

**SONGS FOR A STAR-SWEPT SEA:
An Official Playlist for *Across a Star-Swept Sea*
By Diana Peterfreund**

I think my husband missed his calling—he should make sound tracks for movies. When I told him I was putting together an official playlist for my newest novel, he helped me hone and refine and reorder the choices until they made a listening experience that mirrors the story itself. Thanks, Sailor Boy. I knew I could count on you.

1. “The Pretender” by Foo Fighters

This was literally the first song I thought of when I sat down to make this playlist. It encompasses the theme and tone of the novel so perfectly. Who are we? Who do we pretend to be, and why?

2. “Five Years” performed by Seu Jorge

A classic David Bowie tune about the end of the world, this Brazilian cover sung in Portuguese has an acoustic, tropical vibe that sets the stage for the lush, postapocalyptic world of New Pacifica. I could easily see a musician crooning this ballad about the long-past days of the end of the world in the lavish royal court of Albion.

3. “That’s Not My Name” by the Ting Tings

To me, this is a song about what outsiders assume about women before they even know them. It’s scary to me how easy it is for Persis to pretend to be stupid and shallow, because so many of the people around her want to believe that’s what she is anyway.

4. “These Boots Are Made for Walkin’” performed by the Coconutz

I had to include a song sung in Hawaiian on here as a nod to my very Hawaiian setting, and this cover has enough girl power to imagine Persis and her friends singing it at many a sleepover growing up.

5. “All These Things That I’ve Done” by the Killers

This is Justen’s theme song, as far as I’m concerned. The hero of my book has made some pretty big mistakes, and he’s going to need Persis’s help if he wants to fix the problems he’s caused.

6. “Nightswimming” by R.E.M.

Not to get too spoiler-y, but this was the second song I knew had to be on this playlist, because of a very particular scene in the book. I grew up with this classic 90s tune, but I was shocked when I put it on recently and heard these lyrics: “You, I thought I knew you / You, I cannot judge / You, I thought you knew me”—a gorgeous, gorgeous song, and ideal for a story of two people who are hiding from each other—except in the water, under the light of the stars.

7. “Cold War” by Janelle Monáe

Monáe was an artist I wanted on this soundtrack at all costs—she’s got a cool retro-futuristic vibe, and her very attitude screams Persis (not to mention her thematic sense

of fashion). This song fit almost too well. “Do you know what you’re fighting for?” Persis actually asks several characters this very question over the course of the story.

8. “Family Tree” by TV on the Radio

I love this band, I love their music, and this song details the inner life of both Persis and Justen. One of the major themes of the book is how we let our ancestry shape our beliefs and control our destiny . . . or not. Both Persis and Justen feel a remarkable duty to those who came before them and a remarkable desire to overcome their weaknesses.

9. “Drumming Song” by Florence + the Machine

Can’t have a playlist of mine without the genius of Florence, and I think this song is Persis’s greatest fear put to music. To say much more would spoil it.

10. “Bad Girls” by M.I.A.

I stone-cold love this song, and I think it’s on the psych-ourselves-up-for-the-mission playlist Persis and Andrine blast on the *Daydream* before every trip to Galatea. There is definitely an element of thrill-seeking to Persis’s choices, and given what her future may hold, can you blame her? “Live fast, die young / bad girls do it well . . .”

11. “Come Sail Away” by Styx

Let's see . . . who among the characters I've written have sailed away to find new lands? Who among the characters I have written have the old-fashioned feel embodied in this retro song? Hmm . . .

12. "No Future Shock" by TV on the Radio

The second appearance of this band on the playlist is with this bizarrely upbeat dance-party tune about the end of the world. Think "Ring Around the Rosie"—Post-Reduction style. I imagine it's quite a hit at the Albion court parties and in the clubbing district of Halahou.

13. "We Found Love" by Rihanna

Another dance-party tune about dystopias. In truth, New Pacifica isn't hopeless in the slightest, but I think the lyrics and the imagery in this song match up with the Persis/Justen love story (and my girl's preference for fancy accessories) really well.

"Yellow diamonds in the light / Now we're standing side by side . . ."

14. "Ocean" by the John Butler Trio

As the hypothetical credits roll, I'd love this song to play. I listen to this instrumental tune a lot while writing. It's amazing and all-encompassing, (as any song called "Ocean" ought to be) and it ends, as I hope my books do, on a heart-pounding high.