

Of Poseidon Study Guide

Of Poseidon by Anna Banks

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Plot Summary

"Of Poseidon" by Anna Banks is the story of Emma McIntosh, an eighteen-year-old girl who lives on the New Jersey shore with her mother. Her father, who was a doctor, died of cancer several years before. The story begins when Emma and her best friend, Chloe, are in Florida on a vacation with Chloe's family. As Emma walks along the beach not watching where she is going, she runs right into the chest of a young man. She is embarrassed by her carelessness and is afraid to look up at him. When she does, she sees the hottest guy she has ever seen! He has black hair, olive skin and violet-colored eyes. She herself also has violet eyes which she knows is very rare but that's where the similarity ends. She has naturally platinum colored hair and light skin.

The young man's name is Galen Forza, and he is as taken with Emma as she is with him. Chloe comes rushing up to them and is also "gaga" over the cute guy. Emma is rather shy and senses a strange awkwardness about the young man. He seems different. Emma apologizes for running into him, grabs her surfboard and is off. Emma and Chloe go surfing and Chloe takes quite a spill. As Emma is trying to get Chloe up on her surfboard, something bumps Chloe's leg, then bumps it again. Suddenly, Chloe is screaming for her life. She is being attacked by a vicious bull shark that drags her down to the ocean bottom. Emma screams for help but is too far away from shore for anyone to hear. She starts to paddle in for help but something comes over her. She must save her friend. Emma dives down to come to Chloe's aid.

Galen had been watching from shore and swims out to help. He watches as Emma, seemingly fearless, tries to pull Chloe out of the shark's mouth. Galen sees that Chloe is lifeless and has lost a lot of blood. Galen is about to go help Emma but he watches in amazement as Emma faces the shark and talks to it. It stops, turns and swims away. She is just the girl he's been looking for in more ways than one.

Galen is a Syrena which is similar to a merman although the Syrena hate that word. He was dispatched to Florida by a human animal biologist he knows who told him that there was a blonde girl in Florida who communicated with the fish at his aquarium and who had the distinguishing violet eyes of the Syrena. He strongly suspects that she is one of Galen's kind. Galen comes in search of this girl who turns out to be Emma. He follows her back to New Jersey, enrolls in her school and quickly becomes part of her life.

They begin to fall for each other but there's a lot that Emma doesn't know. She doesn't know that Galen transforms into a fish-man and is a prince, that she may be the missing princess of Poseidon, that the King of Titan may want to mate with her and, most of all, that she is part fish!

There are mysteries and twists and turns and ups and downs in their budding relationship but in the end the Syrena prince and the half-breed girl who is part human and part Syrena, learn that they love each other and will be together whether it is on land or sea.



Chapters 1 and 2

Chapters 1 and 2 Summary

Chapter 1

Emma McIntosh runs right into a guy on the beach. She should have been looking where she was going. She's really embarrassed and afraid to look up at him. His hands on her shoulders give her a tingly feeling. She gets the nerve to look at the guy and he's gorgeous! Chloe, best friend and track star, is rushing to Emma ostensibly to see if she's all right but really because the guy's so cute. Chloe quickly introduces herself and Emma to the guy and makes a remark that Emma usually wears a special helmet.

Emma feels like strangling Chloe. Her mother was right. She should have stayed in New Jersey and not gone on vacation to Florida with Chloe and her parents. Chloe's just trying to get revenge because Emma wouldn't let her use her ID to get a tattoo the night before. But what was she thinking?! Emma's white and Chloe's black. A petite black-haired girl calls to him - to Galen. They look so much alike - same black hair, violet eyes and olive skin - that it has to be his sister. Rayna is his twin sister and seems a little hostile. Galen isn't hostile but he is a little awkward like he's out of practice or something. Chloe notices that all three of them have the same color eyes - violet.

Emma just wants to leave. She grabs her surfboard and tells Galen it was nice meeting him and that she was sorry she ran into him.

Chapter 2

Rayna and Galen watch as the girls run down on the beach. Rayna is sure that Emma was wearing contacts but Galen is just as sure that she was not. But Rayna is positive that Emma can't be one of them. Her hair isn't even blonde - it's white. The hair threw him, too. But there's an immediate recognition among the Syrena and they're always attracted to their own kind. That attraction usually occurs at sea. He never heard of it happening on land before but it had just happened to him. Could she be the one to unite the two factions in Syrena? Rayna points out that Emma can't be one of them because she's vacationing with humans. If Emma was a Syrena she would have known who they were because of their trident marking. But Galen points out that most humans have tattoos. So Emma probably thought it was a tattoo. But if she was a Syrena, Emma would have recognized the trident. Galen had to agree with her on that point.

Galen tells Rayna he has to see Dr. Milligan who is the only human that Galen trusts. Dr. Milligan had asked Galen to see him so it must be important. Dr. Milligan is a highly respected oceanographer who Galen saved from drowning many years before. In return, Dr. Milligan promised to keep his identity a secret. He had left an urgent voice mail that a blonde Syrena disguised as a human was visiting the Gulfariam. Galen decided not to tell Rayna about Dr. Milligan's message. Their father will be upset if



Galen doesn't come home with Rayna. She doesn't understand Galen's obsession with humans. When Rayna turned twenty, her father matched her with Toraf, a pairing that Rayna is still resisting.

Galen is fascinated with humans. He got permission from his older brother, Grom, to serve as a sort of ambassador to humans which is a good way to keep an eye on the land dwellers. Grom, who is next in line for kingship, gave him permission for Galen to communicate with the humans on a limited basis. Galen decides to follow Emma for a few days to try to learn if she is one of them. Suddenly, Galen and Rayna look out on the ocean and see that Emma is being followed by a shark.

Chapters 1 and 2 Analysis

Chapter 1

There is an immediate attraction between Galen and Emma. It was inexplicable to her. She was very astute to notice that Galen and Rayna looked so much alike that they had to be siblings. Rayna is a little hostile toward Emma. She may feel threatened by Emma because her brother seems to be so attracted to her and Rayna does not think Galen should get involved with her. Emma is upset with Chloe because she embarrassed her in front of Galen who was obviously quite an attractive fellow.

Chapter 2

It becomes more obvious why Rayna did not take a liking to Emma. Rayna and Galen are members of the Syrena kingdom, mysterious beings who are connected to the sea. He came to Florida because the only human he trusts asked him to come and alerted him that a young girl who was visiting the area may be a Syrena. Galen wonders if Emma could be that girl and might be able to unite the two warring factors of his nation. Rayna is absolutely sure that Emma could not be even though she has the violet eyes that are unique to the Syrena. There is a tension between Rayna and Galen over Emma and if Galen eventually does become involved with Emma, Rayna will not be an ally of Emma.



Chapters 3 and 4

Chapters 3 and 4 Summary

Chapter 3

Chloe has a spill out in the water and Emma comes to her rescue. After they catch their breath, their thoughts return to Galen. Chloe says that he's the hottest guy she'd ever seen and points out that Galen is still staring at Emma. Chloe suggests that they invite him to meet them at their hangout, the Village on Baytowne Wharf.

Something underwater bumps Chloe. She peers down in the water to see what it was. Her leg is bumped again. At first Emma think she's joking around but when Chloe grabs for Emma's surfboard and screams, she believes her. Emma jumps in the water and grabs Chloe. There is a cloud of blood surrounding her. Chloe is frantic. Emma tries to get Chloe up on the surfboard but the shark comes back, grabs on to her leg, swims off and then dives into dark water. Emma screams for help but they were so far out that no one can hear her. She starts to head for shore to get some help but she knows what she has to do. Emma takes a deep breath and dives down into the water after Chloe.

Chapter 4

Galen is fast but not fast enough. He hates to think why Emma is screaming and he is afraid to find out why Chloe stopped screaming. He finds them as Emma tries to pull the limp body of her friend from the mouth of the bull shark. Galen sees that Chloe has been drained of almost all of her blood. If Emma is a Syrena should would have changed from her human form and saved her friend. Rayna must be right. Emma is a human. Still Emma is fighting valiantly. She doesn't seem to be afraid. When the shark starts to come at Emma, Galen swims for her. He can beat the shark. Galen wants Emma to see him in his real form. It will be the last time she will see him because he's not interested in a human girlfriend.

But something amazing happens. Emma yells "Stop!" at the shark. It obeys and turns around and swims off. Emma hugs Chloe close and won't let go. Galen now decides that she can't be human. No human could hold her breath that long. Rayna arrives in a boat with two humans who jump in to pull the girls out. The men pull Chloe onto the boat. When Emma sees Chloe's mutilated leg, she faints and collapses back into the water. Galen grabs her and lifts her into the boat.

Later, Galen and Rayna meet on the beach. Rayna is crying because Chloe died. She doesn't even want to know if Emma is a Syrena because if she is the law says that she must kill her for letting her friend die. Galen becomes defensive. Could it be that he's attracted to a human? A cell phone rings on the beach. Galen kicks away some sand and picks the cell phone up. There is a picture of Emma and Chloe. It belongs to one of them. Perhaps Rachel, Dr. Milligan's assistant, can find out who it belongs to. Galen



tells Rachel that he will need a house and car in New Jersey and he'll have to attend school there.

Chapters 3 and 4 Analysis

Chapter 3

When Chloe is attacked by the shark, Emma's first instinct is to paddle to shore to get help. But something comes over her that doesn't allow her to leave her friend. What is it within Emma that makes her forget about her own safety and risk her life to save her friend? It seems she'd be afraid of facing the same shark that is trying to eat her friend.

Chapter 4

The shark attack of Chloe brings out skills and bravery that impresses Galen and that Emma never knew she had. He had decided that he had no interest in her because she was human. But seeing her in action, he thinks that she must be a Syrena. But he is puzzled as to why she didn't save her friend. A Syrena would have been able to save a friend. Galen wants Emma to see him in his "real form" which indicates that he has a non-human form but is able to transform into a human form. Although Rayna tries to talk him out of it, Galen feels he must follow Emma. He has to find out if she is the Syrena who is destined to save their race.



Chapters 5 and 6

Chapters 5 and 6 Summary

Chapter 5

Emma has returned home. She is moping about, not hungry and grieving over Chloe's death. She will return to school in two days. It will be difficult going back to school without Chloe there. Emma is unable to sleep in her room because there are too many reminders of Chloe. Emma's mother is very worried about Emma's fragile state and does everything she can to support her.

Back at school, most kids just give Emma a sympathetic nod. They know better than to ask any questions. Mark Baker, the football quarterback, said good morning to her - actually acknowledging her existence for the first time. But everyone is sad. The school lost their top track star. But Emma is realistic; she knows that most kids will soon forget her.

Emma is seated in the front row of Mr. Pinner's world history class. There is a commotion when a new student stands at the back of the class and asks Mr. Pinner if this was the world history class. The kids turn around to see the new student. Emma hears one girl say that the boy is gorgeous. Emma turns around to see that the student is Galen. Mr. Pinner tells him to sit in front. Galen says his full name is Galen Forza. He keeps his eyes on Emma. He does look gorgeous but his presence brings back the horrible memories of Chloe's death. She notices that Galen's eyes look blue, not violet like she thought they were.

Just before the bell rang to end the class, Mr. Pinner asks Emma about the Titanic. She had been obsessed with the Titanic and had studied about it for the last six months. She knew that it sank on April 15, 1912. Galen asks Emma to help him find his next class. As it turns out they are in English Lit together next hour. And Emma is shocked to see that Galen is in all of her classes.

Galen gets Emma aside and tells her that he could arrest her on the spot. She thinks he is referring to running into him on the beach. She becomes upset and yells at him that the only witness she had was dead. She storms off. When she reaches the cafeteria, someone pushes the door open on her and knocks her out.

Chapter 6

Unfortunately, it was Galen who accidentally knocked Emma unconscious with the cafeteria door. At his new seaside mansion, he explains to Rachel and Rayna that Emma had been upset with him. He tells Rachel about running into Emma on the beach. He had mentioned having her arrested but not for that run-in - he was referring to Emma breaking Syrena law by not saving Chloe. Rachel gets panicked when she



thinks the police might be involved. Galen is sure the police aren't looking for Rachel any longer. The other people who want to find her thinks she's dead.

Galen suggests that Rayna go home but she doesn't want to. She tells Galen that he should protect her. He guesses correctly that she is upset and wants to stay because Toraf has tracked her down. How does he always find me, she asks in frustration. As it turns out Toraf had come to the door that morning and Rachel had let him in. Suddenly, Toraf appears from the other room. He is hurt by Rayna's attitude toward him.

Toraf is a good friend of Galen's and one of the best trackers in Syrena history. Galen reminds Rayna that Toraf is her mate and that she should greet him and treat him with affection. Rayna rejects the idea that she is his mate. Toraf tells her that no one could love her as much as he does. Later, when Galen and Toraf are alone, it is revealed that Rayna and Toraf are already officially mated. When Rayna finds out, she will try to have it overturned but Grom is not technically king yet. Toraf doubts Galen's claim that he can sense another Syrena on land. Galen tells Toraf about Emma and how she ordered a shark to go away and that Dr. Milligan had sent an urgent message that Emma should be investigated to find out if she is a Syrena.

Toraf doubts that Emma is of Poseidon because King Antonis' only heir died in a terrible explosion. Antonis' daughter, Nalia, was seen fleeing but no one could ever locate her. Antonis blamed Grom for the tragedy and decreed the House of Triton as an enemy. It was then that the two kingdoms split. If Nalia were alive she would be in line to marry Grom. Galen is certain that Emma is of Poseidon. Toraf thinks that Galen is drawn to Emma and that if she is a Syrena she might be his mate. But if Emma is of Poseidon, she belongs to Grom. Rayna overhears Toraf and Galen talk about her and Toraf already being mated. She is outraged!

Chapters 5 and 6 Analysis

Chapter 5

Emma is having a difficult time dealing with Chloe's death. Even though she has no blame in Chloe's death, she probably feels that if she had acted faster she could have saved her. Although Emma is surprised to see Galen in her school, she doesn't seem to be completely shocked that he just happened to show up there and wind up in every one of her classes. Maybe there was something about him and sensed a connection to him.

Emma misinterprets what Galen says about arresting her. He is probably referring to the Syrena law that says that a Syrena must save the life of a friend. The punishment for not doing so is death. The only connection that Emma can make about his reference to being arrested is when she accidentally ran into him on the beach. She is hurt and angry and thinks that Galen is being highly insensitive about her friend's death. She will probably find out that she is wrong because Galen is loving and caring.

Chapter 6



Rachel has a checkered past. She is worried about the police finding her. This foreshadows a portion of the story that is yet to be revealed. Perhaps it will explain how Galen met Rachel and why she is so dedicated to him. Rayna, who is not very personable, is trying to get out of a mating with Toraf who seems to be desperately in love with her. Will he be able to win the cantankerous Syrena over? It appears that Dr. Milligan, who has not been part of the story yet, suspects that Emma is a Syrena. He may be a key factor in determining her true identity since he is a doctor and animal biologist and perhaps will be able to prove it one way or the other. Although Galen is starting to fall for Emma, there are roadblocks ahead. If she is the missing Poseidon princess, her destiny is with Galen's older brother, Grom.



Chapters 7 and 8

Chapters 7 and 8 Summary

Chapter 7

Emma stayed out of school for a day recovering from being hit by the door. But she is determined to go back. She has decided that she is not honoring Chloe by the way she has been acting. Chloe is gone and Emma must live her life. Galen is a jerk and she plans to change her schedule when she returns to school. She is pretty sure it was Galen who hit her with the door. Her mother heard from one of the teachers that Emma had been arguing with Galen right before she was knocked out. It was Galen who carried Emma into the office after she was knocked out. Emma is suffering from short-term memory loss.

Emma's mother is upset with her. She doesn't like secrets! Why didn't Emma tell her that she was dating Galen? Emma responds that she didn't tell her because it's not true but her mother still suspects that something is going on between the two of them. Mrs. McIntosh welcomes Emma back to class. Galen makes the remark that the door got the worst of the run-in. He insists on carrying Emma's backpack for her. Emma tells Galen she's changing her schedule so they won't have any classes together because something bad happens every time he's around. She has short-term memory loss and doesn't remember what they were arguing about. Galen asks Emma to meet him on the beach after school. He'll tell her where her eye color came from and what her secret is.

Chapter 8

Galen picks Emma up after school. She asks him why he's wearing blue contacts over his violet eyes. He tells her that blue eyes are less of a distraction. Since Galen is a Royal, he's not used to the sarcasm and criticism he gets from Emma. She tells him that her mother thinks they are dating because of the way he treated her after she passed out. Galen was trying to pin down exactly what "dating" was. Then he recalled that it was what they called "sifting" in Syrena. Her mother even thinks there's more to it than dating - she thinks they're mating. The words bring a smile to Galen's face.

As Galen steps closer to Emma, he feels a live current run up his spine. He wonders if she feels the current between them. He has to remind himself that she belongs to Grom. They decide that Galen should meet her mother before they go to the beach. Once they're at Emma's house, Galen feels nervous but can't understand why. He considers just kidnapping Emma but then her mother enters the room. He is shocked. She looks like a Syrena more than Emma does. But on closer inspection, he spots a few gray hairs in the black ones - the human sign of aging. Mrs. McIntosh takes Emma from the room so they can talk privately. Galen hears them arguing.



Fighting and arguing is the way humans solve problems. Syrena have mediators to solve problems. He remembered rescuing Rachel from the water when he was thirteen. She had been tied to some concrete blocks and thrown into the Gulf. Rachel was grateful of course and begged him to stay with her on the beach. She wasn't even afraid of his fin like most humans would be. In exchange for saving her life, he asked her to tell him all about humans. She asked to become his assistant.

When Emma and Mrs. McIntosh came back in the room, she asks to see Galen's driver's and wants to know what his license plate number. Contrary to what Emma told her mother, Galen tells her that they are dating. But he vows that nothing else is going on. She asks for Galen's mother's phone number so she can program it into her phone.

Chapters 7 and 8 Analysis

Chapter 7

Emma is beginning to come out of her grief and accept Chloe's death, which is a positive step in the mourning process. She realizes that Chloe would want her to live her life to the fullest. This step demonstrates Emma's good mental and emotional health. Her latest run-in with Galen resulted in a concussion and short-term memory loss. Galen is getting closer to telling Emma that he suspects that she is a Syrena. He is gathering evidence to support his theory but is going slowly so Emma is not unduly shaken.

Chapter 8

Galen feels the electricity from Emma which is a sign that he has met his mate. But he has to hold back because if she is the missing princess, he can never have her. Galen is experiencing a conflict between his feelings for Emma and his loyalty to his brother who is also the new king of the Syrena. Galen has also revealed something else about himself. As smooth and charming as he is, he is rather naive since he has not been romantically involved with anyone.

Mrs. McIntosh has some characteristics of a Syrena but she shows human signs of aging. Could Mrs. McIntosh have been a Syrena or part-Syrena? Rachel's past is partially explained. She had obviously been involved with some tough characters - perhaps the mob - who tried to drown her by tying her to concrete blocks. Rachel met Galen when he saved her from that fate which explains why she is dedicated to him and will do anything she can for him. The story has yet to reveal what Rachel did to get herself in the fix.



Chapters 9 and 10

Chapters 9 and 10 Summary

Chapter 9

Emma and Galen drive to his beach house. It is the beach house of her dreams - four maybe five stories, painted sea green with white shutters. It turns out that Emma told her mother that they were dating, too. She wouldn't believe anything less. As they walk up to the porch, everything goes black for Emma and she begins to faint. Galen picks her up before she falls. She's afraid and cries as he sits on the couch and holds her in his lap. She feels the heat simmering between them. She becomes sleepy and falls asleep in his arms.

Emma wakes up later alone on the couch. She hears someone yell for Galen. It's Rayna, his rude sister. She hears another male voice but it's not Galen. Soon Rayna and Toraf enter. Toraf is handsome with black hair and violet eyes, too. But he's not as gorgeous as Galen. She feels sorry for him that his parents named him "Toraf." Rayna stomps out of the room which gives Toraf the opportunity to ask Emma if she feels tingly around Galen. She is shocked and asks him how he knew. Once again, everything suddenly goes black for Emma and she faints.

When Emma comes to later, Galen is there. His mother, actually Rachel, talked to her mother. They agreed that Emma should stay the night. His mother is there to watch over them. Mrs. McIntosh had suggested that both Emma and Galen stay off school the next day because Emma wouldn't stay home if Galen went to school. Rachel is very enthusiastic and friendly when she's introduced to Emma as Galen's mother. Emma notices that Rayna continually rejects Toraf. Rachel makes dinner for everyone but dinner consists only of a big pile of fish and crab that is not very appetizing. Galen notices she's not eating. She has to be honest. She hates seafood.

Rayna becomes angry and says that they are wasting their time. Galen tries to calm her down without success. As Rayna leaves the room, she tells Galen that he was shirking his responsibilities for Emma. Emma is just a pathetic human who couldn't save her friend. Emma runs and rams Rayna in the torso with her head then punches her in the face but Rayna is unharmed. She head butts Emma right between the eyes. When Rayna accuses Emma of killing Chloe, Emma rams her and they both go flying through the glass window and out onto the beach and into the storm that is raging.

Chapter 10

Galen and Toraf run outside and find Emma and Rayna still going at it. Rachel left and said she's never coming back. Galen and Toraf assess Emma's fighting abilities. She didn't seem to be hurt even though she took some serious blows from Rayna. In the meantime, Rayna is luring Emma to the water where she'll have the advantage. The



girls struggle at the water's edge as Rayna finally accuses Emma of being "one of us." (106) But if she is, why didn't she save Chloe. Emma defends herself. It was just a game to the shark. He wasn't even hungry. Galen comes to the rescue and puts his arms around Emma. He wants to show Emma what lies beneath the water. He holds her close and tells her to not let go of him then dives backward into the water.

Chapters 9 and 10 Analysis

Chapter 9

It is obvious that Emma and Galen are natural mates since they both feel the electricity that is exchanged between them. It's just that they haven't admitted it yet to themselves or to each other. Galen feels a protectiveness toward Emma and he is concerned about her blackouts which may play a role in the story. Ironically, Emma who may be one of the sea beings referred to as Syrena but hates seafood. Perhaps her distaste for eating seafood originates from her love for the sea creatures.

Emma who has worked to control herself from reacting to the barbs thrown by Rayna, Galen's cranky twin sister, totally loses it when Rayna goes a bit too far by accusing Emma of not only letting Chloe die but inferring that she in fact may have killed her. Emma proves to be a worthy opponent for Rayna and demonstrates that she can hold her ground.

Chapter 10

Rachel's threat to never come back is just a knee-jerk reaction. She is too devoted to Galen to abandon him. Rayna is coming to terms with the fact that Emma is probably a Syrena and he decides it's high time that Emma learn about her true identity.



Chapters 11 and 12

Chapters 11 and 12 Summary

Chapter 11

This can't be happening is all Emma can think as she and Galen slice through the water. The deeper they go, the more her eyes adjust and her vision sharpens. Suddenly, everything appears plain as day. How is Galen doing this?! He's not even using his arms; they're wrapped around Emma. She looks down at his feet but she sees a fin and thinks that it's a shark. She is astonished that they can talk underwater and hear each other. This is the secret he tells her and points to their feet. She thinks the shark came back and is swallowing Galen. She kicks at what she thinks is the shark. Then she sees that it's Galen. She tries to get away from him. She thinks she's dreaming. Galen tells Emma that this is also her secret but she doesn't believe him.

Galen swims off and leaves Emma behind. She panics but then realizes that she hasn't run out of oxygen which she should have by then. The fish swim around her and dart in and out of her fingers. The sting rays swim by close hoping that she pets them. She feels Galen's presence. She calls out to him and he materializes right before her eyes. He can conceal himself by blending into the background. Even though she has the violet eyes, she doesn't have a fin and she can't blend. But, he tells her she has other characteristics that his kind has.

Galen tells Emma that he is a Royal and since it was becoming obvious that she is Syrena, she has to obey him. She thought he was a merman. Galen points out that the Syrena do not like that word. He tells her that she will get the urge to stretch and grow a fin. She is surprised that she's not cold being that deep in the water. Emma is finally beginning to run out of air and they swim to the surface.

As they swim back to shore, Emma says that neither her mother or father have violet eyes. Galen thinks she was adopted but she is sure that her mother and father were her biological parents. She surmises that Galen has been following her to see if she is one of them. She doesn't understand why a Royal would follow her but she wants to know the whole truth.

Chapter 12

Galen and Toraf stay up late into the night answering all of Emma's questions. She learns that Syrena live in plain sight at the bottom of the ocean and that the Royals live in the rock caverns. They explain how Poseidon and Triton had become enemies and that they were not gods; they were Syrena. But Galen held back from telling Emma about Grom and her possible destiny with him. Some of her disbelief is being replaced by grudging acceptance. Galen reminds himself that he can never have her but he's finding it difficult to keep his eyes off her.



Rachel has returned and is making breakfast. Emma tells Rachel that Galen told her the truth about what is going on. But Galen says they need to make Mrs. McIntosh believe that they are still dating. Rachel suggests that they do a lot of hugging and kissing in front of her mother so she believes they are still a couple. It embarrasses both of them but Rachel is persistent. Galen knows he can't kiss Emma because she is meant for his brother but finally Emma agrees they should make out in front of her mother.

Toraf and Rayna are matched but haven't mated yet. They can only do that in human form and on a private island. Toraf had asked Galen's brother, Grom, for Rayna. Emma didn't like the sounds of that. Rayna was forced to marry Toraf? When Emma says that no one should be forced to marry someone, Rayna overhears and agrees with Emma. Finally, Rayna and Emma agree on something! Emma asks Galen if she'll have to marry someone. She keeps teasing him about being a Royal by calling him "Your Highness" and "Your Majesty." He'd love to tell her that she's a Royal, too.

Galen and Emma get into a conversation about "sifting." When the male Syrena turn eighteen, they're expected to sift, that is, start looking for their mates. He hasn't sifted yet because he's had other duties, like being an ambassador. The Syrena do not consider humans to be peaceful. That's why they rarely reveal themselves to them. Emma is like Rachel because they both think that the Syrena would like humans more once they got to know them better.

Chapters 11 and 12 Analysis

Chapter 11

It is obvious from the underwater journey that Galen takes Emma on that she is not an average human being or perhaps not a human being at all. She is showing some characteristics of fish and Syrena but seems to be resisting the idea which is expected. It would be difficult to be a human all of your life only to learn that you're really a fish! But things are dawning on Emma slowly and she is putting up less resistance. Perhaps she feels that she has discovered her own true nature. It was wise of Galen to hint at her distinguishing traits so that she wasn't completely floored when presented with the possibility of having a dual identity. Emma has not been able to fully transform into a Syrena which hints at the possibility that she is only part-Syrena. Perhaps it will turn out that she has some of the abilities of a Syrena but not all, including the important one of being able to change into the Syrena form.

Chapter 12

Galen is holding back the possibility that Emma is Grom's natural mate. He knows deep down that he can never have her but he is obviously falling in love with her and doesn't want to deal with losing her to his brother. Rachel returns and is playing matchmaker herself. She suggests that Emma and Galen make-out in front of Emma's mother to prove that they are a couple. Galen is at a pivotal point in the relationship. He wants



nothing more to kiss and hold Emma, but it would be a violation of Syrena law. So he must pretend that he has no interest in Emma other than that as his student.

Emma demonstrates that she is a liberated woman and does not believe in forced or pre-arranged marriages. How would she feel if she learned that she was a Syrena princess and that her destiny was to marry Grom, Galen's older brother, and someone she has not even met?



Chapters 13 and 14

Chapters 13 and 14 Summary

Chapter 13

After a swim, Emma and Galen sit on the beach. She asks him why she can't change into her non-human form. He thinks she needs to relax and then it will happen naturally. Galen is going to stay in school but he's missed so much school that he'll probably fail everything. Emma suggests that since he's helping her learn how to change, she could help him with his schoolwork. They are about to kiss when Toraf and Rayna are walking toward them. Galen can't go to school the next day because he has to check in with his family. The Royal twins missed Grom's kingship ceremony. Galen promises Emma that he'll be back in a few days. Maybe they could visit Dr. Milligan. He might be able to help them. Galen warns Emma not to get in the water until they get back. But Emma is stubborn and insists she will go swimming. Galen asks Toraf to keep an eye on her while he's gone.

Chapter 14

Galen doesn't want to be away from Emma too long. She'll make Toraf cave to her wishes. Toraf is not a great supervisor besides he wants to stay on her good side because she'll be the queen someday. Galen promised Toraf that he would speak on his behalf when Rayna asked for the dissolution of their mating seal. Galen gets nervous as he arrives at Grom's place of solitude which is where the tragic explosion happened. With the loss of Nalia, they had lost not only their future queen but unity, trust and their ability to survive.

Galen calls out to Grom who has already sensed his presence. They discuss Rayna and Toraf. Galen tells Grom that Rayna wants to dissolve their sealing. Grom is disinclined to dissolve it. He gazes at his brother who is, in earth terms, in his eighties. Of course, he hasn't aged and looks youthful. But Galen thinks to himself that Grom is just wrong for Emma.

Grom asks Galen to always make sure that Rayna is safe. Grom had a private meeting with Jagen who is behind a conspiracy that could be a threat to Grom's kingship. Jagen asked that Grom have Toraf track someone for him - Paca, his daughter, is missing. He thinks that Antonis kidnapped her. Jagen thinks that Paca has the gift of Poseidon. Galen blurts out that that was impossible. It's not probable, Grom responds, but it is possible. She does have royal blood. Grom also spoke with the Archives, the ten eldest among their kind. They recalled by memory the history of the Syrena. The Gifts were to ensure the survival of our kind, not just the Royals. Galen points out that the Gifts can be transferred to someone else.



If Paca can be found, Toraf is the one who can find her. Galen thinks to himself that if Paca has the Gift of Poseidon, there would be no need for Emma - at least not for Grom. The new King tells Galen to stay safe and watch over Rayna. Galen asks Grom if he believes in the pull - a strong attraction to one's match. Grom had felt it for Nalia. Grom asks Galen if someone had finally hooked him. Galen wasn't ready to talk about it.

Chapters 13 and 14 Analysis

Chapter 13

Emma is concerned about not being able to transform from her human form into her Syrena form. Although Galen thinks she just needs to relax, perhaps there is more to it. Maybe it will be shown that she doesn't have that ability. Galen mentions that perhaps Dr. Milligan could help them. He's an animal biologist and perhaps could run tests to discover if Emma is human or Syrena.

Chapter 14

Galen is loyal to both his sister and to his friend Toraf. But he thinks his sister is being unfair to Toraf and promises Toraf that he will speak in support of him if his sister tries to have Grom dissolve their sealing. Galen sees his sister as spoiled and immature even though they're the same age. He knows that Toraf is good and kind, has great abilities and is a good match for his sister.

Galen is heartened by the possibility that there is actually another missing princess of Poseidon that is the real true mate for his brother, Grom, the new king. If Paca is Grom's queen, then Emma is free from that obligation and could be his. But whether she is truly a Syrena and suitable for a Royal like Galen has not yet been determined. Grom is a wise king and older brother and detects the possibility that Galen is smitten with someone.



Chapters 15 and 16

Chapters 15 and 16 Summary

Chapter 15

Emma misses Galen and Mrs. McIntosh is concerned that they're fighting, something Emma denies. After school, Emma goes swimming. She brought a stopwatch with her and clocks herself as being able to hold her breath for over twenty minutes. Suddenly, she feels a presence. She is frightened and thinks now that Galen's advice to stay on land may have been a good idea. As she walks in the shallow water, she feels a hand grab her ankle. She looks down but the attacker is in blended form. The hand begins pulling her down. She had nothing to be afraid of. It was Toraf.

With Toraf's help, Emma is able to build up her time underwater to twenty-seven minutes. Toraf panics when he notices Emma's wrinkled hands. He fears that Galen will blame him. Finally she is able to convince him that human's hands get wrinkled when they are in the water for a long period of time. Toraf claims that Rayna loves him but just won't admit it. Emma advises Toraf to test Rayna's feelings by playing hard to get. Push her away. Treat her like she treats you, Emma tells him. Toraf continues working with Emma all weekend and by Saturday night, Emma can stay under for thirty-five minutes. Toraf asks for Emma's help in playing hard to get. Just as Rayna and Galen are returning, Toraf grabs Emma and kisses her passionately. Galen slams into Toraf and attacks him.

Chapter 16

Galen continues to pummel Toraf until Emma jumps in to physically restrain him. But the ruse worked. Rayna is upset that Toraf kissed Emma. She reminds him that they are mated and tells him she didn't ask for dissolution from Grom. But it won't work between them, Toraf tells her. He is going to ask Grom for a dissolution himself. He dives in the water but Rayna dives in right after him. Galen is confused and worried that he lost Emma to Toraf. Emma explains that Toraf was just trying to shake Rayna up, make her think she was losing him. Galen asks if Emma liked kissing Toraf. She gets upset when Galen refers to her as his student and storms off. She's tired of waiting for him.

Galen is still on the beach when Toraf returns alone. Rayna is setting up their mating island. Toraf tells Galen that Emma won't wait for him forever. But Galen is unsure about whether to tell her about her connection to Grom. But she can't seem to change form, Toraf responded. She may not be a Syrena. Maybe she's just a super human being. Toraf tells Galen that he sensed a presence yesterday while he was in the water. He followed it on land to Emma's house. He saw footprints in the sand around her house.



Galen is worried about Emma's safety. He tells Toraf to track down Paca before this stranger gets to Emma. Galen wants to find out if Paca, not Emma, is Grom's mate. Toraf vows to find Paca.

Chapters 15 and 16 Analysis

Chapter 15

Toraf is proving to be a good friend to Emma. He helps her with her endurance and, sensing that Emma and Galen may be meant for each other, tells Emma that Galen likes her. Emma advises him to play hard to get with Rayna. He recruits Emma's help in making Rayna jealous. Emma agrees and it has the expected result as well as an unexpected result. Rayna realizes that she loves Toraf and Galen shows his true feelings for Emma when he tears into Toraf when he catches him passionately kissing Emma. Of course, it was all for show and for Rayna's benefit but it brought to surface just how deeply Galen feels about Emma.

Chapter 16

Toraf realizes how well the ruse worked and continues playing hard to get with Rayna. When he takes off presumably to ask for a dissolution of their sealing, Rayna dives in after him to stop him. When Toraf returns and tells Galen that Rayna is preparing their private island - which is essentially their honeymoon suite - it is apparent that Rayna is no longer resisting Toraf.

Even though Galen understands why Emma was kissing Toraf, it still bothers him. Yet he can't kiss her himself because of his brother. When he refers to her as his "student" she feels rejected and hurt. She thought she was becoming more to him than that. She's is becoming much more to him but he can't tell her his true feelings - not yet at least.

Another mysterious dimension is added to the plot. Someone from the sea - presumably a Syrena - is stalking Emma. Galen is very concerned and fears she is in danger and takes steps to protect her.



Chapters 17 and 18

Chapters 17 and 18 Summary

Chapter 17

Emma's Syrena instincts were triggered when she hit her head. She can't feel the hot water in the shower because of her thick Syrena skin. She has refused to answer Galen's text messages. She's angry that he called her his "student." She feels rejected. At school, Emma gives Galen the cold shoulder but he is persistent and follows her. He tells her that his "grandmother" who lives in Florida is dying. It catches her off guard and she feels sorry for him. He laughs and tells her they what they really will be doing is flying down to see Dr. Milligan that weekend.

Galen got airsick on the plane and is sleeping it off on the loveseat in the hotel room. Emma decides to take a swim and let him sleep. Emma swims along the bottom of the Gulf for a while when she encounters two sharks ripping into a large dead fish. She feels one of the sharks latch onto her waist but when she gets the nerve to look, it's actually Galen's arms that are around her. Galen is upset with her. He told her to never go in the water alone.

A large sperm whale heads their way. He won't hurt Syrena. He's just curious about Emma. Galen tells Emma to sweet talk the whale. Emma hesitates at first but then asks the whale to back away. The whale complies. To prove his point that the fish listen to Emma, he tells her to tell the whale to come back. She then asks the whale to swim off one way and then stop and swim the other way. The whale follows her request to a tee. Dr. Milligan had noticed that Emma had a special bonding with the fish when he spotted her at the Gulfarium.

Galen reveals to Emma that she is of Poseidon and since he is a Triton, she is officially his enemy. Emma has the gift of Poseidon which is why she can talk to the fish. Galen reveals that Rachel did a background investigation on Emma. She found a birth certificate that indicates Emma was born in a hospital. Rachel found photos of Mrs. McIntosh obviously pregnant before Emma's date of birth. Rachel found Emma's entire education and immunization record. But if she is human, how can she hold her breath for two hours and talk to the fish?

Galen tells Emma that he paid for the investigation. But a fish doesn't have money, Emma responds. He makes his money from locating old submarines and war planes for governments and sunken treasures for private parties. Rachel told him he was a millionaire. He had located an entire gold-carrying Spanish fleet.

Chapter 18

A guard escorts Emma and Galen into the Living Sea exhibit at the Gulfarium. Galen and Dr. Milligan are amazed at how the fish, including sharks and stingrays, all gather at



the glass where Emma stands and coos to them. Emma now remembers meeting him when she first visited. He had offered her free season passes. When he saw her talking to the fish and then spotted her eye color, he knew she had to be Syrena. Dr. Milligan and Galen watch as Emma plays with the dolphins. They all respond to her except the smallest one, Lucky. Dr. Milligan says that he understands what she's saying he just doesn't listen.

Emma sits on the edge of the dolphin pool and dangles her feet in the water. Several of the large dolphins come immediately. Lucky slowly edges toward her. She senses that he doesn't trust humans. He was beached as a young calf and doesn't like it at the aquarium. Finally, Lucky nestles his nose into Emma's palm. She asks Dr. Milligan if he could be released and go home. Dr. Milligan will see what he can do.

In the examination room, Dr. Milligan confirms that Emma has the tough skin of a Syrena. Several needles bend when he tries to extract blood from one of her veins. Dr. Milligan discovers that Emma's heartbeat is slower than most humans but not as slow as Galen's. He's not sure if that means anything. He checks Galen's heartbeat and it's slightly faster than the last time he checked it. The Syrena live longer than humans because they have slow heart rates. Galen thinks to himself that since Emma's heartbeat is faster, she'll die before he does. Most Syrena live 300 years as opposed to 80 years for humans. Perhaps she falls somewhere in between. Being at the same beach where Chloe died brings back all the bad memories of that day.

Chapters 17 and 18 Analysis

Chapter 17

Emma is realizing that more and more things point to her less than human nature. Emma's plans to give Galen the cold shoulder are short-lived. She has sympathy for him when he tells her that his grandmother in Florida is dying. She didn't stop to think that he couldn't have a grandmother in Florida. But they will tell her mother that they are going to visit his "grandmother" when they are actually traveling to Florida to see Dr. Milligan.

Galen reveals more about himself - how he became wealthy and that if she is of Poseidon that they are actually enemies. Although Emma is frightened at first, she is able to control the movements of a huge whale - further proof that she has non-human abilities. Once again, Galen warns Emma not to go in the water alone. He is probably thinking about the mysterious person who was stalking her.

Chapter 18

In Florida, Emma is able to demonstrate over and over again the control she has over animals - from a huge sperm whale that heeds her every request to a tiny dolphin calf who distrusts humans but is able to put his trust in Emma. Dr. Milligan feels that Emma is a Syrena because of her eye coloring and because of her abilities to communicate with the sea creatures. However, he detects an anomaly in her heart rate. It is faster

than most humans but slower than Syrena. Again, that could point to the possibility that she is part-Syrena. Being at the same beach where Chloe died has been difficult for Emma. It brings up the horrible events of that day. It will be something that Emma will live with forever.



Chapters 19 and 20

Chapters 19 and 20 Summary

Chapter 19

Dr. Milligan shows Galen and Emma her chest x-ray. Emma has a rib-cage and only a thin layer of bone-plating. Syrena have no rib cage, only plating. Dr. Milligan guesses this variance could be because she lived on land all her life. She asks Dr. Milligan why she can communicate with the fish. He thinks it's her tone more than her words. Emma tells Dr. Milligan that her father was a doctor. Why didn't he or her pediatrician notice the bone-plating? Looking at the x-rays again, Dr. Milligan determines that Emma is not human but she is not Syrena either - she is both.

Galen knew that half-breeds had existed before. Thousands of years ago Poseidon decided to live on the land with humans. They loved him and treated him like a god. They built the city of Atlantis for him. He allowed his followers to mate with humans. He even chose a human mate himself. His brother, Triton, distrusted humans and their territories were divided. Triton territory became home for those who distrusted humans and Poseidon became the territory for those who approved of interaction with humans.

Unfortunately, Poseidon chose a mate who already belonged to a human king. This king waged war on Poseidon and killed some of his half-human children. Triton offered to help if Poseidon would return to Syrena and desert Atlantis. Triton created great waves that destroyed Atlantis, the half-breeds and the human armies. After that, breeding with humans became outlawed.

Emma feels that she doesn't belong anywhere and that she's a freak. Dr. Milligan feels that her parents knew of her condition all along. Her father probably kept it quiet because he knew that scientists from all over the world would be after her. Dr. Milligan suggests that Emma ask her mother about being different.

Chapter 20

Galen is not at all put off by Emma being part-Syrena. What bolsters his mood is the fact that Grom would never mate with a half-breed. Galen tells Emma that he will be gone a few days to visit his friend Romul to find out more about the half-humans. He'll be back in time for their date on Friday night. He is worried about leaving Emma and decides that since Toraf is still not back that he'll have to ask Rayna to keep an eye on her.

Chapters 19 and 20 Analysis

Chapter 19



There is no physical proof that Emma is human or Syrena because she has characteristics of both. There is a perfect explanation for Emma's physical state. Centuries ago Poseidon mated with a human and had off-spring that were like Emma - half-breeds. Perhaps that's why she could never fully transform from human to Syrena form. Poseidon's love for humans was the start of the schism between Triton and Poseidon. After Triton helped Poseidon in a war, it was made unlawful for a Syrena to mate with a half-breed. That is not good news for Emma or Galen who are obviously falling in love. Will Galen be able to find a way around that law?

Chapter 20

Galen wants to learn more about half-breeds. He is hoping it will help him figure out a way to be with Emma. He is actually happy that Emma is a half-breed because he knows that Grom would never mate with her. But as a Royal, he may not be allowed to mate with her either.



Chapters 21 and 22

Chapters 21 and 22 Summary

Chapter 21

Emma tries to talk Rayna into swimming with her but Rayna at first refuses. But Rayna gives in when Emma tells her she'll teach her how to drive Galen's if she swims with her. Emma drives Galen's car to an abandoned area and changes places with Rayna. Rayna floors the accelerator and they go speeding off. Emma yells for her to step on the brake. They come to a neck-breaking stop. They start laughing and can hardly stop. After recovering, Rayna tries again and starts out slow. But Rayna doesn't like slow and steps on it again and runs into a tree. Rayna fights the airbags like it's a sea creature. Emma knows they're sunk when she sees blue flashing lights behind them.

Chapter 22

Galen travels to the Cave of Memories where the Archives live. As he travels deep into the ocean and under the Arctic ice, he begins to sense Romul's presence. Galen tells Romul he has questions about half-breeds. He'd like to view the Tartessos remains. Romul leads the way as they dive deeper into the cave. The freezing waters have preserved the records quite well. They reach their destination, the Civic Chamber which is the largest chamber and where the ruins of cities are kept. They find the Tartessos ruins which were the most intact. As they round a corner, Galen sees a large wall with images of humans who have black hair, violet eyes and olive skin. But also on the wall are images of humans with white skin, white hair and violet eyes who look much like Emma.

Romul tells Galen that Syrena bodies weren't meant for land. It makes their bodies work harder and age faster. Galen couldn't help but remember that Dr. Milligan said that Emma's heart beat was faster than his and that animals with slow-beating hearts live longer. He asked Romul if any of the half-breeds had the power to transform. It was thought that none of the half-breeds inherited the gift of Poseidon. The half-breeds were not evil but Triton thought they should be destroyed because of what they stood for.

As Galen headed home, he had many thoughts. Emma was definitely a half-breed but he felt she had the gift of Poseidon. Could Emma be a descendent of the offspring of Poseidon? Would Grom allow Galen to take a half-breed as his mate? If not, he'd have to live on land with Emma. If he could live with Emma, he would be willing to give anything up.

Chapters 21 and 22 Analysis

Chapter 21



Emma's tactic to get Rayna to let her swim backfires when Rayna proves to be a terrible driver. But the girls do seem to bond a bit and enjoy each other before Rayna runs into a tree.

Chapter 22

When Galen sees images of ancient half-breeds on the walls, it confirms to him that Emma is a descendent of Poseidon. She looks like the blond humans that are depicted on the murals. Even though Romul tells Galen that it is unlikely that a half-breed could inherit the Gift of Poseidon, something tells Galen that Emma has the gift. Maybe because he loves her and is so connected with her he has the strong sense that she is gifted. There is no doubt that Galen is desperately in love with Emma. He is willing to live on land with her and give up living the long life he could enjoy under water.



Chapters 23 and 24

Chapters 23 and 24 Summary

Chapter 23

Mrs. McIntosh is very upset about the car accident. She is relieved that Emma wasn't hurt but she doesn't believe the story she and Rayna made up about how it happened. Emma was tired and stressed. She told her mother she'd tell her the whole story as soon as she told her who her real parents were. She remembered when she was four and was saved by a school of fish. When she tried to tell her mother, she only laughed but her father believed her. When Emma is taking a shower, her mother tells her she is sorry she laughed at her. When Emma comes out of the bathroom draped in towels, Galen is sitting on her bed. He tells her that her father was a half-breed and that he never promised Rayna he would teach her to drive.

Chapter 24

It's Friday and Galen is on his way to pick up Emma. Rachel had checked out Emma's birth certificate and said it was authentic. Galen was sure that Emma's father who had died of cancer a few years before was a descendent of a half-breed. He had light hair and wore contacts and loved the ocean and seafood. As he walked to the door, he knew he was taking a risk by getting more deeply involved with Emma. She could still belong to Grom. Although Galen is ready to get serious with Emma, she brushes him off at the end of the date because she thinks it's all a sham to impress her mother. Her mother wasn't home so there was no reason to pretend.

Galen gives Emma a wet suit to wear to keep her warm when he takes her to a special place. He told about her how he saved Dr. Milligan who was under the water off the coast of Mexico unable to move because of a severe leg cramp. He pulled the doctor up to his boat where his friends were. They saw Galen's fin and tried to pull him in but he got away. They've tried to publicize the story but no one believes them because Dr. Milligan denies everything.

When they get near their destination, Galen has Emma close her eyes. When he finally tells her to open them she is astonished. It's the Titanic. They explore the entire boat. Emma is very moved - 1,500 people perished in the boat, mothers died with their children there. Even though the Titanic evokes sadness within her, it is the most amazing experience she's ever had.

At the end of their date, they finally kiss and it's a passionate kiss. But once again something makes Emma think that Galen is just faking it. It didn't help that Rayna ran out of the bushes and scolded Galen for kissing Emma. Rayna, in her anger, blurts out that Emma is supposed to mate with Grom. Emma wants to hear it all and rushes to the beach with Galen and Rayna right behind her. Emma wants to know how she could be



Grom's mate since she's a Poseidon and Grom's the Triton king. Grom's mate was Nalia, the one who was thought to die in the explosion. They were supposed to mate because they were both third year generation, firstborn of each house - it was a tradition so that the Gifts of the Generals would be perpetuated. When he first met her, he knew she was a descendent of Poseidon. Emma is furious and hurt because she thinks Galen used her. He made her fall for him and all along he had an ulterior motive. She tells him to never touch her again and runs off.

Emma won't talk to Galen at school. Knowing that Emma broke up with Galen, all the girls are after him. Galen is miserable when he sees Mark the quarterback eating lunch with Emma. Later while swimming in the ocean, Galen tears angrily through the water. It's his second swim to Europe that week. When he lands in London, he turns into his human form. He's trying to forget that Emma has a date with another guy. Galen wishes he would have sifted when he was eighteen and found a suitable, mild-mannered Syrena girl to mate with. He tries to think of all the things that drive him crazy about Emma. She stomps her foot when she doesn't get her way. She listens to him only when it suits her. But then he remembers her white skin and the blush that comes over it and how her lips send heat through his body like an explosion. She's more appealing than all the Syrena girls he's ever encountered. Toraf suddenly appears. He's been tracking Galen for the last week. Toraf found Paca and she does have the gift of Poseidon. She had been hiding from King Antonis and his trackers in Triton territory. Grom is planning a mating ceremony that he hopes Galen will attend. Toraf reminds Galen that Emma can now be his. Galen tears off into the ocean with Toraf right behind him.

Chapters 23 and 24 Analysis

Chapter 23

Emma confronts her mother about her heritage. She wants to know if she was adopted. Her mother probably knows why Emma is bringing up the subject but her mother avoids addressing it. It is doubtful that Mrs. McIntosh didn't know that her husband was a half-breed.

Chapter 24

Galen wants nothing more than to be with Emma but she is under the impression that he is not interested in her personally. She thinks he just wants to find out if she is a Syrena. Galen is not able to tell her how he really feels because he doesn't know if she belongs to Grom. But he has not told her about her possible connection to Grom because he knows it will upset her and besides he's hoping that Grom will find another mate.

Emma is moved by the Titanic. It was a thoughtful gesture for Galen to make. He remembered how obsessed she was about the Titanic. It is obvious that he wants to do everything he can to please her and endear himself to her. When Emma and Galen kiss



passionately, it is real on both their parts. Galen is not play acting. But Rayna ruins the moment when she blurts out Emma's possible connection with Grom. Emma is hurt to think that Galen has used her and was only interested in her for the sake of his brother. Of course, he can't tell her how he really feels but he did show her how he feels when he kissed her.

Galen is relieved when he finally learns that Grom will mate with Paca and he can have Emma - that is, if she will have him after being so hurt by him. Can he heal her hurt and convince her that he truly loves her?



Chapters 25 and 26

Chapters 25 and 26 Summary

Chapter 25

Emma is dating Mark but her mind is on Galen. She wants to get over him but she gets that old tingle even when Galen just sends a text message. Mark is not as great but it is Galen who she wants forever - she can't deny it. But she has to face the fact that he doesn't want her. It's probably for the best because she was willing to throw college and every else away for him.

Emma and Mark are driving to Atlantic City. On the way they find out more about each other. Mark asks if he has to be worried about Galen. He's a big guy, Mark says, and he's standing just outside your window. Emma spins around to see Galen standing a few inches from the truck. Mark rolls down the window and has a few exchanges with Mark. Emma remains silent. Galen tells Mark that Emma is his girlfriend. He becomes enraged when he sees Mark's hand on Emma's leg.

Emma gets out to talk to Galen who tells Mark that he'll be taking Emma home. Mark gets out of the truck and the two guys are ready to go at it. Emma is confused and doesn't know what to do. Emma chooses to go with Galen. Mark is disappointed but he understands and leaves alone in his truck. Galen tries to explain that he was torn between his love for her and his responsibility to his entire race. It would have ripped his heart out to see her with Grom. Emma admits that she loves him, too. But she is hurt that he plans to "give" her to his brother. He grabs her and they kiss passionately. He tells her that Grom is mating with someone else who as the gift of Poseidon. But she's a half-breed, Emma reminds him. They can never be together. Emma doesn't want Galen to break his laws. His responsibility to his people and nation is one of the things that she loves about him.

Galen and Toraf are both sensing the Syrena that is stalking Emma but haven't caught him yet. Galen receives a call from Dr. Milligan who tells him that Emma's DNA indicates that she is half human. In fact, she's probably mostly human. It is doubtful that her father was a half-breed. He was probably more likely a quarter-breed or less. Emma's Syrena lineage has been diluted through the generations. But Syrena mature at nine years of age. Emma matured at half the rate so she has just become fully developed at her current age of eighteen.

Chapter 26

After spending the night on the beach with Emma, Galen gets a call from Toraf who tells him that it is time for him and Rayna to leave for Grom's mating ceremony. He warns Emma again not to go into the water. He and Toraf have been sensing the stalker's presence on a daily basis. Galen and Rayna meet with Grom before the ceremony. He's



not elated because he's mating with someone he's not in love with. Grom mentions that the eyes of Syrena who spend too much time on land sometimes turn blue.

Paca comes to see them. Something feels "off" to Galen. Paca is not ugly but she's not pretty. She is very plain. Rayna tells Grom that Paca is a fraud and that he can't mate with her. Paca and her father, Jagen, are nearby. Jagen is outraged at Rayna's comments. Grom insists that Rayna apologize but she refuses. Galen asks Paca to show him the Gift of Poseidon. Galena and Rayna follow Paca and Jagen out into the open water. Paca is surrounded with three dolphins that do tricks and swim in circles. But Galen spots what Rayna must have seen. Paca is using hand signals like a trainer. Galen asks Paca to have the flounders do some tricks but Paca is not able to. Galen tells his brother that Paca used hand signals. Controlling fish with just the voice is the real gift. He thinks to himself he could prove it if Emma was there. Grom grows angry with Galen and Rayna and tells them to leave.

When Galen and Rayna return, Toraf tells Galen that he recruited Yudor to help him track the stalker. Yudor recognized Nalia immediately. Galen runs off to find Emma. Galen realizes that Mrs. McIntosh was the half-breed. It was her footprints that they found in the sand. Toraf and Galen had felt her presence. She was probably just following Emma to make sure she was okay. Her eyes had faded from violet because she spent so much time on land. She had broken Grom's heart. Galen whispers to Mrs. McIntosh, "You've got a lot of explaining to do, Nalia." (324)

Chapters 25 and 26 Analysis

Chapter 25

Emma is in love with Galen, but is trying to move on because she thinks that there is no hope for a future together with him. Galen finally takes a stand and lets Emma know that he loves her. He has been conflicted by the laws of his people and his love for Emma. But Emma thinks a relationship between them is impossible. As a Royal there is no way that he can mate with her.

Emma thinks their love is doomed. But she doesn't know that Galen is ready to give up everything for her - even his longevity. Emma is concerned about his future. She has admired and loved him for being so devoted to his race and nation and she doesn't want him to violate his integrity by breaking Syrena law. Although they have expressed their love for each other, there are other obstacles in their way.

Chapter 26

Rayna has exposed Paca as a fraud. However, Grom does not believe her and apparently is going ahead and mate with the wrong person. Rayna and Galen's reaction to Paca has caused a schism between Grom and his younger siblings.

Galen's first impression about Mrs. McIntosh proved to be accurate. He thought she had the general appearance of a Syrena. But her blue eyes threw him. When Grom confirms



that Syrena eyes sometimes turn blue, the evidence begins to point to the probability that it was Emma's mother who was the Syrena.

The story ends on a cliffhanger and the distinct possibility that there will be a sequel to the story. Does Grom mate with the wrong woman? Will Nalia and Grom be reunited? Will Galen be allowed to mate with Emma? There are many unanswered questions that a sequel could respond to.



Characters

Emma McIntosh

Emma McIntosh is eighteen-years-old and lives with her mother on the Jersey shore. Her father who was a physician succumbed to cancer several years before the story takes place. While in Florida on a vacation with her best friend, Chloe, Emma meets the hottest guy she had ever seen. His name was Galen and she literally ran into him while she was walking on the beach. She senses that there is something unusual about him - not bad - but different.

Emma and Chloe are surfing when a bull shark attacks Chloe. It drags her down to the bottom of the ocean. Emma screams for help but she is too far out for anyone to hear. She decides she must try to save her friend and dives down after her. She tries to pull the lifeless body of her friend from the jaws of death and when the shark starts to come at her, she tells it to stop, turn around and go away. Amazingly, it listens to her.

Galen follows Emma back to New Jersey and quickly becomes part of her life. As it turned out he suspects that she is one of his kind - that is a Syrena (aka mermaid) which explains her ability to communicate with sea creatures. Emma begins to fall for Galen. He feels the same way but initially there are obstacles preventing him from really pursuing her. There are many ups and downs in their relationship but in the end they confess their love for one another. Emma learns about her true identity and embraces the fact that she is different - she is a half-breed, part Syrena and part human.

Galen Forza

Galen Forza is a young man who is on a special mission. He is a Royal Prince of the Syrena (similar to mermaids and mermen although they hate those terms). They live in the ocean, and in the Syrena state have fish tails and fins but have the ability to transform into completely human forms. The Syrena are distinguished by their black hair, olive skin and violet-colored eyes.

Galen was contacted by a human friend, one of the few humans he trusts, to leave his watery home in the ocean and come to earth on an urgent manner. It was Dr. Milligan, an animal biologist, who called on him. Dr. Milligan had spotted a young girl with violet-colored eyes who could communicate with the fish at his aquarium. He was quite sure that he girl was a Syrena.

Galen meets Emma, the girl that Dr. Milligan had spotted, and almost immediately falls in love with her - something that he never expected and was not prepared for. He was a royal and accustomed to people catering to him. He was not used to anyone ignoring, rejecting or ridiculing him and he got all three from Emma. But that didn't deter him. He was taken with her beautiful pale skin, blonde hair and big violet-colored eyes.



Galen had to find out if Emma was a missing princess of Poseidon. If she was the missing royal, she would have to return and marry his older brother, Grom, the king. As time passes, Galen is pulling for her not being the princess because he wants her for himself. They have some ups and downs and some misunderstandings but finally the two understand who they really are and allow themselves to fall in love. Even though Galen risks losing years off his life by living on earth instead of under water, he will do so in order to spend his life with Emma.

Chloe

Emma was on vacation in Florida with her best friend, Chloe, and her family. The girls were surfboarding when Chloe was attacked and killed by bull shark.

Rayna

Rayna is Galen's twin sister. She is a spoiled and cranky young woman. She is "mated" to Toraf but wants her brother, the King, to dissolve their union.

Toraf

Toraf is mated to Rayna, the King's sister. Toraf is known as the best tracker that the Syrena has ever had. He is called on to track a missing princess for the King.

Grom

Grom is Galen and Rayna's older brother. He is the newly crowned King of the Syrena.

Dr. Milligan

Dr. Milligan is an animal biologist. He is the first to spot Emma and the Syrena characteristics she has. He later verifies that her DNA shows that she is half-human and half-Syrena.

Mrs. McIntosh

Mrs. McIntosh is Emma's mother. She has a dual identity that is not revealed until the end of the story giving the conclusion a real twist.

Paca

Paca is a Styrene who pretends to be have the gifts of a Poseidon princess so that she can mate with Grom and become his queen.

Mark

Mark is the football quarterback at Emma's school. He has had a crush on her for a long time. Emma dates him a few times while she's temporarily broken up with Galen.



Objects/Places

Florida

Emma is on vacation with her best friend, Chloe, and her family when she meets Galen. When Emma and Chloe are surfing, Chloe is attacked and killed by a shark.

Gulfarium

Dr. Milligan, an animal biologist, spots Emma at the Gulfarium which he runs. He notices her violet-colored eyes and her ability to talk to the sea creatures and suspects that she is a Syrena.

New Jersey

Emma lives with her mother in New Jersey on an oceanfront home. Her father, who was a physician, died just a few years before.

Emma's High School

When Emma returns from Florida, she is astonished to see Galen, the hot guy she met in Florida, has enrolled in her school and in every class that she is in.

Emma's House

Emma lives in a large house with her mother. After she returns home after her friend's death she is unable to sleep in her room because there are too many reminders of Chloe.

Galen's House

Galen buys a huge house. It is Emma's dream beach house. It is five stories high and is painted sea green with white shutters.

The Titanic

As a surprise, Galen takes Emma down to see the Titanic. She was obsessed with the shipwreck and had been studying it for months.



Atlantis

Poseidon was a Syrena who came to live on earth. He loved the humans and even mated with one. The humans adored him and built the city of Atlantis to honor him.

Europe

When Galen is suffering from undue stress over his relationship with Emma, he vents his frustration by swimming back and forth to Europe. It takes him five hours each way.

Arctic Ocean

Galen visits the Archives, who are the Syrena in charge of the nation's history and records. The papyrus stays in good condition because of the cold water of the Arctic Ocean where the records are maintained.



Themes

Integrity

Galen Forza is the main male character in "Of Poseidon." He is a royal prince of the Syrena which are merman and mermaid-like creatures who live at the bottom of the ocean. They have the ability to transform from their fish-like persona which consists of a fish tail and fins into that of a human being. Galen represents a strong sense of integrity in this story. He sacrifices his own love for a girl who he thinks belongs to another for the sake of his race and nation to serve a bigger cause than just his own personal needs.

Galen comes to land in order to track down an urgent matter that he has been informed about by a human friend of his. He is tipped off that a blonde young woman with the distinctive violet eyes of the Syrena and the ability to communicate with the fish and sea creatures was spotted in Florida while visiting an aquarium. Galen comes ashore to learn if this girl might be the missing Poseidon princess who was thought to be killed in an explosion but who some claimed fled the scene. If this is the girl, Nalia, she must be returned to marry Grom, who is the King and Galen's brother.

What Galen doesn't expect is the extreme attraction he himself has for the girl, Emma, the minute he sees her. As they become close friends, it is difficult for Galen to hold his feelings for Emma in check. But Galen puts his own emotions aside. As much as he wants Emma for himself, she might belong to his brother and she might be key to the survival of his entire race. Although he has to fight his feelings which becomes even more difficult when she falls for him, he resists temptation and keeps his distance.

When it is clear that Emma is not the missing princess, there is still a question about whether as a prince he would be allowed to mate a half-breed - Emma is half human and half Syrena. She is desperately in love with Galen but doesn't want him to disobey his own laws. One of the things she loves about him was how he always did the right and noble thing. In the end, he decides that he has found his mate and that their love is stronger than the laws that could keep them apart.

Coming of Age

The story of "Of Poseidon" is Emma McIntosh's story, but it is also Galen Forza's story. Both of these main characters are young people who are in some way finding their way, discovering their worlds and new worlds and finding out who they really are and what they want from their lives. Emma's story begins with a tragedy, the tragedy of losing a best friend forever. Why did she have to lose Chloe, someone who meant so much to her, who had so much to give in life? Life isn't supposed to be miserable when you're eighteen. Emma had a hard time accepting her friend's death but when it occurred to her that Chloe would be mad at her if she let her passing mess up the rest of her life.



Emma found strength in the memory of a BFF, a friend that she would never forget and would honor her by living her life as best she could - the way Chloe would have wanted it. Emma learned at a young age that death is very much part of life.

Emma was feeling adrift and unsure where her life was heading when she was suddenly being pursued by Galen, a hot guy she encountered in Florida. She didn't understand why he was suddenly everywhere she was. She was attracted to the handsome fellow who seemed different - in a good way - than the other boys her age. Emma wasn't sure of herself. She had lost her best friend just a few years after losing her beloved father. Life was hard. She didn't even know who she was. She couldn't risk becoming involved with this new boy and be hurt again although she was undeniably drawn to him.

Galen was on another journey to find out more about life. He was a prince and had not been used to anyone ignoring him, ridiculing him or rejecting him. But he got all three from Emma and absolutely couldn't resist her. He found out that a relationship is give and take even if one is a royal. He also found out how easily someone can be hurt by secret-keeping and that relationships can be destroyed if honesty is not part of the mix.

But the two had a destiny to share. Galen came down to earth, literally, and found out what he needed out of life. He also found out that the quality of life was more important than the quantity of life. Emma learned to open up and allow her love to shine through and accept who she really was. They both found their way to the next phase of their lives although it was, at times, quite a circuitous path.

Dealing with Adversity

Eighteen-year-old Emma McIntosh has had a lot to deal with in her young life. She lost her father who she dearly loved just a few years before to cancer. She lives with her mother who loves her but always seems to be uptight and overly worried about her - but she understands that that's a mom thing and tries to get along. While on vacation in Florida, she literally bumped into the cutest guy she'd ever seen in her life but was sure she didn't make a good impression. Tragically, while in Florida, her best friend, Chloe, was attacked and killed by a bull shark. She had been right there with her and tried but failed to save her.

After returning to school, Emma is depressed and in mourning for her best friend. Everywhere she looks is a constant reminder of Chloe. But one day something strikes Emma. Chloe would want her to go on living and live her life for the fullest. Emma gathers all her strength and decides she'll do just that. Emma shows a resilience that is necessary to deal with the bad times that are eventually a part of everyone's life.

Emma is thrown another curve when that cute guy from Florida shows up in her class. In fact, he's in every class. She wonders why this guy is everywhere she goes and is so interested in her. There is an undeniable attraction between the two and Emma starts to fall for him. However, she learns that he had ulterior motives for wanting to get to know



her and again she has to draw upon her strength and reject him. She is not going to let him hurt her and she's not going to be used.

The real ringer in Emma's life is learning that she is a half-breed - but not your normal half-breed. She is half Syrena (aka mermaid) and half-human. Needless to say, it is a challenge for Emma to grasp the fact that she shares characteristics with the fish. That would be tough for anyone to grapple with.

Although Emma is first introduced as a shy, reserved young woman, as the story proceeds she becomes stronger and stronger with each challenge that she is met with. Emma learns to face adversity and make the best of it while still maintaining her core values.



Style

Point of View

"Of Poseidon" by Anna Barnes is written from two different points of view. The first perspective is that of the protagonist, Emma McIntosh. She narrates every other chapter which gives the reader insight as to her thoughts, feelings and motivations. The other chapters are from a third person perspective, limited omniscient. The main male character who is also Emma's love interest, is the focus of most of this narrative allowing the reader to know where he stands in his budding relationship with Emma and how they conflict with his duties as a Syrena prince.

By having the "dueling" narratives, the reader is able to compare and contrast the feelings and reactions of both Emma and Galen during important events and pivotal points in the story line allowing for a deeper understanding of the overall story.

"Of Poseidon" is Anna Barnes' first novel. In an "Acknowledgments" section, the author gives credit to the many people who contributed to her work and inspired and supported this first-time author. Being a native of Florida, Barnes has a personal knowledge of life in a coastal setting and apparently from aspects of her story an admiration of the creatures who live in the sea.

Setting

"Of Poseidon" by Anna Barnes is the story of a Syrena (merman) who falls in love with a half-breed, a girl who is half human and half Syrena. The story begins in Florida where the two meet on the beach. Emma and her best friend Chloe are on vacation with Chloe's family. The two girls go surfing where Chloe has quite a spill. While Emma is trying to pull Chloe up on her surfboard, a bull shark attacks Chloe. The shark drags Chloe to the ocean bottom by her leg. Emma dives after the shark to try to save her friend. Her friend's blood creates a cloud of blood around the attacking shark and the lifeless body of her friend.

Emma returns to her Jersey shore home that she shares with her mother. Her father died a few years before from cancer. They live in a large house right on the beach. Galen, who Emma met in Florida, follows Emma home and buys a large beach house a short distance away. It is the beach house of Emma's dreams. It has five stories and is painted sea green with white shutters. Galen also enrolls in Emma's high school and signs up for all the same classes as Emma.

As the two become closer and it is revealed that Emma has some of the same strengths and abilities as the Syrena, like holding her breath for thirty minutes, Galen takes her on a swim to the bottom of the ocean where he and his race lives. She is obsessed with the Titanic so as a surprise Galen takes her to the wreck. She is moved by the beauty of



the Titanic and emotional over the knowledge that 1,500 people perished when it sank. They explore the entire ship. They were the first beings to visit the ship since it sank.

Galen visits his kind several times. On one occasion he visits his brother, King Grom, and on another he visits the Archives who maintain the history of the Syrena and live under the Arctic Sea.

Language and Meaning

"Of Poseidon" by Anna Barnes is the story of a Syrena (merman) who falls in love with a half-breed, a girl who is half human and half Syrena (mermaid). Some of the terminology is unique to this story. Galen is a Royal Prince of the Syrena which is a race of beings that are mermaid-like who live at the bottom of the ocean. The Syrena have fishtails and fins. However, they are able to transform into human form and come ashore.

They Syrena also have the ability to "blend" which is the capability of becoming invisible and blending in with the background - like some fish are able to do. Instead of "dating" the Syrena calls it "sifting." Instead of have a wedding they have a "sealing." The Archives are not records but are the men who keep records. The Syrena are able to "sense" the presence of other Syrena.

The author uses humor and the back and forth of teenagers in telling the story that is about young people. She also uses some literary devices like sarcasm, for example: "Swimming - drowning - falls on my to-do list somewhere below giving birth to porcupines." (68) and "Officer Downing opens the back door o the low-budget cop car that smells like vinyl, BO and humiliation." (244) There are also metaphors like, "He played me like an Xbox. A broom and dustpan couldn't clean up all the pieces of my heart he shattered." (282)

Structure

"Of Poseidon" by Anna Banks is told in a straight-forward, mainly chronological manner. There are some references to prior events; however, to avoid confusion they are not told in flashback format. There are twenty-six medium-sized chapters in the 326 page book.

The story begins with a normal boy-meets-girl scenario. However, there are hints that both main characters are not your typical young people. Their unusual personal stories are revealed slowly over the first third of the book so that there is a build-up of intrigue about them.

The author often employs cliffhangers at the conclusion of a chapter. There are many examples. One of the most dramatic was at the conclusion of Chapter 16 when one of the characters, Toraf, senses the presence of another Syrena who emerged from the sea and left footprints in the sand around Emma's house. That cliffhanger was used

throughout the rest of the book and the secret identity of the mysterious stalker was maintained until the very end of the book.

The structure of the narration is unusual. Since Emma narrates every other chapter, the reader has great insight into her thoughts and feelings and motivations. The other chapters are written in the third person narrative, limited omniscient which brings some insight to the other characters, especially to Galen, the main male character who is the love interest of the protagonist, Emma.



Quotes

"I hear Chloe closing the distance behind me, giggling. And I decide on sunflowers for her funeral." (Chapter 1, page 7)

"Swallowing my pride is a lot easier than swallowing the Gulf of Mexico." (Chapter 3, page 15)

"Chloe is gone. She is never coming back. And the way I've been acting would hurt her." (Chapter 7, page 58)

"Telling him I meant to murder his sister probably wouldn't go over very well. It would definitely cancel out the Hallmark vote." (Chapter 11, page 114)

"I raise my chin, meeting his gaze. The sunset probably deepens the heat on my cheeks to a strawberry red, but he might not notice since he can't seem to decide if he wants to look at my eyes or my mouth." (Chapter 13, page 140)

"And with Nalia's death, the Syrena lost more than a future queen. They lost unity. They lost trust. They lost legacy. And they might have lost their ability to survive." (Chapter 14, page 144)

"Poseidon enjoyed living with the humans. He permitted his followers to mate with them. Even Poseidon chose a human mate, against his brother Triton's wishes. Triton believed the humans were poisonous and destructive, and that mating with them was unnatural." (Chapter 19, page 216)

"Is it worth it? To give up years of my life to be with her? Galen thinks of the curve of her hips, the fullness of her lips, the way she blushes when he catches her looking at him. And he remembers how sick he felt when Dr. Milligan indicates Emma would die before him. Oh, yes. It's absolutely worth it." (Chapter 23, page 243)

"Everything about her seems made for him. The way her mouth moves in perfect rhythm with his. The way she combs her fingers through his hair, sending a stirring jolt down his spine. The way her cool lips ignite heat through his whole being. She fits in his arms, as if her every curve fills a place on his own body." (Chapter 24, page 265)

"At the edge of the water, the moon seems to shine down on them like a spotlight, as if somehow the universe knew tonight would be one of enlightenment." (Chapter 24, page 269)

"He played me like an Xbox. A broom and dustpan couldn't clean up all the pieces of my heart he shattered." (Chapter 25, page 282)

"I don't want Galen to break his laws - it's a big part of why I love him so much. His

loyalty to his people, his commitment to them It's the kind of devotion almost nonexistent among humans." (Chapter 25, page 297)

Topics for Discussion

What special abilities do the Syrena have? What was Galen especially gifted at? Toraf?

What made Dr. Milligan initially think that Emma could be a Syrena?

What are the two factions of Syrena? Why was there a schism between the two sides?

What did Rayna and Galen spot that made them certain that Paca was a fraud? How did Grom react to their revelation?

How did Dr. Milligan determine whether Emma was a human or a Syrena? What was his conclusion?

Who was Grom's chosen mate and how did he lose her? What character turned out to be Grom's true love?

What are some of the unanswered questions at the conclusion of the story? How might these lingering matters have turned out?