



# The Girl the Sea Gave Back

Written by Adrienne Young

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# Table of Contents

The Girl The Sea Gave Back .....	1
The Girl They Left Behind .....	2
The Girl The Gold Watch And Everything .....	3
The Girl The Fig .....	4
The Girl They Left Behind Movie .....	5
The Girl The Gold Watch And Everything Book .....	6
The Girl The Dragon Tattoo .....	7
The Girl The Gold Watch And Everything Dvd .....	8
The Girl The City And Colour Lyrics .....	9
The Girl The Movie .....	10

The Girl the Sea Gave Back

# The Girl the Sea Gave Back

By Adrienne Young

## The Girl The Sea Gave Back

The new gut-wrenching epic from the New York Times bestselling author of *Sky in the Deep*.

## The Girl They Left Behind

For as long as she can remember, Tova has lived among the Svell, the people who found her washed ashore as a child and use her for her gift as a Truthtongue. Her own home and clan are long-faded memories, but the sacred symbols and staves inked over every inch of her skin mark her as one who can cast the rune stones and see into the future. She has found a fragile place among those who fear her, but when two clans to the east bury their age-old blood feud and join together as one, her world is dangerously close to collapse.

## The Girl The Gold Watch And Everything

For the first time in generations, the leaders of the Svell are divided. Should they maintain peace or go to war with the allied clans to protect their newfound power? And when their chieftain looks to Tova to cast the stones, she sets into motion a series of events that will not only change the landscape of the mainland forever but will give her something she believed she could never have again—a home.

there is no better feeling than seeing a lovely cover and discovering that the writing inside reflects that same beauty. its just always a relief when a book is gorgeous, both inside and out.

and its definitely the writing that made this story for me. young took a topic that im not really interested in (vikings) and had me so enamoured with their way of life, their gods and beliefs, their struggle and desire for peace. there is such an atmospheric quality to her words that makes me feel like im there is no better feeling than seeing a lovely cover and discovering that the writing inside reflects that same beauty. its just always a relief when a book is gorgeous, both inside and out.

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so how come im not giving this 5 stars if i seemed to enjoy it so much? well, that would be because of the pacing, particularly the ending. everything is resolved in about 10-20 pages, making it seem a bit rushed to me. this book is on the shorter side of things, so i would have loved to have a more extended conclusion. or just a generally consistent flow throughout.

overall, this is a great companion novel. i love when books are considered a series, but instead of being a continuation of one story, they are individual stories told in the same world, with overlapping characters and events. so any fan of 'sky in the deep' will love this. of that, i am positive.

also, a massive thanks to wednesday books/st. martins press for sending me an ARC!

â† 3.5 stars ...more

## The Girl The Fig

\*HEAVY BREATHING INTENSIFIES\*

Thank you so much to the publisher for providing me with this ARC in exchange for an honest review!

I'm a bit shocked, as I feel like this book read much more like a debut than author's actual debut novel did. The world building is minimal, if non-existent, and the plot is predictable and felt lacking in purpose. Overall, it was a straight forward story without the tension I typically find in fantasy to drive the story forward. I think the idea is here, but unfortunately this one just fell flat for me; however, I will concede that I'm likely in the minority with my opinions. I'm all about giving this author another shot with her next book, though, as Sky in the Deep showcased the talent that Young clearly capable of.

\*Many thanks to the publisher for providing my review copy. ...more

## The Girl They Left Behind Movie

I absolutely loved *Sky in the Deep*, but I couldn't connect with this one or the characters. The prose is very beautiful and rich here but I wanted more viking stuff and stronger romantic elements between the leads. However, I think it could just be me here.

DNF at page 10. *The Girl the Sea Gave Back* needs a major editing overhaul prior to publication in September of 2019. Will revisit this book once finished copies are available.

## The Girl The Gold Watch And Everything Book

“War is faithful to come looking for us time and again.”

Unpopular opinion coming in again everyone!

Imagine getting a beautifully wrapped gift, pretty ribbon, fabulous wrapping paper. Just oh so lovely. And then imagine your disappointment when you open the box only to find it completely empty.

That is this book.

Gorgeous cover. Plenty of lovely, descriptive prose. But sadly it’s narrative falls flat. Somehow, despite its best intentions, it is empty. Without heart. Without soul. Or if there is one “War is faithful to come looking for us time and again.”

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Imagine getting a beautifully wrapped gift, pretty ribbon, fabulous wrapping paper. Just oh so lovely. And then imagine your disappointment when you open the box only to find it completely empty.

That is this book.

Gorgeous cover. Plenty of lovely, descriptive prose. But sadly it’s narrative falls flat. Somehow, despite its best intentions, it is empty. Without heart. Without soul. Or if there is one, I can't find it.

Coming away from this book, I felt little to no connection to anything or anyone. There is just a sort of nothingness.

It’s been so long so I don’t remember if Sky in the Deep was anything like this, but I don’t think it was because looking at my previous review I seemed to have rather enjoyed that book.

I found little enjoyment in this one. So either that book was superior or my taste has just change between now and then.

This book was all about destiny. If things didn’t make sense, it’s okay it is was destined to be that way. Unlikely coincidences or encounters? Fate! Two people who never met feeling connected to each other? Fate! Destiny!

There’s very little romance, but I can’t even be mad because the constant reminder of their entwined destinies was annoying enough without adding full-on insta-love into the mix. There were definitely unexplained feelings there, which I think I was supposed to be rooting for but I did not.



The Girl the Sea Gave Back

Halvard literally almost strangles her to death. That killed any sort of positives vibes I could or might have had for them. And itâ€™s not like it was a just an empty threat and she knew for certain he wouldnâ€™t hurt her. No, when she reflected on it she literally wonders if he wouldâ€™ve killed her had Kjelda not interrupted in time. Like girl, if you have question if a man mightâ€™ve killed you he is not the one for you!

Even the rather epic battle scenes toward the end couldnâ€™t save this book. Also that ending? What?

I received a free ARC copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Big thank you to St. Martin's Press for providing for with a copy! ...more

The battles were brutal and awesome

This was a bit slow to begin but it had to be with the background information. I didnâ€™t read Sky in the Deep prior to this one and didnâ€™t feel that I had to. I ended up truly loving this book. It reminded me quite a bit of Vikings on the History channel and Halvard was an awful lot like young Ragnar Lothbrok. I can only hope he stays that way, because Ragnar Lothbrok was awesome.

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The story was about Tova who was found at six years old on the shore by a surrogate father, Jorrund. She was in a funeral boat that was partially burned out and it was obvious to him that she was a kyr truthtongue which is a seer of sorts that uses stones like runes and reads them. He decides to use this to his political advantage and tells her that she was a sacrifice to the gods by her people. She grew up thinking that. The Svell whom she lived with hated her for being the messenger of bad things. They treated her like the things she saw where her fault even though they were the ones that would ask for the readings, mostly during dire situations or in times of war.

The battle scenes were brutal and like the Vikings TV show they were extremely detailed so that was another thing that reminded me of the same. But I was loving it. Tova tries to do what is right and nobody wants to let her, and nobody ever stands up for her. Though when it comes down to the major battle there is a scene where I found myself crying, then cheering out loud. It was an awesome moment. There were a few of those in this book. I love a lot of action.

Thanks to Netgalley for providing me with an ARC in exchange for an honest review. ...more

## The Girl The Dragon Tattoo

It has been like 4 years since I won a Goodreads giveaway, so I'm still in shock. So happy it's for this b/c I loved the 1st ~°~°

Here are some of my thoughts:

☺ This book can be quite brutal. I felt already a little weepy at the beginning of the book because everything seems to be going wrong. This book really goes there at times. I had no idea who was going to live, who was going to die, especially during these war times. I like that some of the characters are wise to know that no one should be lo It has been like 4 years since I won a Goodreads giveaway, so I'm still in shock. So happy it's for this b/c I loved the 1st ~°i• ~°i•

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☐ I am happy that Harvard is the protagonist in this one. He was the one that I wanted the book to be about when the 1st book ended (and Myra – but it was nice to see here as a stronger, happier character after 10 years). His side of the story is more about him coming to terms with becoming the new leader of their clan. He feels unsure and incompetent but it is nice to see that everyone else from his clan see his potential. That is probably due to how he is innately a noble man with a good heart.

☐ The other half of this story is about Tova. There is something intriguing with the plot that is revolving around fate and what the Spinners have chosen. I like the Kyrr clan that is introduced here. It would have been nice to get to know more about their people because most of them come off as vague characters when the book is more focused on building the characters of Nadhir and Svell (but let's be real – mainly Nadhir – because they are the clan that combined the 2 clans we met in the 1st book – Riki and Aska. I find this particular development super cool and I am glad that after 10 years, these people have found peace with each other.) I find Tova's journey with the Svell to be somewhat repetitive and less interesting because we mainly see her following the Svell as their leader makes very bad, evil decisions in his power-hungry mind. And they mistreat her, and she worries about what the fate is telling her and she's scared of screwing it up. It is a complex situation with Tova being an outsider wanting to fitting in, while her –father figure– has raised her but also used her. I can see why she is conflicted and why she follows along with what the Svell wants. However, I think reading her side of the story only gets truly interesting when she finally puts her foot down. And that really took a long while.

## The Girl the Sea Gave Back

I like the romance between Harvard and Tova but in contrast to the 1st book, this book focuses way less on the romance. In this book, the romance is approached lightly. Harvard and Tova have very little scenes together, although they think about each other a lot. The romance is more about fate/destiny than actual developments or interactions. I prefer the latter, but I can see why the romance would be of the destined variety when this plot in general is so immersed in fate.

Svell is primarily characterized by the power-hungry leader, Vigdis, Tova's controlling yet conflicting father figure, Jorrund, and the grumpy, yet surprising kind bodyguard, Gunther. The former 2 are unpleasant to read about. Gunther is a surprise and I love him. He is MVP. I do wonder what the common folks of Svell think though. We don't know much about them, except they all hate Tova. I find it interesting that everyone, particularly Vigdis, so easily blames Tova for their misfortunes when she is mainly the seer/messenger/interpreter of fates. It's even more baffling when Vigdis blames her for his own mistakes that led to bad outcomes. I hate it, but I suppose it is realistic in a way because some people love to put the blame on other people.

I am so glad to see all my old favorites again Eelyn, Fiske, and Iri. It is nice to see how they are doing after 10 years.

I love Agghi and hearing how he has united the 2 clans and has tied everyone together.

I truly appreciate that this book and the 1st focus on the strong family and community bonds. The relationships I see in these books are so real and deep, and make me want to root for everyone to be happy and alive. I absolutely love seeing Harvard reuniting with his family in this book and seeing how much everyone cares about each other.

The cover looks even better in real life. There is some cool gloss/texture or whatever you call it on the sea area.

This book has made me think a lot about the intricacies of fate and war. Young has shown characters who react to fate and war in realistic ways there is a whole spectrum of how each responds to them. I like Harvard, especially seeing how much he has grown since the 1st book. Tova has a more complicated plot but it does fall a little short for me in terms of her developments. Still, I have rooted for her since the beginning. I like seeing her connection with Kyrr and learning more about that. Overall, I give this 3.5 stars. I look forward to reading more books by this author because she really knows how to tug at the heart strings with characters and their relationships with each other. I love, love the strong family theme in these 2 books.

**\*\*Thank you, St. Martin's Press, for the ARC!\*\***

Things that you might want to know (WARNING: Spoilers below)

Happy/satisfying ending? (view spoiler)[A little bittersweet but generally happy for our main characters (hide spoiler)]

Love triangle? Cheating? Angst level? Other things to note? (view spoiler)[No, no, medium. (hide spoiler)]

Tears-worthy? (view spoiler)[Can be quite sad, but did not cry (hide spoiler)]

Humor? (view spoiler)[No (hide spoiler)]

Favorite scenes? (view spoiler)[Seeing Harvard interact with Fiske, Iri, and Eelyn. I wished there were more scenes of them together interacting! I also just in general like hearing about what happened in

The Girl the Sea Gave Back

these past 10 years “ with them having kids and finding peace as 2 clans made into 1. I also like when Gunther helped out Tova (despite him being a total grump), and she realized she can actually trust one person within Svell. In addition, it is nice to see Tova reunite with her family and for her to finally learn the truth about what happened years ago. (hide spoiler)]

...more

I have received this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I loved the first book.. so it isn't really surprising that I fell in love with this one as well.

The girl the Sea Gave Back was so entertaining! It was definitely a page turner and made me fall in love with Tova and Halvard. Now I'm not really a fan of the back and forth with flashbacks because they don't always work in books. Yet, it definitely did in this one. It made everything clearer in a way that I wasn't expecting. I I have received this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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Speaking of Tova, oh lord she was aammaazziinngg! She had moments when I had cheered for her because no one should be treated that way. I felt so bad for her during those moments so I was like.. ya know karma is a bitch but I feel like Tova is a bigger one when you try to cross her. Or ya know.. hit her in any way, shape, or form. YA KNOW?

Then there's Halvard, and ugh I loved his parts! I was craving more interaction between him and Tova though but I guess I can accept what I got in this book - maybe? Not quite sure on that yet. I especially want to know more about this damn cliffhanger - because hot damn, I hate those so much! UGH, I NEED MORE DAMMIT - so I'm expecting another book ASAP!

Overall, everyone should read and love this. ...more

The Girl the Sea Gave Back

## The Girl The Gold Watch And Everything Dvd

"Augua Ær tivar. Ljǣ; mir sǣn

"Eye of the gods. Give me sight"

Plot: 4/5

Characters: 4/5

Writing: 4.5/5

The Girl the Sea Gave Back was the mystical companion novel to Sky in the Deep, set in the same vivid Viking-inspired world that told a story woven by fate, destiny and omens of the future. Unlike Sky in the Deep, this book was less focused on the theme of family and placed more emphasis on finding a place to belong and coming into one's own. It was a poignant tale which I really liked.

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The story was told from the points of view of two characters: Halvard and Tova. In Sky in the Deep, Halvard was eight-years-old and it was nice to see him as a grown man in this book. He remained just as kind, brave and genuine as he always was and I loved watching him grow and develop into a worthy leader. I also liked briefly meeting other characters from Sky in the Deep like Eelyn, Iri and Fiske and getting to see the family they made together. Mǣra was also in this book and I liked getting to know her even more- I think a spin-off story based on her would be really interesting!

"The stones don't lie"

Tova was a member of the Kyrr clan, a people who believed in the power of fate and had markings all over their skin which told their stories. When she was six-years-old Tova washed up in a boat all by herself near the Svell clan and was taken in by a man who lived there. She had no memory of her life before except from the knowledge that she was a Truthtongue and could read the future in rune stones. The Svell were always suspicious of her and her place among them was precarious. When she read their futures they blamed her for the outcomes despite the fact that she was only conveying their fates not influencing them.

Tova really wanted a place to belong and she was tired of being treated like the enemy. She slowly realised that she couldn't be blamed for the fates of others and no matter what she told them they

The Girl the Sea Gave Back

would always twist the signs and believe in the future they wanted. She learnt to fight for who and what she thought was right and found her happiness. However, I would have liked her to have had more character development and more explanation behind her backstory.

"War is easy. It comes again and again, like waves to a shore. But I lived most of my life driven by hate and I don't want that for my grandchildren"

Overall, I really liked *The Girl the Sea Gave Back* although I think it could have been longer and included more character and plot development. The world building, the themes of fate and reading the future in rune stones were brilliantly done and it was a powerful, magical read.

Thank you to Titan Books for providing me with a review copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All opinions expressed are my own. ...more

Genre: YA Fantasy

Type: Standalone book from Sky In the Deep collection

POV: First Person - Dual

Rating:

3.75 stars

Since she could remember, Tova had always been an outcast. Growing up among the Svell she was shunned and feared for her ability. When an innocent move led her to Halvard, a young man from a rival clan, she never thought it would take her to a path that would change the course of their lives and the people around them.

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## The Girl the Sea Gave Back

It had been a long time since I'd prayed to Thora or Sigr. Not because I didn't believe in the gods, but because I wasn't sure they listened.

I liked how Tova's past was shrouded in secrets and revealed slowly throughout the book. I enjoyed seeing Halvard's growth but I felt he didn't reach his full potential. Both of them had individual appeal. However, the connection between them needed to be stronger because it felt a little detached.

The N   dhir would follow me into the mist of the forest when the sun rose. And only the gods knew if we'd ever come out.

One of the most interesting things about this book is how both of them were underdogs with heavy responsibilities. I love reluctant heroes kind of characters and watch them learn to embrace it. I also loved a few secondary characters from both sides.

The Girl the Sea Gave Back is a story of rising up and righting the wrong. It would appeal to readers who enjoy Viking influenced YA Fantasy.

Books in the series:

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...more

## The Girl The City And Colour Lyrics

I feel like everything that kept me from loving SKY IN THE DEEP, was missing in THE GIRL THE SEA GAVE BACK. This makes me very very happy.

I was sure this was going to be an easy three star read; lots to like but not quite getting me all the way there which, I mean, would've been a better result than book one. So colour me surprised by this rating.

This story takes place ten years after the events of SKY IN THE DEEP and, once again, we have warring clans. The characters we knew from book one have I feel like everything that kept me from loving SKY IN THE DEEP, was missing in THE GIRL THE SEA GAVE BACK. This makes me very very happy.

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This story takes place ten years after the events of SKY IN THE DEEP and, once again, we have warring clans. The characters we knew from book one have known peace and a time of rebuilding, rebirth, as a united people but now another group, the Svell, are stirring up trouble. Made worse by the fact that the Svell people are, themselves, divided. Additionally, they feel they are cursed by the existence of an outsider who lives among them, who washed up on their shores, and yet they also rely on her for her gifts at reading the runes, and predicting the future, as she is a Truthtongue.

It's Tova's prediction that sparks tragedy for Halvard's people and we watch as they are on opposite sides of a war neither of them want. Halvard loses people he loves and Tova is blamed for things beyond her control as the fragile trust she has with the man who has raised her.. frays. Betrayal abounds with the Svell people and she's tossed amongst them, lost, confused, and resigned.

Tova doesn't know who she is, Halvard is bound so strongly with his family, both blood and found, and I actually really enjoyed bouncing back between their perspectives and the glimpses we got from their past. Their connection isn't much, either, but yet feels.. present. There's almost no romance here and yet we see possibility, potential, and that's honestly where this book became more than I thought it would be.

I found the pacing to be pretty much perfect and I loved where the book, and our characters, ended up. This is a stronger book and the events, the loss and brutality, felt more real. The stakes somehow higher. The surprises (of which maybe there was only one but it was a good one) more surprising. I definitely have a question or two about how some things played out but those niggles are buried pretty far underneath my general contentment over the story.



The Girl the Sea Gave Back

If SKY IN THE DEEP wasn't a book you were able to get on with, I would definitely recommend you pick up this sophomore offering. And if you loved SKY IN THE DEEP, I think you'll be just as satisfied, if not more, by this follow-up in the author's viking world.

\*\* I received an ARC from the publisher (thank you!) in exchange for an honest review. \*\*

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This review can also be found at A Take From Two Cities. ...more

• I blinked, my gaze following the edge to the feet that stood down the cliff, the moonlight on his white tunic a faint glow. It pulled around him in the wind, his hair blowing across his forehead. And when I looked up into his face, Halvard's eyes were on me.

After spending a considerable amount of time deciding how I feel about this book, I've come to the conclusion that I'm a little bit sad.

It's not that I didn't find the story and world I discovered and loved in Sky in the Deep interesting, which I did, and it's not that this book failed to capture my attention, because it kept me turning pages thirsty for more. My dilemma comes from the fact that the first 250 pages were the impeccably perfect setting for an epic ending filled with the satisfaction of two fated lovers falling into their destiny. But much to my surprise - and dismay - romance never truly took off and the love story became so diluted, it barely held any importance or outcome.

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This book is filled with viking folklore, it's transporting, it is certainly engrossing and I did fly through it. But I can't help but feel like it had the potential to be so much more, romance had been more present.

So here I am, feeling like I had all the ingredients but somehow, the filling of the cake turned out dry and sort of ruined the whole thing. Sure, I'm going to still eat it, you know? But this cake could have been freaking delicious.

\*I received an early copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

The Girl the Sea Gave Back

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MORE. VIKINGS.

...more

## The Girl The Movie

4.5 maybe? RTC!

At 50% I DNF the book. I loved "Sky in the Deep", so I had high expectations for liking this one... but it wasn't to be. I didn't connect to the characters, the writing got me lost sometimes with the time jumps and I felt like the plot wasn't all clear or for me...

We follow two main characters from rival clans: Tova, who comes from another clan and is hated on the clan she is now because she is a fortune teller and they kinda fear/hate it; and Halvard, the kid from the Rikki clan from the previ At 50% I DNF the book. I loved "Sky in the Deep", so I had high expectations for liking this one... but it wasn't to be. I didn't connect to the characters, the writing got me lost sometimes with the time jumps and I felt like the plot wasn't all clear or for me...

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They find themselves in the middle of a war between their clans but they sort of refuse to kill each other because there is something going on between them. Tolva feels it more mystically at thr beginning, like Halvard is sth else, and he is kinda attracted to her, but to me it fall flat.

The presence of a character from the same clan as Tolva withvHalvard felt forced and I didn't know why they didn't make him to tell who she is (at least not before I DNFed the book) and why he recognizes her...

To me it was a very confusing lecture, with no clear stand points and with charactera that didn't caught my attention not hold it. ...more