



Sea of Stars

Amy A. Bartol

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Eighteen-year-old Cricket Hollowell was looking for her place in the world when she discovered that the universe was bigger—and more dangerous—than she had ever dreamed. Now, whisked across space to the planet Ethar, Cricket learns that her genetic ability to see the future makes her a sought-after commodity...and the catalyst for war between her star-crossed parents' clans. According to Alameedan prophecy, one house will rise to power and the other will be completely wiped out, and Cricket's precognition is believed to be the weapon that will tip the scales.

A target of both the Rafe and the Alameeda houses, Cricket finds protection—and a home—in the arms of Trey, her Etharian bodyguard-turned-boyfriend. But her visions of what's to come disturb her deeply, especially since she must discover whether the gift of foresight will allow her to rewrite the future, or if her fate is as immovable as the stars.

Sea of Stars Details

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Author : Amy A. Bartol

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From Reader Review Sea of Stars for online ebook

Steph Sinclair says

Actual rating: 1.5 stars.

The romance isn't too bad in this one if you forget the fact that it's an Insta love romance. It has a good amount of cringe worthy moments that'll make you vomit in your mouth, same amount of wish fulfillment wankery and moments of intense eye rolling. But this time with sexy times! Sex in a bed! Sex in a dirt hole! Sex against a tree! Whoo hoo, sex, baby, yeah!

>_>

So why did I read it despite disliking the first book?

Answer: The narrator is pretty great and it was free on Kindle Unlimited. I was curious on where the story would go, so I decided to give it a chance, and I was entertained. I can see why people like the book even though it's not really my cup of tea. And yet, I'll probably end up listening to the last book, because at this point, why not?

I almost gave Sea of Stars 2 stars because it is a better novel than the first. But thanks to that ridiculous plot twist at the end, I'm knocking off half a star. Review to come.

Donna ~ The Romance Cover says

Sea of Stars (Kricket #2) by Amy Bartol
5 stars!!

“If this doesn’t work out for us, Kricket, know that I’ve loved you from the moment I held you in my arms on Ethar, and every moment in between. I will love you even after my final breath.”

I am in total awe of Amy Bartol, every book I read of hers just gets better and better. This series needs to be a film, seriously!! I feel the same about the Premonition series too...Amy has this incredible talent for scene setting, she brings her books to life through words, but so vivid and descriptive are those words that you can picture yourself in these places in the midst of battle and you cannot help but be drawn in to these worlds that she painstakingly creates. Ethar is no different, while reading I felt as if I was there watching the action unfold before my eyes, I could feel it and I could see it.

“What good is seeing the future if you cannot get out of its way?”

This book continues where *Under Different Stars* ended. The political discord in Ethar is reaching an all-time high and Cricket is unfortunately at the centre of it. With Alameeda declaring war on all houses the battles that ensue are epic. With Rafe and Alameeda fighting each other Cricket has to use all her powers to keep ahead of the enemy, an enemy that want Cricket and her powers all for themselves knowing that they could tip the balance in their favour. As we found out in *Under Different Stars* there is a prophecy that one house in Ethar will rise and the other will fall and Rafe and Alameeda are both determined that they will not be the fallen, no matter the cost or the consequences.

“Think about what I said. You need me to bring the future back to you.”

Trey and Cricket’s relationship gathers momentum in this instalment and while their priorities are firmly set on survival there are a few moments where we are treated to the Trey and Cricket show. The few amounts of down time that they have are not wasted and Trey is one guy that you cannot help but swoon over. He will do anything in his power to protect Cricket and this is not through allegiance to Alameeda but is born from the sheer love that he feels for Cricket and the feeling is reciprocated. Even though Cricket knows her mere presence puts everyone in danger, Cricket cannot help the pull or the love that she has for Trey and this is one instance you will be rooting for love conquering all.

“It’s a paper heart now, like I told you before, and your name is written all over it.”

It was great to catch up with the others that are totally behind Cricket and Trey’s adventures, especially Jax and Wayra and Amy Bartol introduces a host of new characters that are just as intriguing as everyone else and I am sure have an interesting story of their own to tell. Kyon is still hot on their heels determined to make Cricket his no matter who he has to destroy in the process to get to her. This man is resilient and persistent, however, even though I shouldn’t I can’t help but have that twinge of “like” for him. This is one thing that frustrates me with Amy’s writing in the nicest possible way, she has this knack of making you like the bad guys too and you feel guilty for doing so.

“You are the brightest star among the Sea of Stars, Cricket.” - Kyon

Trey is such a fantastic character, you cannot help but fall in love with him, his fierce sense of loyalty and protectiveness can you bring you to your knees, he is just a good guy inside and out. Cricket really develops in this book, she has to mature and adapt quickly and is so far living up to everyone’s expectations. She does have her moments where she makes some rash and silly decisions but you can always see the method to her madness. I love Cricket with a passion and for someone who is feeling love for the first time you cannot help but hope she gets her happy ever after.

“Since when are you afraid of anyone or anything?”

“Since I found something I don’t want to lose.”

“There is no chance of you losing me.”

“You must not have heard about me. I’m trouble.”

I seriously cannot wait for book 3, Darken the Stars. Even though you have that deep seated sense of foreboding you always have that sense that good will conquer evil and I cannot wait to read this series climax.

www.theromancecover.com

Ashley says

This book...is probably one of the best sequels I have ever read. it definitely surpassed UDS in romance and action and heartbreaking moments (*and humor haha, oh yes, definitely*). This book was beautiful and dark and heartbreaking and so well written. the cliffhanger of course killed me....but most of the book had me dying anyway.

I am so sad that I read this all on its release date because I should have savored it. **Luckily the third book comes out in SEPTEMBER!**

Shelly Crane says

"I swooned, laughed, gasped, and then swooned some more. Bartol writes an epic story!"

Alaina Meserole says

UGH! THAT ENDING THOUGH

I still liked this book and this series but Cricket seemed to be more serious than her fun and sassy self?!? Maybe that's just me. I still hate Kyon so freaking much. I AM STILL IN LOVE WITH TREY. I will continue to ship Trey and Cricket - I don't care what anyone says, they are perfect for each other and a god damn goal of a couple.

I have no idea what the third book will be about and I don't want to know until I have it in my hands or on my kindle OR if I freaking find time to read it in my endless pile of books. I'm glad that *Sea of Stars* didn't become a second book tragedy and I'm definitely in it for the long haul. I hope that the third book doesn't break my heart or my soul.

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

4.5 Stars!

Sea of Stars picks up right where the last ended, with Cricket and the gang hanging low and jumpy at every whisper, creak, or sudden noise, and for good reason, there are people out there that still want her. That still believe she belongs to them.

When I read the first book last year, it completely surprised me with how much I enjoyed it. This isn't typically my go to genre but Cricket, Trey, Jax, and Wayra won me over heart and soul. In fact, the boys are what really make this series. Their bond, loyalty and friendship is something to be envied. I love how they interact with one another and with Cricket. They are fierce warriors with hearts of pure gold and they will do anything to protect her. Their witty banter and great one liners are just a few of the things that make this series truly fantastic and such a joy to read.

Can we talk just about Trey for a moment? Look out girls, because if you loved him in the first one, you are going to be drooling over him in this. He ramps everything up, and I do mean everything!

He and Kricker together were just magic. It isn't easy for them, I mean, is it ever but these two work together like no other and I loved seeing their relationship bud and blossom. Heck, I loved seeing Cricket blossom. She grows a lot and the weakness that she had in the first book, is pretty much gone. Gone is the meek girl and instead we have one who is willing to fight and to survive. She might have Trey, Jax, and Wayra on her side, but they have her on their side as well. She fought every bit as much and as hard for them in this as they did for her and I absolutely loved it.

Not only is Cricket growing as a fighter but her powers are too. We learn so much more about her. About what she is capable of and a little more about her parents as well. So many questions were answered that I had from the first book but of course like all good trilogies, this second installments also raised so many more new ones that need to be answered as well.

Kyon was, well Kyon. He is evil and mad and yet you see that weird softer side of him every now and then and you can't help but hope...well, just have hope that there is so much more to him. That a good guy, a good heart, exists somewhere in that body of his.

I absolutely loved this. It was such an amazing sequel to the first. It lived up to the goodness of the first book and amplified all that I loved about it. There was more action, more romance and it was so much darn fun to read. Once again I was blown away by how much I enjoyed this. I just couldn't get enough of it.

JAIME says

This book is strange, in that a bunch of stuff goes down - but, I got to the end of the book and felt like not a lot happened. There wasn't enough feeling in the events to make them seem real. And, for me, moments that

could have been huge were simplified by Cricket saying something stupid about the sexy way Trey smells - and that happened more than once. I mean, people are dying all around you, and that is what is running through your mind?!

Cricket herself, is one of the worst characters I have ever read. She is just so pathetic. Where she could have been written as badass - and trust me, the character is DYING to be badass, she is just a one dimensional fool.

I hate comparing author's works, but I've read a bunch of Amy's books, and I can't help feeling that Evie (The Premonition Series) and Cricket are exactly the same person. And, that is by no way complimentary.

The plot lines between the Premonition Series and the Cricket Series are becoming increasingly similar also.

I will likely continue with the series since I've invested so much time already, but that was disappointing.

ARC via NetGalley.

Kelly says

Sea of Stars is the second book in the series and I **loved it**.

I love the settings the author created with bits of new words and technologies. In this book, Alameeda declares war to Rafe and it's getting really dangerous for the characters. There was a lot of action and I wasn't bored. I liked seeing Cricket and Trey together, they make a great couple. They love each other and manage to find each other again even in some surprising situations. We also learn more about Cricket's family and the other priestesses. Kyon is still trying to get her but we saw a nicer and gentler side of him we didn't have in the first book. It was a little surprising but I enjoyed it and I can't wait to read the next book!

****I received an ARC through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review****

Jacqueline's Reads says

5 Consume me with Love Stars

Sea of Stars is the second book of the Cricket series.

I love young adult books and I love young adult books with a touch of fantasy, epic love and romance and intense story-line.

All the reviews are justified and you will be gripping the pages from start to finish and never wanting to let go. I did an audio read with this one and it was the BEST way. I love the narrator and brilliance audio produces really great books.

Sea of Stars picks up where Under Different Stars ends. Rafe and Alameeda continue to fight against each other and tensions are at a high. That's all great, but the main and heart of the book is Trey and Cricket's

love for each other. There was never a dull moment with them. The majority of the book focuses on Trey and Cricket's relationship and that's what hit it for me.

You will love Trey hard, if you had mild feelings for him, it will be piping hot after you finish this book. He really steps his game up and he does everything he can to protect and be with Cricket. And Cricket reciprocates the feelings back, but Kyon is there and he wants Cricket. Kyon will stop at nothing to have Cricket as his and I'll be honest, this was super-hot for me. Kyon is a villain you love to hate. I love his possessiveness over Cricket and a part of me (tiny part) made me root for him too (I'm crazy like that).

"My desire for him is insane. He's not sentimental—neither of us is—and yet he says things to me that strike at the core of my being and speak to the fighter in me. He makes me crave him in the most vulnerable way. I can't lose him—ever."

"I'm the dark secret that he can't keep hidden—his crossed fingers—his hold-my-breath-to-keep-from-feeling. But I make him feel everything."

"I have a paper heart and he has written notes all over it."

I love Cricket. I love how strong she is and how she keeps her wits up throughout the whole book, even as she is getting the you know what beat out of her.

"From an early age, you've learned never to trust anyone but yourself. You let almost no one help you, but the ones you do allow into your life have special significance to you: you love them, even when sometimes you wish that you didn't. Because when you love someone, Cricket, it means you're completely loyal to that person, you'll sacrifice anything for him - even your life. How am I doing so far?"

With each book I read in this series, it just gets better and better. Sea of Stars blew my expectations out of the water. Gah, the writing was perfection. I couldn't get enough of it and I never wanted the story to end. Trey and Cricket consumed me and I loved every second of it.

Audio Questions

What made the experience of listening to Sea of Stars the most enjoyable?

The combination of witty and epic story-line with a wonderful narrator made the story for me. I enjoyed listening to Trey and Cricket's love and all the issues that they had to face and I enjoyed listening to it from a very good narrator.

Who was your favorite character and why?

I love Trey and Cricket because they are the main Hero and Heroine of the book, but I also have to give props to Kyon, the epic villain. He really adds a great dynamic to the read and I loved him as the villain

Which character – as performed by Kate Rudd – was your favorite?

I'm a major fan of Kate. I love love love her voice. It sounds young and it fits Cricket's perfectly. I'm a major fan of dual POV, but I didn't mind only listening to Kate's. She conveys the emotions so well and I love her voice transitions. I liked listening to her as Trey and the other characters.

Did you have an extreme reaction to this book? Did it make you laugh or cry?

I felt an array of emotions during this book and it was all wonderful. I think my heart was going to beat out of my chest because of all the action and intense, but great scenes. I enjoyed this book very much.

Under Different Stars REVIEW | AMAZON

Sea of Stars AMAZON

Angela says

THANK YOU AMY BARTOL FOR GETTING ME OUT OF MY READING SLUMP!!

Sea of Stars literally picks up where *Under Different Stars* left off. We are still following Cricket's story as she continues to be a fugitive. Cricket in this novel much like the first, is still a force to be reckoned with. She is still strong and still insanely smart. The big difference between book one and two is that this one is over-packed with action (*yes this is a good thing*). You'll find yourself barely having time to breathe with all the twist and turns that are happening. The first "OMG" moment happens so early on in the book that I'm still floored by it. All the action in this book has a snowball effect.... Gets going right away and as the novel continues just gets bigger and bigger.

We get to learn not just more about Cricket's powers but more about her past. This making her an even stronger character than she was in the previous novel. The other character plus in this book is Trey. If you've read *Under Different Stars* than you know how amazing and swoon-worthy he was in book one... In *Sea of Stars* he gets even better. As much as I did like him in the *UDS* I wanted so much more out of his character and I got it in this book. We also get re/introduced to several characters. We still have Trey's boys like Jax and Wayra I wish I would have gotten more of them in this book, but never was let down when they were present. We still have Kyon as the villain. Loved him in this book! He is an amazingly written villain and just can't wait to get more of him in the next book. I enjoyed getting a little peek into his softer sides as well. We finally get to meet Charisma, Trey's parents (*Sadly kept calling his father Vasline in my head, didn't mean to but couldn't stop myself*). All were great sub characters, but none I have yet to connect with. My favorite however is Griffin. To me he gives off this Ronan from *Heir of Fire* feel. Which I loved! He still has a lot of mystery surrounding him, but I look forward to seeing him in book three. I think he is going to add something so grand to this series. I want to go more into detail about him because I really liked his character, but for spoiling reasons I'll leave the convo about him at that.

On to my favorite thing... The romance! **BE STILL MY BEATING HEART! I'M SWOONING ALL OVER THE SOUTH!** I loved that this book had a lot more Cricket moments (*Yeah, I went there*). I loved getting to see them be on a more personal level, I loved their banter, and I love how they are towards each other. I feel like in a lot of books like this relationships are built of half truth and a lot of hidden secrets. This isn't the case with them and I really enjoyed that.

"I want to discover every thought... every look... every other freckle." "Why every other freckle? Why not all of them?"

"Well, I didn't want to sound obsessed, and also some freckles aren't as good-natured as others" As I laugh harder, Trey rises on his elbows, smiling down at me. "That's the sound that I want to live in for the rest of

my life."

Sigh, just loved it. Any and every moment these two are present was written to perfection. I'm on pins and needles waiting to see where their relationship goes next. I want NEED more of these two.

As far as the plot went, as I stated before, it's massively action packed. We never get a moment to rest out legs. It's just one insane moment after the next. *Small Spoiler ahead if you haven't read book one* My favorite thing about this book was how Cricket is learning more about her powers and how she can control them. I fear Cricket being able to see into the future would be hard to write and have play out well, but Amy does it flawlessly. I can't stress enough how much I **absolutely loved** how all the vision played out! Seriously did not see it coming! It's just great! Found myself having to pick my jaw up off the floor after everything is revealed and comes together. Oh and that ending... Seriously!!!

This is torture! How can you leave us hanging like that?!?! I mean, hey I'm super thankful for such an amazing ending and book, but I don't know how I'll be able to wait for the next!

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Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Amazon Publishing and NetGalley.)

"Has anybody ever told you that you're irritating?"

"No. Everybody loves me,"

This was an okay sequel, but I did find it confusing in places.

Cricket seemed to need constant baby sitting in this book, which wasn't quite what I expected. It just seemed like she'd constantly got someone with her looking after her and trying to keep her safe, and I was surprised that she put up with it!

The storyline in this confused me a bit, and I found it hard to follow. The romance angle moved forward, and we even got some naked scenes, but I did find it really hard to keep track of what exactly was going on. This felt like a bit of a filler book for me, and it didn't seem like much happened, other than just keeping Cricket safe, and discussing how brilliant her hair was (cutting it causes her to not age?).

The ending to this also confused me a bit, but based on where it ended, the ending was a bit of a cliff-hanger.

6 out of 10

Dana says

Whelp...that was a departure from the first book. We were left in YA and started off again in the very erotic NA. I mean I'm no prude, but I like a little more meat in my stories than just..well, meat. The first half of the book was literally a single drawn out fight scene, and the second half was mostly just Cricket and Trey making out. I like romance as much as the next person, but when the story is just a series of love scenes my interest wanes.

This dramatic shift in story priority didn't sit well with me, and I found myself struggling to finish this book. The characters are still decent, and when they actually stopped sucking face long enough to do something, I was interested. Unfortunately those moments were few and far between. I did like learning more about Cricket's family near the very end of the book, but I am not sure if this last minute tidbit will be enough to entice me to read the next book.

Overall, while this book was a disappointment for me, I still think that there is enough potential to turn the series around in the next book. However my continuation of this series will most likely depend on my current TBR list, rather than an actual desire to finish the story.

Buy, Borrow or Bin Verdict: Bin

Note: I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

Candace says

Picking up where 'Under Different Stars' left off, Cricket is cast into an unfamiliar world of civil wars and forced unions. She finds herself to be an object of obsession for many. Everyone seems to want to either own her and control her, or to want to eliminate her as a threat. It is getting harder and harder to decipher who she should trust and what everyone's motives are.

This second book in the series is full of action and adventure. Imprisoned and tortured at times, on the run at other times. Cricket is a wanted woman. She is only beginning to see the dangers that surround her first-hand.

While on the run, she finally pursues the relationship she really wants with Trey. Unable to deny their feelings, the two set out to conquer the world together. Their love is intense and passionate. They spend their time together stealing intimate moments whenever they can and never knowing when their luck might run out.

As expected, this book ends with a huge cliffhanger. Cricket's visions of the future left me cringing and praying for any other outcome than the one she sees. However, I have faith that she'll work her magic to change the future. I'm hoping that Cricket and Trey will get their HEA. After everything that they've been through, they definitely deserve it.

I'm still loving this story and will be diving into the next book immediately. I'm hooked and I have to see what lies in store for Cricket and Trey.

Pam says

4 stars

“Love is the worst...It sets fire to us just to see who it can kill.”

Cricket's story continues in the arms of the man she loves. How can you feel so much for someone that it hurts to think of them ever leaving your side. Knowing the inevitable is about to happen, she does what she does best; *survive*. Cricket is the definition of strength, honor and truth; holding her own against an *oasis in a sea of scary*. As the truth of her past is revealed, she realizes that there is only one person who can save them and that is her.

“No matter what happens, Cricket, I’ll fight for you. Until death do us part . . . and then forever after that.”

Sea of Stars is the second installment in the The Cricket Series, one that is full of action and anticipation. So many secrets and so many lies, Cricket is not only running from a man who sees her as his possession, but a new threat, one that seems to only want to use her. Cricket is more than capable of getting out of sticky situations, but that didn't stop me from cheering Trey on each time he came near. The love between the two is beyond measure, readily willing to turn their backs on everything just to be with each other. It's an amazing world, one that has to be experienced. Recommended for those who enjoy a fantasy world that leaves you butterflies in your heart.

ARC kindly provided by 47North, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.

***Quotes above are taken from the ARC version of the book and may differ upon publication.

Simge says

****UPDATE 12/16 ****

3,5 Stars

"I have a paper heart and he has written notes all over it."

I finally got around to reading this, and more than two years passed since I read the first book. Considering that it was pretty easy to get back into the world, and remember characters and such.

First of all, I didn't dislike the story in general, no in fact I'm still and **always** will be impressed by Bartols story writing, still in awe of her ability to create such worlds and write in a way that's deep and easy at the same time.

I'm just going to ratter of the notes I took while reading

This overall felt like a filler book. It was one fight scene after another, rarely any breaks, and you know it was like romantic dancing in one line, and in the next line they're literally being attacked by what- or whomever. Not something bad if you want to keep readers on edge, but I personally like my breaks. Not against the story, just a personal preference.

Romance was rushed, but since everything was a bit rushed and hectic, the romance between Cricket and Trey was the least one that bothered me. In fact, their moments were probably my highlights of the entire book.

I'm a fast reader, meaning I unintentionally skip over unnecessary words or lines that are hard for me to understand (English is not my native language friends) or even just straight up boring. And I got to say I flew over maybe 30% of the entire book? Not only because it was boring, but because this is obviously a Sci-Fi book, including Sci-Fi language, and Sci-Fi slang or whatever, add the made up language in the made up world to it, and fight scenes that seem repetitive and I kept losing track of what's actually happening. Once again, nothing against Bartol, just a personal thing, because war and fighting and too much action is not something I enjoy a lot.

Ok, so Cricket badass witty character, who apparently doesn't care when people die over her, but as soon as some not ever mentioned name pops up, she runs to the nearest pond or whatever and gets some sort of breakdown. The same as when she found out that a few people, that were supposed to be dead, were not dead. No emotional reactions to that either. The world was literally, literally!! exploding around them , and she was looking out, and suggesting that combat training might be good for her. Question Mark???

Another thing is the language, I don't mind the *whatever it's called* Alien language, I think it gives the story something of it's own, but why is it that the translator in Cricket understands everything else, and then other words are just not automatically translated? At one point it was mentioned that it didn't include slang and such, but I'm sure their versions of Mom and Dad are not considered slang. Did I miss some explanation for this?

This isn't a book filled with plot twists and gasp moments, a lot happened that didn't really bring us further into the story, but I'm sure that all questions answered in next and final (?) book.

And I know this all sounds like I hate it, but I really really didn't, I'm going to read the next book as soon as I'm in the mood.

