**Slack Tide – 7-Part Story Structure with Chapter Breakdown**

## 1. Hook (Chapters 1–2)

Sara infiltrates a remote estate outside Bogotá. The Solace gala unfolds in Vienna. The duality is stark.

Chapter 1: Intercut – Sara on mission, Adrien at gala.

Chapter 2: Sara refuses the kill order and vanishes, setting the tone for her break from Solace.

## 2. Inciting Incident (Chapter 3)

Sara severs contact, disables her tracking, and disappears into the open ocean. She becomes a ghost.

Chapter 3: Descent into the sea. First signs of psychological stress. Sara sets a course for the Pacific.

## 3. First Plot Point (Chapters 4–5)

Sara joins a drifting cruiser fleet—'the cursers.' The anonymity offers peace but doesn’t erase her past.

Chapter 4: Arrival in the cruiser anchorage. Introduction of new faces.

Chapter 5: Flashbacks intercut with her cautious bonding in the community.

## 4. Midpoint / Reversal (Chapters 6–9)

A coded message or encounter reveals Solace’s ops are still tracking her. Worse—she learns sparing the child didn’t stop the operation.

Chapter 6: Signal detected.

Chapter 7: A boat from the past docks nearby. Tension.

Chapter 8: She confronts the cruiser who brought the signal.

Chapter 9: Sara realizes the shadow branch is deeper than Adrien’s reach.

## 5. Second Plot Point (Chapters 10–12)

Her cover is blown. A friend is hurt. Sara goes on the defensive.

Chapter 10: Local betrayal. Traced via supplies or systems.

Chapter 11: Fight or flight. Tactical retreat into the outer atolls.

Chapter 12: She recovers data proving shadow ops activities.

## 6. Climax (Chapters 13–15)

Sara executes a silent op. No blood. No bodies. Only exposure.

Chapter 13: Infiltration prep using resources from her cruising contacts.

Chapter 14: Data release – leak to someone outside the system (journalist, watchdog, or Solace board).

Chapter 15: Aftermath – Solace responds publicly, Adrien appears rattled, unaware of full extent.

## 7. Resolution (Chapters 16–17)

Sara sails solo into open water. She’s free—but alone.

Chapter 16: Goodbyes, quietly handled. She gifts tools, not explanations.

Chapter 17: Onboard Nymeria, she reflects, plans no future—but leaves no traces either.

## Epilogue – Echo Below

A ghost signal from a dead drop. A dive to recover a cache: flash drive, journal, and WWII coordinates.

A forgotten sub base in an uncharted lagoon.

The next journey waits beneath the waves.