

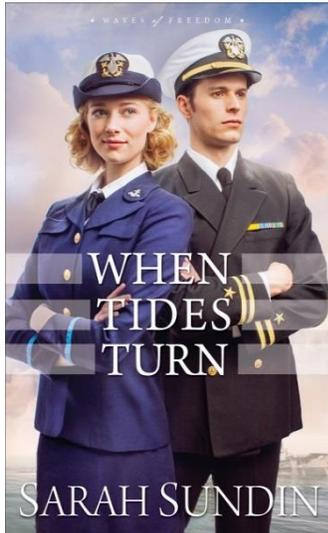


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## Sarah Sundin's New Novel Celebrates the Patriotism and Pioneering Spirits of the Women of World War II

Sarah Sundin masterfully blends emotionally rich romance, heart-pounding battle scenes, and a dash of intrigue in her new World War II novel. *When Tides Turn* leads readers through rough waters where women must fight for respect and where every action may lead to world-changing consequences. The popular Waves of Freedom series goes out with a bang in this page-turning third installment.



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When glamour girl Quintessa Beaumont learns the Navy has established the WAVES program for women, she throws off her frivolous, fun-loving ways to enlist and contribute to the war effort.

Lt. Dan Avery has been using his skills to fight the German U-boats, hoping his efforts will soon make him admiral. As a no-nonsense, eyes-on-the-prize kind of guy, the last thing Dan needs on his radar is a girl like Tess.

Tess needs to work hard to be seen as more than just a pretty face. Her goal is to do good work and prove herself to her commanding officer—and maybe even the man she's begun to fall for.

Dan is assigned to a new escort carrier at the peak of the Battle of the Atlantic, but he finds himself torn between his career goals and his desire to help Tess root out a possible spy on shore. Fighting Germans is one thing, but Dan wages a deeper battle within his heart.

**Sarah Sundin** is the author of *Through Waters Deep* and *Anchor in the Storm*, as well as the *Wings of the Nightingale* and the *Wings of Glory* series. A graduate of UC San Francisco School of Pharmacy, she works on-call as a hospital pharmacist. During WWII, her grandfather served as a pharmacist's mate (medic) in the Navy, and her great-uncle flew with the US Eighth Air Force. Sarah lives in California. Visit [www.sarahsundin.com](http://www.sarahsundin.com) for more information.

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## **Interview Questions for Sarah Sundin** **Author of *When Tides Turn***

### **Can you briefly describe your new novel?**

When fun-loving Tess Beaumont learns the Navy has established the WAVES program for women, she enlists, determined to contribute to the war effort. But the last thing no-nonsense naval officer Lt. Dan Avery wants to see on his radar is a glamour girl like Tess. As they work together at the Anti-Submarine Warfare Unit in Boston, Tess struggles to prove her worth. When Dan is assigned to an escort carrier at the peak of the Battle of the Atlantic, the Germans put up quite a fight, but Dan wages a deeper battle within his heart. Could Tess be the one for him?

### **What do people tend to think when they imagine the women of World War II? How does the historical WAVES program you write about challenge this view?**

Most of us picture Rosie the Riveter with her red bandanna and “we can do it” attitude. But most of us are surprised at the resistance many women faced when they took over men’s roles. The ladies worked hard to overcome stereotypes—they weren’t capable, they’d distract the men, they wanted to snare husbands, and worse. The fact that these women overcame those obstacles and were eventually accepted speaks volumes to their professionalism, work ethic, and patriotism.

### **What made you decide to write about the Battle of the Atlantic?**

As a novelist, I’m drawn to stories that are unusual and gripping. Most Americans know little about how German submarines attacked Allied shipping across the Atlantic. I was struck by the magnitude—almost three thousand ships sunk by U-boats during the war! I decided to plunk Dan Avery into the peak of the battle in 1943. I was fascinated by the role that science and technology played in the Allied victory, as well as the courage of the sailors and merchant marines. If the battle hadn’t turned in 1943, it wouldn’t have been possible to transport US and Canadian troops to Britain in time for D-Day.

### **What do you hope readers gain from reading *When Tides Turn*?**

I hope readers will come to seek balance in their lives. We need black-and-white lines and structure—and we also need color and perspective. We need hard work—and we also need rest. We need goals and stay-the-course determination—and we also need to take detours and play.

### **What have you enjoyed most about writing the Waves of Freedom series?**

I’ve loved writing about the large and complex Avery family, the city of Boston during the war, and about America’s role in the Battle of the Atlantic. Also, while I was writing this series, my youngest son decided to join the Navy and is now a sailor! As a Navy mom, these stories have become more poignant and real.

**Tess struggles to be taken seriously on the job, so she tries to transform herself. Why does she do this? Have you ever tried to transform yourself?**

Tess has come through some difficult times that revealed undesirable traits in herself. She decides she needs a fresh start, so she joins the WAVES, determined to become useful. I know I've tried to transform myself many times. Like many women, I've been known to get a new haircut to start over on a superficial level. As a young woman, I worked hard to transform myself from shy to a "friendly introvert," so I relate to some of what Tess goes through.

**In *When Tides Turn*, Dan is set in his ways and doesn't want to change, unlike Tess! Did you enjoy writing about his reluctant transformation?**

Very much. Dan's motto is "Stay the course." He never wavers from his goals. But Tess challenges many of his ideas. I loved watching this black-and-white man come to see shades of gray and color and perspective. I loved watching him get shaken as his cherished notions are challenged. But I also loved his humility in realizing he could change his mind and his ways.

**Dan places hard work in highest regard, and he rarely rests. This is such an issue in our 24/7 world. Did this story challenge you when you wrote it?**

Absolutely. Due to a tighter-than-usual deadline and some unexpected family events, I found myself in a serious time crunch when I wrote *When Tides Turn*. Meanwhile, I was having Dan learn about the importance of Sabbath rest. God definitely has a sense of humor. Like Dan, I was struck that in the Ten Commandments, the Lord didn't command us to work—he commanded us to rest! God knows our limitations. Isn't it sweet that he tells us to take naps? But it requires extreme discipline and strength of will to force ourselves to take days off.

**Tess is tired of being seen as just a pretty face and longs for people to see beneath the surface. In what ways do women's looks affect how they're perceived?**

This has always fascinated me. As a teenager I saw myself as ugly, and I resented the pretty girls—I thought they got everything. In some ways they did. But they also often struggled to be taken seriously. Our society is superficial, and we judge people by their looks, for better or worse. As Christians, we know this is wrong, but we still do it. We should always be conscious of the stereotypes we keep in our heads and challenge ourselves to look beneath the surface.

**What can we expect to see from you next?**

I'm currently writing the Sunrise at Normandy series about three estranged brothers who fight on D-Day from the sea, the air, and the ground. The first book, *The Sea Before Us*, is set to release in spring 2018. American naval officer Wyatt Paxton works with British "Wren" Dorothy Fairfax on Allied plans for D-Day. But will family secrets, misplaced affections—and the seas off Normandy—separate them forever?