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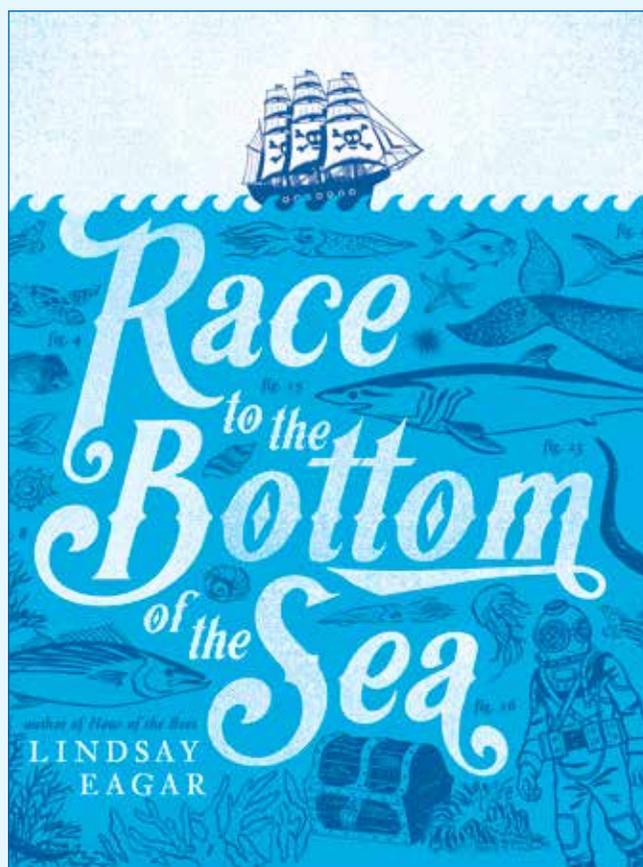
Race to the Bottom of the Sea

LINDSAY EAGAR

Can a clever young inventor uncover
a ruthless pirate's heart of gold?
Thrilling sea adventure takes on a hint
of steampunk in the second book by the
author of the acclaimed *Hour of the Bees*.



When her parents, the great marine scientists Dr. and Dr. Quail, are killed in a tragic accident, eleven-year-old Fidelia Quail is racked by grief. But Fidelia is forced out of her mourning when she's kidnapped by Merrick the Monstrous, a pirate whose list of crimes stretches longer than a ribbon eel. Her task? Use her marine know-how to retrieve his treasure, lost on the ocean floor. As Fidelia and the pirates close in on the prize, with the navy hot on their heels, she realizes that Merrick doesn't expect to live long enough to enjoy his loot. Could something other than pure, black-hearted greed be driving him? Will Fidelia be able to master the perils of the ocean without her parents—and piece together the mystery of Merrick the Monstrous before it's too late?



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Ages 8–12 • 432 pages

Also available as an e-book and in audio



CANDLEWICK PRESS
www.candlewick.com

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About Lindsay Eagar



Lindsay Eagar's debut novel, *Hour of the Bees*, was published by Candlewick Press to considerable acclaim. She lives in the mountains of Utah with her husband and young daughters.

Fun Facts about Lindsay Eagar

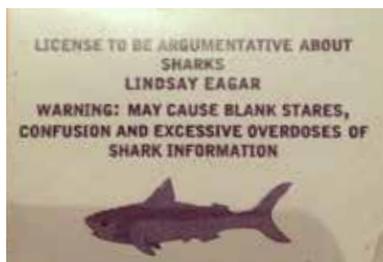
1. She can mix and bake a batch of chocolate-chip cookies from scratch in less than twenty minutes.
2. When she was a kid, she wanted to be a writer, a professional football player, or a marine biologist. Her school counselor told her the first choice was the least likely.
3. She is a classically trained pianist, and her favorite pieces to play are Debussy's *Clair de Lune* and Rachmaninoff's *Prelude in G Minor*. She also plays the guitar and the mandolin and sings.
4. She's never had the chicken pox.
5. When she's stuck in her writing, she plays with a yo-yo. Her yo-yo of choice is a Duncan Butterfly.
6. She had five cakes at her wedding because she didn't want to choose just one flavor.
7. Her childhood crush was Val Kilmer in *Willow*.
8. She can still draw an accurate diagram of a shark's electrosensory system.
9. She kills live plants and Christmas trees but miraculously keeps her children alive.
10. She lost the district spelling bee when she misspelled the word *maverick*. She spelled it like the gas station (Maverik) and still holds a grudge against companies who misspell their names for the cute factor.
11. You can follow her on Twitter @lindsaymccall and on Instagram @lindsayeagar for book news and baby pictures.

A note from Lindsay Eagar

When I was a kid, I fell in love with sharks. I loved sharks almost as much as I loved books. I hoarded shark facts and *National Geographic* episodes featuring sharks. I adopted a whale shark for twenty dollars and named her Rosie, and I delighted in my yearly update of her travels. My family had Microsoft Publisher on our computer, so I made shark expert business cards, shark anatomy posters, and anti-shark-finning pamphlets. *S.O.S.*, I wrote on the flyers I passed out at recess. *Save Our Sharks!* I was even a shark for Halloween when I was nine. I trick-or-treated carrying a surfboard with a bite missing.

Savor that image for a moment and fast-forward to grown-up Lindsay, holding a pen and a notebook, sharks still on the brain.

Race to the Bottom of the Sea was written years before *Hour of the Bees*, mostly in quiet evenings in my bedroom while my infant daughter snoozed, during hours I should have been asleep myself. It was a story that itched to be told—a girl who loved the sea, a dying pirate on a mission, a librarian with a secret.



The author's calling card during her early years as a child shark expert

It was a *labor* of love—emphasis on labor. The only thing that kept me going was the love.

Love for Fidelia, who is part Hermione Granger, part Alice in Wonderland, part Jacques Cousteau, and 100 percent wish fulfillment for kid Lindsay. If only I could have been that clever, that fearless.

Love for Merrick, my dear, dark, brooding pirate, with a heart made of equal parts gold and also the blackest coal.

Love for candy with bright-colored wrappers and fun names like *choco-glomps* and *astrobloomers*.

Love for libraries and the solace they bring. Love for secret forbidden romances. Love for pirates and adventure at sea.

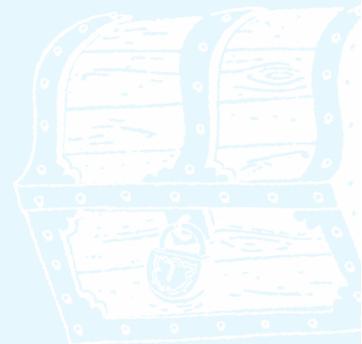
And, of course, a lifetime love for sharks.

Race to the Bottom of the Sea poses the question I'll be asking for the rest of my life: If you knew you were going to die, what would be your greatest regret? Your big final move?

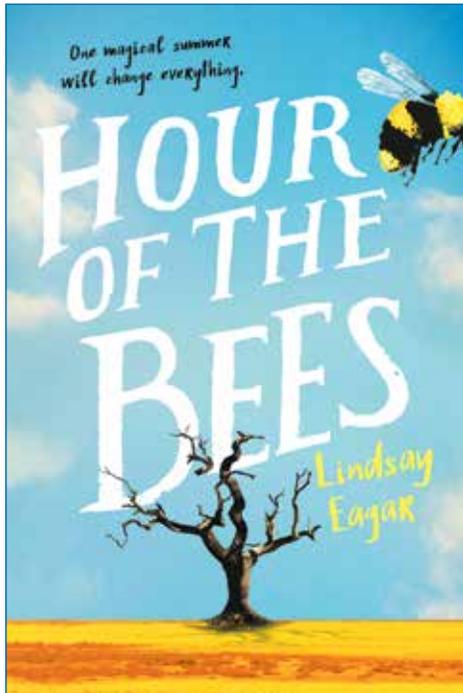
This book says ruthlessly: We are all dying. Do whatever it is you have to do now. Don't wait until the end.



The author in third grade, clad in a skirt made of seaweed



Also by Lindsay Eagar



HC: 978-0-7636-7922-4 • PB: 978-0-7636-9120-2
Also available as an e-book and in audio

★ “Through this atmospheric setting, Eagar sustains a sense of wonder and longing for small things (bees, seeds, stories) to respond to big human needs.”

— *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

★ “Tightly plotted and elegantly characterized, this is a striking debut. Both Carol’s journey and Serge’s stories seem inherently true, and the juxtaposition of the two results in a moving, atmospheric novel of family, heritage, and fairy tales that are more real than not.” — *Booklist* (starred review)

★ “Offering a compelling introduction to Latin American magic realism, this will have appeal for middle-school lovers of literary fiction.”

— *Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books* (starred review)

“Serge and Carolina’s story is a touching reminder to ‘squeeze the juice out of every day’ and remember where (and who) you call home. A poignant intergenerational story about finding and honoring your roots.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

“Readers who enjoy Pam Muñoz Ryan’s novels or Jennifer Cervantes’s *Tortilla Sun* will find Carol’s angst compelling and her wide-eyed brushes with the likes of magical bees and life-giving trees amusing.”

— *School Library Journal*

“*Hour of the Bees* is as grand as the landscape it springs from, an ode to family and heritage but also to living fearlessly. Forget about the middle-grade designation; everyone who reads this will be touched, and quite possibly moved to resecure their family ties. Dreamlike while also gritty and real, this is a gorgeous work of art.” — *BookPage*

“Lindsay Eagar has said that her novel *Hour of the Bees* first came to her as a title without a story, involving elements—bees approaching a man named Serge—whose meanings she did not know. Only after she had finished writing did it all make sense to her, which is a nice echo of what the reader will experience in this mystical, memorable riddle of a book.” — *Wall Street Journal*

“This is a deeply moving story on so many levels. The family dynamics are so real that readers will be drawn to the emotions and actions of each of the characters. . . . The author does an excellent job of offering character struggles that most readers can relate to—Carolina with her sister, Alta, and Carolina’s dad with Grandpa Serge. Bordering on magical realism, this book will leave its readers spellbound and is destined to be a favorite enjoyed by readers of all ages.” — *School Library Connection*



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