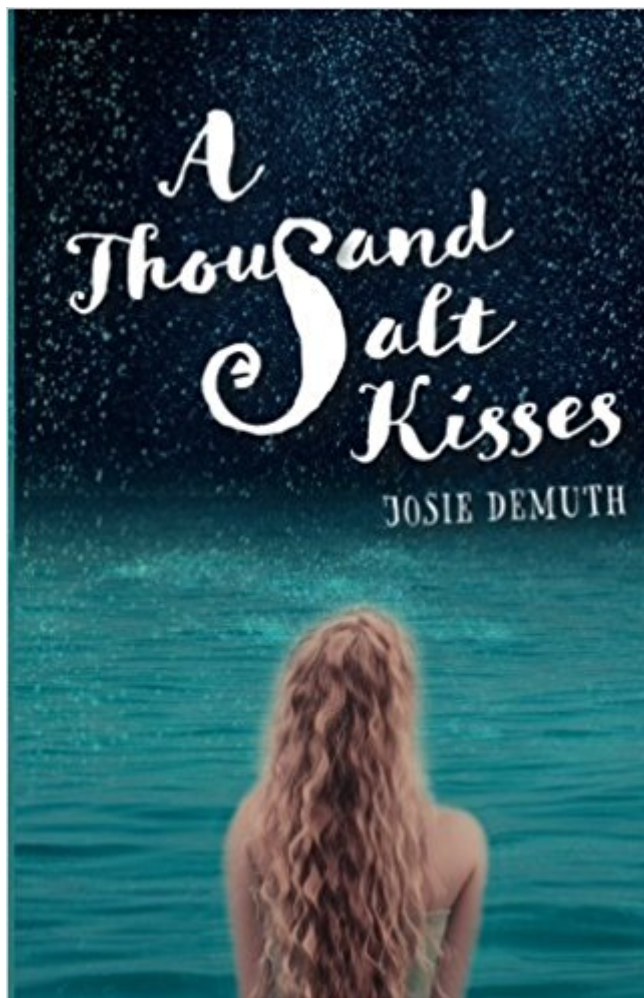


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# A Thousand Salt Kisses (Volume 1)



## Synopsis

Seventeen-year-old Crystal White is the new girl on Starfish Island. Dragged to the remote community by her environmental activist father, she is eager to find fun that doesn't involve touching fish guts or listening to local folklore. During a midnight swim with some new friends, Crystal is pulled out to sea by the waves. Convinced she's going to drown, Crystal is rescued by Llyr, a handsome stranger. As she searches for him in the following weeks, she finds there may be more truth to the Starfish legends than she thought. Over a sizzling roller-coaster summer, Llyr introduces Crystal to magic she's only ever dreamed of. But as Crystal comes to love Starfish Island, it begins to drive her family apart. A nearby power plant is devastating local marine life, and her parents are stuck in the middle. As the magic and mundane parts of Crystal's life converge, she finds herself risking everything to save Llyr, her family, and herself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Josie Demuth is an author based in London. First published on Wattpad, her Salt Kisses series has garnered over three million reads and is now serialised on Radish Fiction. The first of the series, A Thousand Salt Kisses is her third novel.

THIS BOOK WAS GOOD, THERE IS A SCENE THOUGH NOT EXPLICIT, I WOULD RATE IT AROUND A 1.5 ON THE SCALE. CRYSTAL GETS TO SPEND THE SUMMER ON STARFISH

ISLAND. WHERE THINGS ARE NOT AS THEY APPEAR. RESCUED BY A MERMAN, A BUDDING ROMANCE STARTS BETWEEN THEM, BUT DARK AND NEFARIOUS THINGS ARE GOING ON IN THE ISLANDS, WHEN THE CHOICE COMES TO BE TOGETHER WHAT WILL CRYSTAL AND LLYR DO? BOOK ONE WAS GOOD, SADLY I CANNOT SAY THE SAME FOR BOOK 2.

You can really tell that this book was written on Wattpad. Dialogue is predictable and seems to serve no purpose. Spelling mistakes and improper grammar galore, along with two-dimensional characters. While I like the idea of the merfolk theme, the characters need to be flushed out more as it's pretty much impossible for anyone to relate to them. For instance, I can't think of a single character trait of the love interest, I only know how he looks. Disappointing overall.

I enjoyed this book. It is definitely meant for teen readers and it is predictable but at the end I was left wanting more.

I don't normally read or blog about too many YA or romance books, but I do enjoy one from time to time, especially as my middle daughter is getting into more teen reads and she loves these sorts of books. Once I heard that *A Thousand Salt Kisses* featured mer-people, fantasy, the ocean, and an environmental plot, I had to agree to check it out. Both my girls and I really enjoy stories of the sea. Plus it gave me a much needed break from the heavier historical and horror books I generally work with or read when I am not reviewing middle readers with the girls. However, as I noted, the movement up towards reading YA will be a fun one as well. I do enjoy reading them when I can, I just don't normally review on my site, but hey, it's the start of summer and some sun and ocean were just what I was craving. *A Thousand Kisses* has a really great premise and plot line to it. I love the fantasy world of the mer-people colliding with the modern teenage world. I love the setting of their home by the lighthouse and I really like how the author brought environmental concerns to the forefront by having Crystal, the main protagonist, uncover a mystery in this vein. I love writers from the UK and the way they also write YA is quite modern, and in that regard, the book is what I thought and hoped it might be. As a serial, which it started out being, I can definitely see how its pace would have kept readers wanting the next segment. It starts off quickly with the romance and carries that through the entire time. Excerpt Graphic.jpg When I first began the book I realized I *\*really\** would need to start over, take off my editor and adult hat, and read with the mind of my advanced middle schooler because otherwise I wouldn't make it past the first couple chapters. Therefore, I don't think this is a YA that adults should be clamoring for, and if that was the intent,

then I'll put my editor hat back on and say let's work on less cheesy phrasing and dialogue and add more substance. But if it's meant as a quick read for younger eyes, who make funny remarks in their own heads and giggle in the wrong places, then younger girls on the lower end of the teenage years might enjoy this. I will say with my editors hat on that I did find errors starting from the beginning and on, but not much a regular younger reader eye would catch so it probably won't halt reading.

However, content and copy editing is something to consider ongoing. Also, I'd keep in mind not to judge appearances with girls in writing for them too, for instance, insinuating a girl with frizzy hair or a round face is somehow "less" of a looker. We want to build up self-confidence in young ladies! So again, these are just helpful hints and constructive comments for the author, not any reason at all to not like the story. However, the writing is not on the level of some of the more detailed and descriptive writers of today. Overall I did like the characters and felt that this book, though stand alone as it is, could be continued to a series (found out it is) and so I hope that author will work hard on her writing craft as she opens her imagination. I really liked how she didn't center just on a romance of summer love with teens and mer-people, but also how she created the sub-plot with her parents and the toxic waste harming marine life. I think girls these days want more substance and things to inspire them to be activists and involved in their own lives and communities, even if they have some romance blossoming. I would want to see more of these characters and learn more about the mer-people, and I bet that younger readers would also, possibly tackling more mysteries. There are enough emotions to keep the reader hooked and intrigue to keep you guessing, but mostly for the younger readers. I'm going to pass this along to my middle schooler, without comments, and see how she likes it. She may love the hint of romance, the fantasy angle, and the sub-plot. I don't want to mislead readers and say this is a Jennifer Donnelly-type book (Deep Blue) because it's not, but there is enough there that if worked on, could turn it into a much better series. Best of luck to the author! I'd give it 3 stars and recommend for teen readers. I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I did read the first book in this series and would suggest that the second book not be tackled as a stand-alone, since Crystal's background is needed to fully allow the story to develop. After four years, Crystal returns to Starfish Island and meets Llyr to discover that he's moved on from their romance and is now, engaged. She also learns of her own magic and must discover how to deal with all of it as this last twist endangers the entire mer world. This book has a slightly different feel to it than the first. The teenage Crystal from before has now matured into a fresh, college graduate. . .so this now hits the border of YA/NA. She returns with a little baggage this time too. She has a

boyfriend of her own and no longer has the carefree life she did back in high school. Job troubles also plague her world. In other words, the sweet girl from book one is different as is the entire romance/fairy tale feel. The world of the mer is more explored in this book, and the author does a lovely job of bringing the entire colorful, fantasy to life. The 'real' life aspects are still present but are shoved a little more to the side as magic gains much more importance in the plot. More characters are introduced and others slide into a more important role. Some are left a little unexplored, while others have interesting changes in views. The pacing is a little quicker in this book and detours a bit from the intense romance in book one. The tension is fine, and there are enough twists and turns to keep it interesting--although some of these are on the predictable side. The fantasy side ups higher as Crystal discovers her own powers and is pulled into the underwater world. And the romance isn't as straight forward as before, but rather leans toward an unexpected love triangle. New found magic and added layers of secrets allow a more complex plot in this book than was seen in the first one. While much of it is logical, some remains unexplained. Still, it makes for a light, fun read. Especially younger YAers will enjoy the fantastical story, and even though the character herself has just graduated college, they'll be able to sympathize with her plight. I received a complimentary copy and enjoyed it enough to leave my thoughts.

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