



Iron Lace

Emilie Richards

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Iron Lace Details

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Author : Emilie Richards

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From Reader Review Iron Lace for online ebook

Ashley Harrison says

This was an interesting and gripping read with a whole lot of moving parts.

Dawn Byers says

I so enjoyed this book and yet at times my heart broke.

Aurore comes from a wealthy family whose father also has a mistress. His father in law finds out and threatens to destroy him. As he goes to break ties with his mistress a storm comes up and she and his daughter are lost to him or did he let them go?

Unknown to him, surviving the storm, is her son who is of mixed blood. He vows revenge.

In the process he falls in love with Aurore and because of the revenge the love is torn apart.

You must read the story to feel all the emotions, racial tensions, love and heartbreak.

This is an excellent read

Eunice Ying Ci says

Delightful and entertaining! I bought this book at a supermarket book sale in New Zealand years and years ago. I remembered disliking the cover but being adequately intrigued by the description. I might have bought it only because of a required minimum purchase, that I don't remember. But so many years later, I finally picked up this rather lengthy paperback and it has been my bedside "light-read" for some time now. I am frankly impressed because I have not been reading such lengthy fictional works in a while, and definitely the genre and style are not what I would normally go for. But not only did I finish the book at a reasonable pace, but I really enjoyed it despite my extremely low expectations. I was originally hoping to learn a little about Louisiana culture and history, and I think the book delivered quite decently in that respect.

Iron Lace has a frame narrative, in which the elderly, upper-class, white Aurore Gerritsen employs black journalist Phillip to write her biography. Her story spans from her father's generation to her grandchildren's generation, so a lot is going on across the generations.

Racism, discrimination, class inequality, and gender inequality are all explored in Iron Lace and while the helplessness caused by the one-drop rule is keenly felt, I felt like these issues were offered as a subtext or afterthought. I could not tell if the author was trying to sneak some of the actual history and conditions of that period into her book in order to reach readers that might not typically care for such subjects, or if the issues were only there to give the story some weightiness and realism that might somehow justify its writing and telling and avoid the accusation of being frivolous. Iron Lace would fit perfectly in the Romance section of the bookstore, and many times the dialogue and writing reminded me of Korean dramas, which often shared a similar premise of lovers being torn apart by society's cruel standards and values, and family drama, revenge, and class struggle converge and end in catastrophe, tears, and miscommunication with consequences affecting multiple generations. And these dramatic flourishes can be entertaining for many, even if they also result in the predictability of the story.

There is nothing surprising about what happens in Iron Lace. In fact, my biggest surprise (although I should have seen it coming) was the fact that this book has a sequel. Why did I not guess that a book I refer to as a New Orleans "Korean drama" would share its serial quality? I am interested in the sequel, and this book does end on a bit of a cliffhanger, because a third of Aurore's story is missing. I have my guesses about what comes next, and maybe my interest in reading the sequel is based off a desire to confirm my deductions. And maybe that's the appeal of soap operas and Korean dramas - the impression that there is a predictability to life and some sort of basic template and master narrative that we can keep applying to people and their relationships, the appeal of having the same story retold to us with only the slightest changes.

Janet says

Emilie Richards' book reveals several intertwining relationships in this story set in New Orleans from 1893 - 1965. The title, "Iron Lace", is ironic since it alludes to a "strong woman who knew what she wanted" and built a house with uncommon iron lace. The book's protagonist, Aurore Gerritsen, was anything but a strong woman. It was disturbing to read Aurore's tale that reveals her racial prejudice, abuse tolerance, child abandonment, and leaving behind her one true love. Even the descriptions of Aurore's romantic trysts with this one true love were painful to read and made me think of a really bad "bodice ripper". The author somewhat redeemed herself with an especially engaging character, Nicky Valentine, who has a small but important role in this story selected by my book club. I think I will pass on the Gerritsen series sequel, "Rising Tides".

Laura D says

I enjoyed the story. Not my usual genre, but it was well written/edited and engaging.

Kathryn says

A very interesting read set in the south and New Orleans. A story that explores racial prejudice, hate, love and forgiveness. I look forward to reading the next book in this two book series and find out what happens to Aurora's family next.

Elizabeth Smith says

A story within a story. Set in New Orleans during the civil rights movement, a young black journalist is hired to write the story of an elderly and aristocratic white woman. Her story begins in the late 1800's during a turbulent hurricane that hit southern Louisiana and progresses to the 1960's. Most interesting is the author's telling of the way in which the lives of whites and blacks were intertwined on a daily basis. But once a line was crossed, they were subject to being ostracized by their respective communities. This is a well-crafted and historically accurate tale that will definitely hold the reader's attention.

Sandybear76 says

An interesting tangled story of love and revenge, money and loss, black and white, right and wrong. Aurore hires Phillip to write her life story but Phillip is not sure that he should be writing the wealthy white lady's story. He is used to writing about the Civil Rights movement, and making changes for the blacks. Phillip is trying to figure out his own life but Aurore's story changes much of his thinking. The book is written in 1965 but Aurore's story to Phillip begins when she is young so the book goes back and forward in time as Aurore tells her story.

Horsefeathersranch says

I really like this book so far. It takes place in the 60's but goes back to 1893 to the story tellers youth and a terrible storm in New Orleans and a man with his feet in two places at once and what he does about it....and what happens to him because of it! I love it so far, and so will Tracy and Joanne

Joanne says

A gripping, heartbreakng story of a forbidden love from the past in Old Louisiana....as the story begins in the 1960's, an ailing matriarch of an aristocratic family wishes to have her memoirs written, and her unusual choice for a journalist to write her life story will come as a surprise. Old secrets unfold, tragedies and prejudices of the past are revealed, and the destruction of long-held hate and revenge play out across generations. It's a very emotional and intense read.

Great storytelling with spot-on historical accuracy wins high marks from me. The author captured the authentic colors, flavors, and essence of the history of southern Louisiana without being cliche. My only minor quibble with the book is that there is not closure at the book's end...there's are obvious loose threads that will be picked up in the sequel, Rising Tide, which I have already added to my kindle. I must find out more about the unforgettable characters in Iron Lace (a reference to the beautiful decorative ironwork on the balconies of southern mansions),

Thelma Fountain says

I could not put this book down. The story really drew me in I wanted to know what was going to happen next. I love stories set in New Orleans and this was a truly heartbreakng tale. I wanted Philip to tell Nicky the truth but I am hoping that will happen in the sequel which I will be reading soon! I definitely recommend this book. I will read more from this author.

Denise says

This will be one of those books that I will think about for the next little while. Very different than the books I usually read. She explores the racial tensions set in history over decades. A very deep and intriguing story,

full of unexpected plots and twists.

I had never given a lot of deep thought to the oppression that black people face daily and throughout history. Even if 3/4 of your grandparents are white, your life will be dominated by the influence of your black genes. There were plenty of examples of how society past (1893 - 1965) totally disrespected people and imposed a two tier society where people of colour were often abused and violated.

She tells the story of how a person can grow by understanding their past and the struggles of the ancestors who came before them. How past decisions have affected the present. How in order to get what you want from the future, you have to come to terms and learn from the past... How revenge and vengeance may seem like a good idea at the time, but in the end they will only take away from your future.

There are many loose ends in this story that I assume will be tied up in the sequel.

Amanda Phillips says

I had been told by multiple people I would like this book and put off reading it for years. So glad I finally got to it. I immediately bought the sequel.

I love southern fiction, big family stories, and a little scandal. This novel has all this and more. PLUS, it is set in one of my favorite cities, New Orleans.

No spoilers, but if you love historical fiction this is a must read!

Lee says

This is a multi-generation tale slowly revealed and set primarily in New Orleans dating back to the days of the Storyville district. Love, revenge and regret do I ate the story.

Barbara says

I find that Ms. Richard's books always give you a lot to mull over in your mind. This one is no different. I am at the point where I think that I have figured out the rest of the story, BUT, I will probably be wrong when she throws in a curve or two.

Well, I finished the book last night and I had the book figured out as far as I went. Ms. Richards took it a few steps further once again. A good read, not too light, not too heavy. It tells the story of one woman's life and the many lies she lived during that lifetime. A story of family, race relations and what people will do when faced with adversity.
