



Serpent Tide

K.L. Fogg

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Wesley Vandergrift wonders why he isn't like the other boys in his coastal South Carolina town. It's not easy being the son of an eccentric billionaire mother. His life consists of big secrets in a big mansion and only one friend. Overprotected and insulated from the rest of the world, Wesley yearns for the kind of exciting outdoor adventures he sees on "The Snake Stalker"-his favorite TV program, starring the charming Jack Mackey.

Now through a twist of fate, Wesley meets someone who knows his hero Jack Mackey-a real-live relative. And soon Wesley finds himself in more of an adventure than he bargained for. Dare to take the plunge with Wesley on an exciting journey of shipwrecks, venomous snakes, and kidnappers. The legendary curse of the Serpent Tide will forever change Wesley's life-and, perhaps, yours.

Serpent Tide Details

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From Reader Review Serpent Tide for online ebook

Candace says

An amazing book! My husband gave me the audio book to Diamondback Cave for our anniversary this year and I'd never even heard about these books, so I wasn't really all that interested in it. He started to pester me about whether or not I'd started listening to some of the books he'd given me since I am allowed to listen to audio book at work. I told him no but after I finished the Harry Potter books I thought I'd best give these books a try. Having gotten the first two books of the series from the library I reluctantly started this one. It didn't take long before I was hooked. K.L. Fogg certainly knows how to keep her readers entranced, and even though I was just listening to instead of reading the book I have no doubt that if I had been reading it I would have blown through this book just as quickly if I had the time. I loved the adventures that Wesley had and how he finally got to reunite with his father. I have to say I had a hard time not laughing out loud at some of the things Jack would say. Not only was this book very entertaining it was enjoyable and something I know I will listen to over and over again just for the sheer enjoyment of it. A well deserved 5 stars and I look forward to starting Widow's Revenge tomorrow to see where the series goes on from here.

Melissa says

Synopsis: Serpent Tide takes place in coastal South Carolina. Wesley Vandergrift the son of billionaire Imogene Vandergrift, is unhappy living the life he's living. His mother, spoils Wesley to the point where he not only has no real idea of what real life is all about, but he's also miserable. He wants nothing more than to be like other kids. Wesley's only real friend is young Amanda, whose mother, Maria, had been taking care of Wesley since infancy. And although they come from different sides of the tracks. Wesley and Amanda have one thing in common – their fascination with Jack Mackey, "The Snake Stalker." Together they watch the Australian track down all kinds of serpents, reveling in his adventures and wishing they could be there with him. Then one day Wesley's life changes. When a young veterinarian named Maggie comes to see about Wesley's dog, there is a hint of recognition between the two. In a subsequent visit to a ranch owned by the vet's parents, a story unfolds that will throw Wesley, his family and many others into a whirlwind of intrigue and discovery.

Review: I liked this book a lot is was very easy to read. It had a very complex plot which is why I liked it. I like the general story and like all the action and adventure in it. I would recommend this book to junior high aged kids as well as High School students.

Rebecca says

It's an interesting read, certainly. I wouldn't call it exciting, exactly. It's got conflict coming out of its ears, but there's really three problems:

1. The romance line between Maggie and Jack is a little on the thin side. They get together without anything more than just chemistry, and anything that would typically be "relationship-building," like getting to know each other, is all in the implied backstory. From when Jack was married to Maggie's now-deceased sister, Nicole. Normally, I wouldn't really have a problem with this, but then they decide very suddenly to get

engaged. They don't really catch up with each other, they don't have more than one date, they only really have great chemistry. And a shared love for Nicole. (I'm sorry, to me that's just weird. I don't have a sister, but if I did and she died, I wouldn't even be looking at her husband like that. It would just be too weird. And yes, that's a personal thing.)

2. Wesley doesn't feel real to me. Wesley is the main character, and he's always being rescued. He's proactive, to a point. He has agency, to a point. But in the end, he's always being rescued. He had one incident where he actually escaped--and we don't see any of it, we're only told about it later. And yes, the first situation in the book he's as proactive as he can be, and the last he's very limited by the circumstances--but it's still disappointing. He's the main character, and I expect him to solve more of his own problems, rather than wait for an adult to do it for him. He also has some very calm reactions that don't feel real at all. He's just found out the rather earth-shattering (to a 12-year-old) thing--his mother isn't really his mother at all, and instead his father is a world-famous TV star! And he takes it really, really calmly. He doesn't feel any kind of anger, or hatred, or confusion until the end, when he hates Imogene for possibly drowning his father. And maybe hatred would have been strong before, but why isn't he angry at her for lying to him? For that matter, why does he trust Jack instantly? Sure, Jack's his father and a TV star, but you shouldn't launch yourself into a hug with someone you just met. Most kids would probably freeze up, not do that.

3. The author is preachy. Now, I know theme is important to a book. But when the author is including lines about how Wesley remembered how caged he felt as a rich kid, and now he's glad his parents make him pick up after himself (paraphrased, but part of the ending chapter of *Serpent Tide*), it's no longer theme: It's being shoved in your face. I don't need you to tell me how grateful I should be to have grown up normal, or how grateful I should be to my parents, which is what this feels like. I'm grateful to them without the author's help. And kids may not realize they should be grateful to their parents, but preaching at them won't help with that. The author needs to try harder to incorporate the theme into the actual plot, if that was the theme she was aiming at.

And yet, Fogg spins an entertaining tale, which is why I've read it as many times as I have. I've also read the other two books (once each, a long time ago), and they're also entertaining. I'm actually a bit disappointed that she's written nothing else, because I want to see if she's improved on these things and see what other stories she has in her.

Rosaliefullmer says

This is very fun book with creative twists and suspenseful turns. It was written by an LDS author, and though it is not considered LDS fiction, a couple of the characters are Mormon, so there is some church talk in it. All in all I thought it was a great book.

Vanessa says

Poor rich-kid Wesley suffers from an over-protective mother, a case of aqua-phobia, and bullies at school. When Wesley begins to suspect that his mother Imogene may not be his real mother, the evidence begins to point to the conclusion that Jack Mackey, TV's famous Snake Stalker, is his real father.

As a result, Wesley's once-pedantic life turns into a wild adventure as he searches for the truth about his

origins and learns that Imogene isn't just eccentric, but dangerous and evil.

Written for middle-grade, *Serpent Tide* should appeal to the worries children feel at that age, as well as their sense of adventure. There are some 'fantasy revelations' (i.e., that Wesley is the son of the famous Jack Mackey) and several unbelievable events which make the story contrived--but since it's geared for younger kids, it doesn't have to make complete sense.

The plot is straightforward and moves along at a steady clip, with well-paced action. However, none of the action is gory or too scary for kids, although the main characters' lives are imperiled by the end.

An interesting aspect to this story are the moral dilemmas of the characters. Should Wesley feel guilt about leaving a woman who's 'mothered' him for 10+ years? Should Imogene's illegal immigrant housekeeper tell Wesley the truth about his origins? How can Jack get over the death of his wife when he feels it was his fault? Those were interesting things to discuss with my eight-year-old daughter as I read this story to her.

The main characters are fun and engaging, although Fogg doesn't go particularly deep with them. The only character I felt particularly interested in was Jack, and that was mostly because Fogg realistically portrayed the pain he felt from the loss of his wife/child, and then his son's sudden reappearance.

Wesley was only mildly more interesting as a character, as you watch him change into the person he knows he can become when he's no longer suffocating under Imogene's influence.

Imogene was deliciously evil, and I liked that Fogg does explain her motives so even though she's a strange character to us, we understand where she's coming from.

My main complaints are that Fogg uses some big words that middle-readers wouldn't know, and some of her writing kind of hits you over the head saying, "Look at this, duh." So it's not exactly subtle, but that's an adult's perspective, and most children won't care.

Michelle says

Marissa LOVED this series and wants me to read it SO BAD. So, needless to say - I'm excited!

I really, really liked this. I only gave it four stars, because I didn't think it was QUITE up there with *Fablehaven*. I will definitely be finishing the series, though. The author must be LDS, because many of the characters in the book are Mormon - so prayer and values are very much so included in the characters' lives - and I really loved that. There are also some very funny parts. Lots of adventure, mystery, and a love story to boot - quite entertaining!

Keira says

I really enjoyed this book. I began reading it after several students recommended it to me and after receiving an advanced copy of the sequel in preparation for her to visit our school. I couldn't put it down. I thought that it was a well done realistic adventure.

Bree Coleman says

This book was a page turner! I loved it!

Erin says

I was torn between giving it one star or two. One and a half would have been perfect. I could see how older elementary school age and junior high kids might like this, but as an adult, no way. This was the most cliched book ever. Of course, the baby doesn't drown at the beginning. Of course, he is found by a rich woman that only wants him so she can keep her fortune. Of course, the babies dad fell in love with twins and conveniently when one twin dies he can then marry the other. Of course, the baby/boy father turns out to be the star of his favorite nature show. Jack is such a rip-off of Steve Irwin. Couldn't Fogg have come up with some original characters? The beautiful identical twin doctor. The scheming rich woman. The Steve Irwin-esqe father. The boy who instantly is convinced that Jack is his father because they both like snakes. Not only was this novel a copy of other novels, but it could have been easily shortened by at least 100 pages.

EllieS says

Serpent Tide by K. L. Fogg is an adventure book about Wesley Vandergrift, the son of Imogene Vandergrift, an eccentric billionaire. He lives in a coastal South Carolina town where he has only one friend. His mother is very overprotective, and because of his insulated childhood he wants to go on the kind of adventures like he sees the dazzling Jack Mackey go on in the show in which he stars "Snake Stalker". Wesley soon meets someone who personally knows Jack Mackey and begins an amazing adventure with Jack Mackey and his friend who's name I don't remember at this time. On this adventure he will discover things he would never have guessed about his Mother and his past.

I liked Serpent Tide because the characters were interesting and the plot was full of twists and turns. K.L. Fogg made me question what I knew about the characters over and over again. I disliked it because although there were twists some parts were a little predictable. I also think that she could have been a tiny bit more original. Nevertheless I believe it is a good book and I think the book would be good for someone in grade 5 through 9.

D-lyn says

I really liked this Book!!!!

I want to read another! I hope she makes this a series!

I liked the adventure and the characters and the suspense and the creativity and the unexpected ending!

I did foresee some spots of the plot but others were a huge surprise!!! The main character was fun and easy to get to know and really feel a kin to. In the middle of the story you sorta stop getting everything from him and his eyes and jump to the adults (ages 34-37) point of view and their story and a bit of James Bond type

adventure (which isn't realistic but very fun!) and since I am an adult I liked that part too. Though I could probably guess my little sister might think that part was dumb.

OKAY S.B. Read this book and tell me what you think since you are 12 and the the kids in this story are your age!

I liked so much I plan to buy my own copy and I hope K.L. Fogg makes another adventure as delightful and exciting as this one with these fun characters!

Okay I wrote above and since then.... I now know she has written 2 others for a 3 part series YEA!!!

Now I will have to make a book request at my library!

This book I got through library loan from Idaho about 3 states away from me! I am so glad I did get to read it! Loved it!!!!

Danae Harding says

I'm surprised this book hasn't become as popular as it should have. Written by a Mormon author, it's an exciting story that you'll fall in love with immediately. The whole story is very well written with amazing totally believable characters. I recommend this to everyone, seriously.

Cami Checketts says

My sons and I loved this series. It was really cute.

Chelsea Mather says

Serpent Tide is one of my favorite books. I like it because it is different than most books I've read. It had a great story line and plot. It caught my attention from the very beginning. I like how it has cliffhangers after every chapter. When I read it I felt like I was apart of the story. I felt like I was helping Wesley solve the mystery of finding his real family. The book had a lot of adventure and action it in. There was a lot of rising action it the book, which helped me to stay interested in it. Even though the book is very long, it went by extremely quickly while reading it because of how intriguing the book was to me. Serpent Tide has lots of detail that helped me understand what was going on in the story. The detail also helped me to get to know the characters and their personalities better. I liked the ending because it made me want to read the next two books in the series. I did think it was kind of weird that Imogene "Wesley's fake mother" got away with what she did all these years but other than that I loved it.

Jade says

Serpent Tide it one of the BEST BOOKS THAT I HAVE EVER READ!!! I finished it really, really fast, because it was sooooo good that I couldn't stop!!! I would spend hours reading this book because of how good it was!!! I strongly advise you to read it, you will love this book, unless you hate exciting books!!!

THIS BOOK ROCKS!!!

04MelanieS says

Serpent Tide

It's obvious that the book *Serpent Tide* written by K.L. Fogg is exciting and suspenseful there are many examples of that throughout the book, but I have decided that the book is not as good at making all of the conversations in the book meaningful to the plot of the book. I will prove my point in the new few moments.

First of all on page 242 Jack is surprised by opening a box sent from an anonymous person with a snake inside. This is an example of a very exciting, suspenseful part in the book. But a little bit after the most suspenseful part in the book when you are still waiting to see what will happen next Maggie says something that could have not been said and the book still would have made complete sense. This is an example of a comment in the story that isn't important to the plot.

Another example of a very exciting part in this book is on page 161 when Imogene takes Wesley away from the Scott family for the first time. So they are all in their house wondering what they could do to get Wesley back. When the phone rings and so penny get up to answer it and Walter asks her who it is and she says in an excited voice "It's Wesley!" It made me want to know where he is. If he was okay, and what they could do to best help him get away from Imogene.

I thought another not important conversation in the book was on page 253 after they know that Jack has lost his sight. Maggie is sitting at home waiting till she can go and pick up Jack from the hospital when the phone rings and when she answers it's her boyfriend named Mitch who works for the local news station and wonders if he can interview Jack about him being blind. And Maggie says no and then hangs up the phone. I thought out of all of the conversations that could have been taken out of the book this one was the most obvious. It had nothing to do with the plot.

As you can see from the evidence above, this book is over all a great book but does need to have somethings taken out of it.

Cindy says

This one was fun. I really liked Wesley as a character. Somehow I was expecting this to be a fantasy (maybe in part because of the cover), but it wasn't. It was a good story that kept me up way too late last night to finish.

Rhonda says

5 STARS

I love this series. It is an adventure that is full of interesting characters. Every time things

seem to be calm something else happens again.

Wesley is son of Imogene Vandergrift a billionaire. He is not allowed to anything that is dangerous, have any pets, do chores. His best friend is Amanda. Wesley is really smart. He is a teenager. His favorite show is Snake stalker.

Amanda is a few months older than Wesley. Her mother Maria has worked Imogene almost her full life. Amanda is a tomboy. She goes to public school. Whenever Imogene is not around her and Wesley get into a lot of troubles.

Imogene Vandergrift is a rich self centered woman. She has been a widow for years. She will do anything she wants nothing will get in her way.

Wesley puts some things together and figured out that he was not really Imogene's son. That he has a father, aunt & grandparents. The adventures begin and trouble starts.

The pacing is a fast pace one adventure after another adventure.

Serpent Tide is first book of three that tells the story of Wesley Mackey.

Lauren says

I have to admit that I was pretty shocked to see that the average rating for this book was so high. Maybe those were kids' ratings. I hate to be this harsh, but this book is actually on my list of the top worst 10 books I've ever read. I read it for a book club, so I had to finish it. While reading it, I found myself constantly rolling my eyes and saying "Oh please!", then turning to my husband to tell him just how dumb it was. It flat out struck me as written by a random person who read Harry Potter and said, "Well, I can do that." It was unoriginal, right down to the characters, one of which was a blatant copy of the Crocodile Hunter. And what about the "romance" where things tragically end with one of a set of twins, but luckily, there is another identical twin available? Does no one see how that might be a little wierd for everyone involved? Incidentally, when I went to the book club after reading this book, I was ready to speak my mind until I realized the author was actually sitting right there in the group! Luckily, I hadn't said anything. I just sat back and let the discussion confirm what I had concluded: the book was inspired by Harry Potter, written by a first-time author who one day just decided to create a novel, the Australian WAS copied from the Crocodile Hunter, etc. She also admitted that she was asked to add in certain LDS references in order to get a publisher. I am glad that, apparently, this has been a good read for a lot of people. It makes me feel less guilty for my own opinion. I have no desire, though, to read any more in this series.

Erika says

This was a great book I liked it because it was a mystery, adventure, and romance all in one.
