

## CRIMSON TIDE

Story pitch page: Tara McCann

Hero grappling with his inner demons, feeling lost, and disconnected from his purpose in life. He finds himself alone on a deserted beach, not even knowing how he got there (similar to how when we hit rock bottom, we question how this happened). Standing by the shoreline, the waves crashing against the sand, he couldn't help but feel the weight of his burdens bearing down on him.

The beach should stretch as far as his eyes can see, offering a vast expanse of emptiness and aimlessness, mirroring what he feels within himself. The sand is wet at his feet, and clings to them as he walks, pulling him down as the burdens in his life do.

Time elapses. Days turn into night, and he remains searching for solace and a glimmer of hope. At this time, maybe the sunset isn't yet a ticking clock, but more a way for us to convey that the beauty of it felt distant, beyond reach.

A torrential rain comes in, which for many is ominous, but for him, it metaphorically clears away the omens that have blinded him. Because in life, sometimes with the greatest storm, comes the greatest clarity. This is when he sees a flicker of light.

Turning towards it, he squints off in the distance, and realizes that high-up on the jagged, precipitous cliffs, is a small lighthouse. It becomes his beacon in the storm, illuminating the path before him... or, in reality, the beacon in his life, beckoning him to find his true purpose.

Such begins his search for the lighthouse, as he holds onto hope for the first time. Now he has the strength to fight his inner demons because the lighthouse is now a symbol of resilience and guidance - a reminder to him that even in the darkest of times, there is always a glimmer of light waiting to be discovered.

As he tries to make his way to the lighthouse - his lighthouse - he is forced to confront his fears, acknowledge his weaknesses, and rediscover the dreams and aspirations that he has long forgotten. The beach, once a desolate place of torment, now becomes a sanctuary for self-discovery and healing. The lighthouse is his hope, his destiny, but the lighthouse's beam will flicker and perhaps even fade entirely when he makes choices detouring him from it.

As he embarks on his journey, the crashing waves become calm, still, and whisper messages of resilience and hope.

The waves will help to exemplify if decisions he makes are correct ones, or ones that will lead him back into the paths of darkness. When he finds himself ignoring his soul, and making wrong choices, the waves will be heard crashing on the beach even if the shoreline is not visible. The crashing waves' impact is still felt, much like in life itself, even when the reasons behind them are unclear.

Jumping ahead, once in the lighthouse, perhaps he discovers a diary of the one who traveled this path before him. Or even others before him. The diary is filled with stories of triumph, of people who faced their own inner struggles and emerged stronger and more purposeful. It speaks of the transformative power of self-reflection, compassion, and embracing one's true passions.

This gives our hero a new purpose in life, to share his journey and inspire others who might be trapped in the depths of their own darkness.