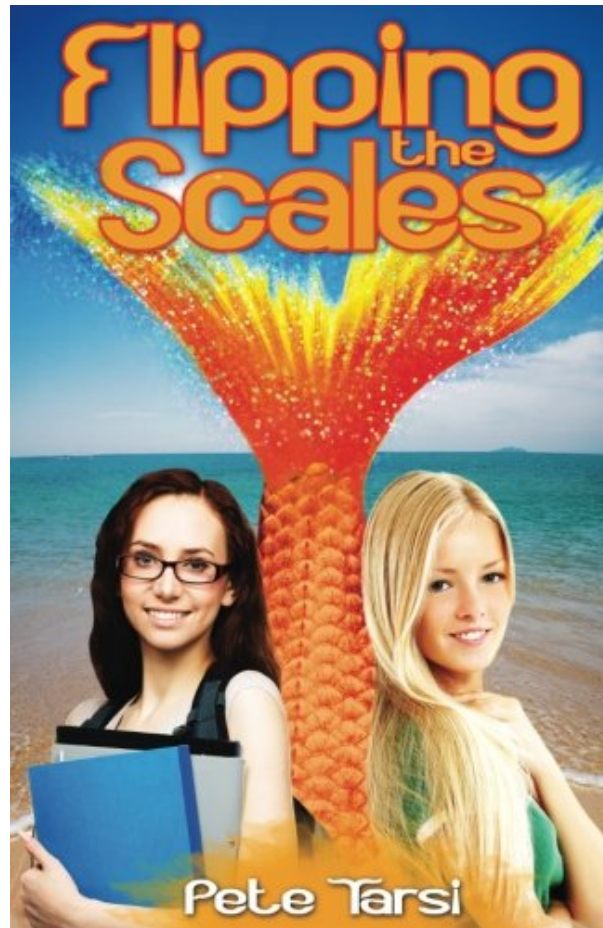
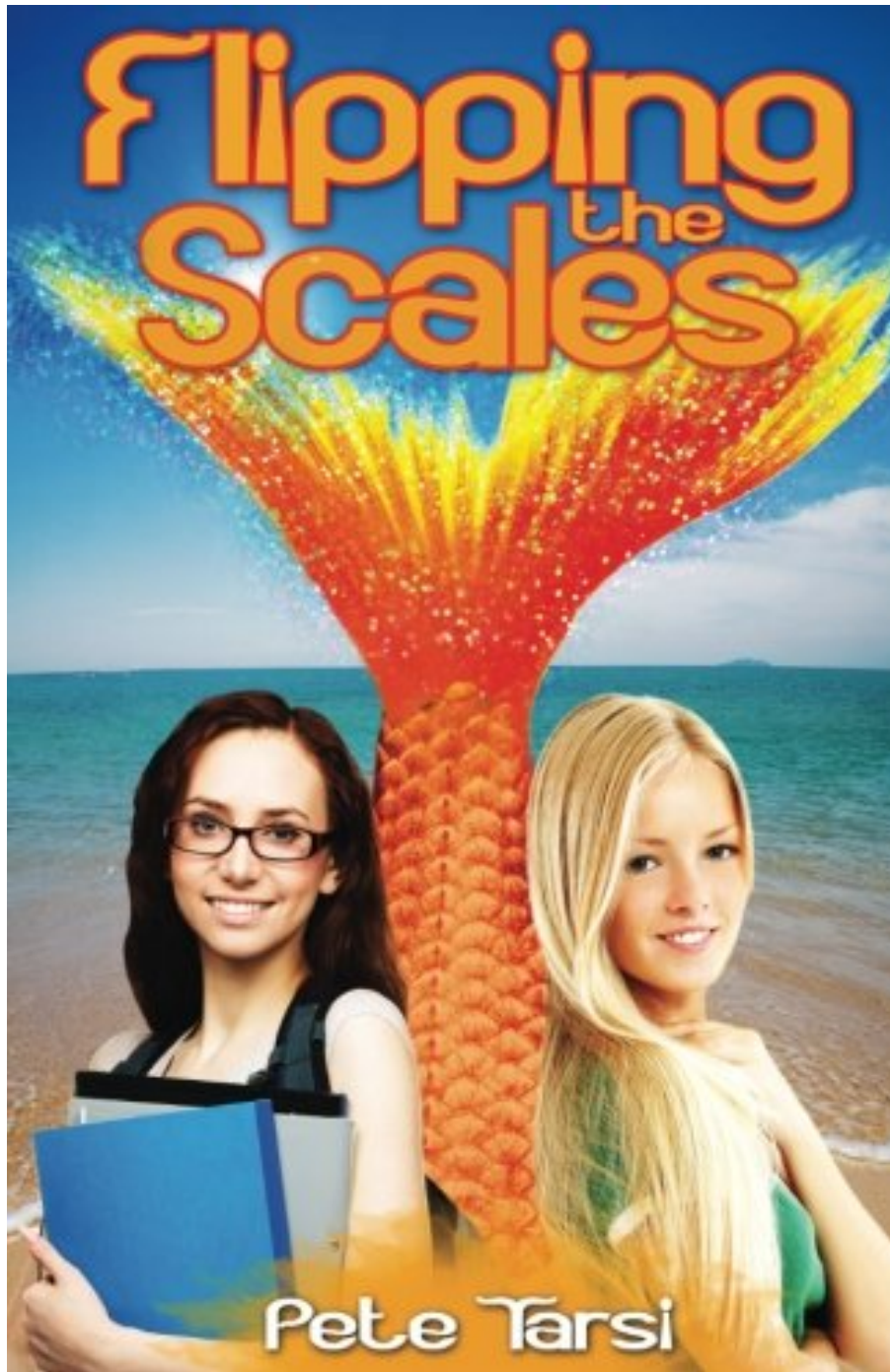


# FLIPPING THE SCALES BY PETE TARSI



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### Review

"This is an entertaining mermaid story that does two things. Although it is a fantasy story, there is a lot of the story that is contemporary as well, talking about humans, the island, and the beach community. This helps draw readers that are more contemporary fiction fans and gives them a reason to want to pick up this book to give fantasy a try. And the fantasy side of the story is well written also. The characters are like fish out of water and readers will love the humor within this story as they both try to get back to their normal lives." (5 stars)--Janelle Fila for Readers' Favorite

### About the Author

Pete Tarsi writes books that he hopes his daughters will enjoy. So far, so good.

He graduated from MIT with a degree in Creative Writing and Physics, and he considers himself fortunate that he gets to do both. When he's not writing, he can be found teaching high school science, directing theatre, or spending time with his three lovely daughters. He grew up in a small town north of Boston and still lives in Massachusetts.

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# FLIPPING THE SCALES BY PETE TARSI PDF

Meredith and Marina's lives have been flipped upside down.

When the translucent skirt that straight-A-student Meredith finds hidden on the beach gets wet, it transforms her legs into a mermaid tail. Despite the evidence in front of her, she insists that becoming a mythical creature isn't scientifically possible.

Marina is allowed to experience one day per moon cycle among the humans. After hiding her tail on the beach that morning, she takes her first timid steps on land. When she returns at sunset to find it missing, she is left stranded and alone.

For the first time in her life, Meredith doesn't have all the answers. As she searches for a way to return to normal before the next full moon, she makes waves among the school of mermaids. Meanwhile, Marina uncovers information about her past, and for the first time in her life, she must stand on her own two feet and take the lead on her own adventure.

As Meredith senses her human side slipping away, a forbidden way to change back entices her. But it comes with a consequence: Marina wouldn't be able to return to the ocean.

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- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .63" w x 5.50" l, .71 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 250 pages

## Review

"This is an entertaining mermaid story that does two things. Although it is a fantasy story, there is a lot of the story that is contemporary as well, talking about humans, the island, and the beach community. This helps draw readers that are more contemporary fiction fans and gives them a reason to want to pick up this book to give fantasy a try. And the fantasy side of the story is well written also. The characters are like fish out of water and readers will love the humor within this story as they both try to get back to their normal lives." (5 stars)--Janelle Fila for Readers' Favorite

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## Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Fun, lighthearted fantasy adventure with smarts

By J. Barker

Pete Tarsi's debut Young Adult novel "Flipping the Scales" is a wonderfully refreshing and entertaining mermaid story with one foot firmly planted in the familiar surroundings of an island beachside community, and the other foot (or is it fin?) submerged in a magical underwater world populated by "mers" (as the story's mermaids and mermen prefer to call themselves). The tale's two immensely likeable leads initially don't fare well at all when removed from their natural habitats, and the story gets a lot of comic "fish out of water" mileage out of the situation when the teen girl and her mermaid counterpart are forced to switch places.

There are life lessons taught along the way, and Tarsi's background as a high school teacher is evident in the importance his narration attaches to classroom learning (even though he slyly subverts that aspect in a way at one point), but this story works first and foremost as a totally involving piece of escapist entertainment. The summertime setting where almost every day features glorious, perfect weather makes this a great beach read, as well as an ideal way to shake the winter blahs. Meredith and Marina are surrounded by a colorful and quirky supporting cast whose banter supplies a steady stream of laughs, and who emphasize the novel's most appealing theme: the importance of friends and family. (And, yes, there's romance, too.) There are others who don't wish our heroines well, though, and even the protagonists aren't always on their best behavior, providing the story with its conflict and making for several harrowing moments.

Tarsi has dreamt up some new variations on old "rules" governing mermaids and their spending time on land (cleverly, the characters observe that "real mermaids" don't turn out to be exactly like "fictional mermaids"), and he's come up with some charming slang for the teen mers ("It flows!") Diehard mermaid enthusiasts might find themselves wishing that more of the book had taken place underwater (there's a roughly 50-50 split between the action that takes place in the sea and the scenes set on land), but this reader appreciated the emphasis on the storyline centering on the mermaid's time among the humans, as the author managed to make the everyday details of life in our world more immediate and involving than those of the underworld kingdom. (I imagine we'll get more of a feel for day-to-day life among the mers in the second and third books of this trilogy.) It should be mentioned, though, that one scene in particular--- temporary mermaid Meredith frolicking among some dolphins---is worth several great white whales' combined weight in gold as enchanting fantasy moments go.

This reviewer is, admittedly, both the incorrect gender and a few decades too old to qualify for the target audience for this book. However, I think that parents and other older family members who pick this book up as a gift and start to idly leaf through it might be pleasantly surprised to find themselves compelled to see it through to the end. Tarsi's considerable skills as a writer include not pandering or writing down to his intended audience; the bright, inquisitive leads don't leave you with a sickish sensation that this world is being passed down to a generation of dullards, and the adults aren't portrayed as idiots or monsters. (Tween and teen readers take heart, though: the young characters are unquestionably the leads here, set everything into motion and solve all of their own problems.) It has a cheery, optimistic worldview that's miles removed from the dystopian vision of a YA novel like "The Hunger Games", but that avoids being sickly sweet or overly precious. The highest compliment that I can pay it is that I'm anxious for the release of the second book in the series ("Skipping the Scales") so that I can find out what happens to these characters next.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A Different Sort of Mermaid Book

By Amanda Marie

I picked up Flipping the Scales because I was looking for a light read. The cover brought to mind the TV

series H2O: Just Add Water, mainly because of the orange tail. So I decided to give Flipping the Scales a go.

I have to say that I did like how Flipping the Scales was different from other mermaid stories. Jill and especially Hailey were well-versed in various mermaid stories and used that knowledge to try to help Meredith when she grew a tail. However, the stories the girls had heard weren't accurate and Jill and Hailey ran out of options.

Now Meredith is stuck as a mermaid until the next full moon and Marina is stuck with legs. Both girls are going to have to find ways to assimilate while they await the full moon. Meredith has Lorelei to help her understand the ways of the mer while Marina has Jill and Hailey to teach her to be human.

I liked Marina's character a lot. She was only stuck with legs because Lorelei had dragged her to the shore. Now she is completely stuck and Lorelei can't be with her. That would be rather overwhelming.

I did not click with Meredith at all. She seemed to think she was better than everyone else because she was intelligent. She gets fixated on things that aren't important and doesn't seem to be very friendly. Maybe it is just me, but I didn't like her.

Overall, I liked the story. There were some twists that I didn't see coming and some surprises. I'm sure readers younger than me would really enjoy it. In fact, I am thinking of some of my students who would probably love it.

I received this book for free via Young Adult Insider for review consideration. This in no way affects my opinion of the title nor the content of this review.

This review first appeared at Orandi et Legendi.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A captivating tale that feeds the soul!

By 777

"One day, Marina. It will be like no other experience."

Flipping the Scales is a magical tale of friendship, loyalty, and the ability to adapt. The story is set during summer break, where Meredith is sent to spend her vacation with her best friend, Jill, and Jill's cousin, Hailey. They live on a private beach, a perfect place for two mermaids, Lorelei and Marina, to "disrobe" their tails and spend one day of fun amongst humans. But when Meredith finds the shimmering object and puts it on, she accidentally transforms and becomes a mermaid herself. Unable to retrieve her tail, Marina is forced to stay on land, while Meredith is forced to live in the water.

This story was so unique and captivating that I couldn't bear to part from it. I snuck in time to read, anywhere I could, just to be included in this enchanted predicament. The plot sucked me in, becoming very complex, wetting my appetite for mystery, romance, and suspense. The characters were diverse, yet endearing, and their development was beautiful to behold. Meredith is introverted and detests the water; while Marina really didn't want to surface on dry land. What a predicament they must endure as they are out of their element and forced to face their polar opposite. And the mermaid realm! Oh, the mermaid realm was so lush and inventive, literally every flip of the tail was thoroughly described. If one has ever dreamt of becoming a mermaid, this book truly fulfills that desire.

This book strangely fed a hunger that resided deep within my soul. Perhaps it's because I was a part of an

elite group of girls trying to save a mermaid? Or maybe because I became one myself? Or could it be that I was whisked away to a sunny beach from the comfort of my pink armchair? Whatever it was, I know I thoroughly loved EVERY minute of it. And I can't wait to read book two!

This book receives five shining stars!

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### Review

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