

# Sonia Faruqi and *The Oyster Thief*

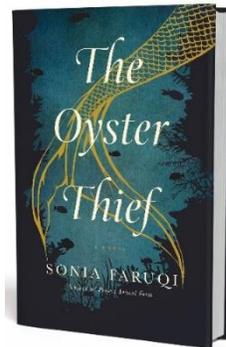
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## ABOUT THE OYSTER THIEF

- ❖ **Story in a sea-shell:** Two worlds collide when a mermaid and human man meet, plunging audiences into a vast underwater realm brimming with adventure and intrigue.
- ❖ **Published by:** Pegasus Books in the U.S. and Penguin Random House in Canada
- ❖ **Date:** October 2018
- ❖ **Categories:** Fantasy, science fantasy, literary fiction, environmental fiction
- ❖ **Audience:** Adults and young adults
- ❖ **Themes:** Courage, transformation, redemption
- ❖ **Unique characteristics:** *The Oyster Thief* features a civilization of merpeople that is developed in intricate detail and possesses a sense of “realness.” The book also contains themes of ocean conservation that resonate with present-day concerns about the environment.



## The Story

Coralline is a mermaid who is engaged to the merman of her dreams. But when an oil spill wreaks havoc on her idyllic village life, her little brother falls gravely ill. Desperate to save him, she embarks on a quest to find a legendary elixir made of starlight.

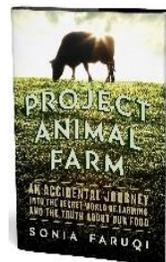
Izar, a human man, is on the cusp of an invention that will enable him to mine gold and diamonds from the depths of the ocean. His discovery will soon make him the richest man on earth—while threatening merpeople with extinction. But then, suddenly, Izar finds himself transformed into a merman and caught in a web of betrayal and intrigue. Meeting Coralline in the ocean, he decides to join her on her quest for the elixir, hoping it will turn him human again.

The quest pushes Coralline and Izar together, even though their worlds are at odds. Their pasts threaten to tear them apart, while a growing attraction adds to the danger. Ultimately, each of them faces an impossible choice. Should Coralline leave her fiancé for a man who might betray her? And Izar has a dark secret of his own—one that could cause him to lose Coralline forever.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Sonia pushes the boundaries of imagination in her debut novel, *The Oyster Thief*. She is also the author of *Project Animal Farm*, a work of critically acclaimed investigative journalism about the world’s food system. A skilled storyteller and speaker, she lives in Toronto. She graduated from Dartmouth College and previously worked on Wall Street.



## ENDORSEMENTS

“Sonia Faruqi had me at the word ‘mermaid.’ *The Oyster Thief* creates a lush, imaginary underwater world that somehow manages to reinforce the reality of the need for environmental awareness—it’s unlike anything I’ve ever read.” — **Jodi Picoult**, bestselling author of *My Sister’s Keeper*

“*The Oyster Thief* deftly weaves a mermaid’s tale while bringing real and urgent ocean conservation issues to the reader’s attention.” — **Dr. Sylvia Earle**, award-winning ocean scientist and National Geographic explorer-in-residence

## REVIEWS

“A stand-out in the current crop of books about merfolk is *The Oyster Thief*, the fiction debut of Sonia Faruqi. In its own way, *The Oyster Thief* is an activist tale too.... The charm of this beguiling novel is in all the details of the underwater world that Faruqi has dreamed up.” — *The Globe and Mail*

“Faruqi creates an ecologically informed and whimsically imagined underwater culture as the setting for her magical mermaid-human love story. Endearing.” — *Publishers Weekly*