



Stopping Time

Melissa Marr

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An exciting e-story original sequel to Ink Exchange!

Leslie walked away from the Dark Court, determined to reclaim her life and live it on her own terms—even if it meant leaving behind the two faeries who love her. She knows Niall and Irial watch over her, and she would give almost anything to keep them from hurting. But she resists the pull to be with either one of them.

Someone knows about Leslie's past, however, and is intent on using her to reach the fey. And he doesn't care who gets hurt.

Stopping Time Details

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Author : Melissa Marr

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From Reader Review Stopping Time for online ebook

Jilly says

A true love triangle! They actually all love each other - the men love each other as much as they each love the girl. I like it!

And, it features my three favorite characters, Leslie, Irial, and Niall!

Heather says

Absolutely loved this story! Sweet and sad. A nice bridge between Ink Exchange and Fragile Eternity.

Katerina Kondrenko says

4 out of 10

????? ?? ??????/review in russian

Leslie, Irial and Niall are... trio? They love each other, they sleep or slept with each other while I am asking myself... when these guys had managed to fall that hard for this girl?? And why...

Wicked Lovely (????????? ???????):

- Wicked Lovely (????????? ???????) #1/5
- Ink Exchange (????????? ???????????) #2/5
- Stopping Time (????????????? ?????) #2.5/5
- Old Habits (?????? ????????) #2.6/5
- Fragile Eternity (?????? ????????????) #3/5
- Radiant Shadows (????????? ????) #4/5
- Darkest Mercy (????????? ???????????) #5/5
- Faery Tales & Nightmares (?????? ? ???????)
- Desert Tales (????????? ? ???????)

I'd So Rather Be Reading {Nat} says

Boy, I just love Melissa Marr. My only complaint about her beautifully written Wicked Lovely series is that we don't get a lot of closure on the different story arcs. Some of that was resolved with Stopping Time, a sequel to Ink Exchange. Stopping Time is a novella (boy I wish it would have been a full-length novel)

which picks up where Ink Exchange left off.

Leslie left the Dark Court and Niall and Irial behind. She loves both of them and they both love her. They are still looking out for her, protecting her, and Irial meets with her once a week in a public spot, but never speaks to her. Leslie fights her attraction to both fey and fights her dark side, which sanctioned the immorality and violence of the Dark Court when she was a member. Leslie is determined to make a new life for herself but she can't let her feelings for the two fey go.

Stopping Time was one of the best novellas I've ever read. It had its own plot and twists, unlike many other novellas which just provide a back story or a closer look at certain characters. Stopping Time is a must-read for fans of the Wicked Lovely series. It was the perfect thing to tide me over until the final Wicked Lovely book--Darkest Mercy---is released February 22, 2011.

Just One Gripe:

This is my gripe with all novellas: I always want more. Reading a novella is like taking one bite of a delicious dessert---just enough to tease me. I really felt this way with Stopping Time because it was so good!

The Best Thing About This Book:

I had always suspected that something was going on with Irial and Niall. It was so gratifying to have my suspicions confirmed...

Appropriate for a younger audience:

It's no more explicit than any of the other Wicked Lovely books.

Score:

Characters: 4/5

Plot: 4/5

Setting/Imagery: 5/5

Originality: 4/5

Ending: 4/5

Total Score: 21/25

♥ Rebecca ♥ says

The Wicked Lovely series would have gotten 5-stars from me across the board if it weren't for the weird Leslie-Irial-Niall love-triangle/threesome situation. It makes me really uncomfortable. And my least favourite character in the whole series is Irial, so I was pretty disappointed that the extras are about them. I do and don't want to read Old Habits. I still love the world. I am not sure what I will do.

Kelly says

You know, I can easily see Irial becoming my favorite Faeries. He's got the sexy, powerful thing going for him, topped with a dark streak and a willingness to do the right thing for his people. That's just... hot.

This was one of those nice little glimpses into the world of our characters after the end of a book. Leslie

made the choice to walk away from Niall and Irial and from the Dark Court because she didn't like the person she was when she was in it. It wasn't an easy decision for her to make and it's still not easy. She's struggling. Against her yearning for both men and with the fears she has to live with after the attack on her. Although it would be easy for her lean on either Irial or Niall, when the chips are down she doesn't. She made the choice to stand on her own two feet and she's going to do it, come hell or high water.

I really like these stories that let us see that everything wasn't magically perfect after the last paragraph. Life is dirty and hard and sometimes brutal, but Leslie is finding her way.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Jessica ✶ ↪ Silverbow ↪ ✶ Rabid Reads-no-more says

K seriously . . . someone needs to write some MMF fanfic for Irial, Niall, and Leslie.

For REALZ.

willaful says

There were parts of this two-part short story that I found really intriguing, but the amount of repetition put me off. (How many times must the conflict be stated? At least once per paragraph, apparently.) It was a nice enough read for free and I would love to see Marr explore this love triangle more in the future. But a little more succinctly, please.

Michele (Reading Lark/CanadianTwiMom) says

Stopping Time is a little novella that picks up a short time after the events of Ink Exchange, where Leslie severed her ties to Irial and the Dark Court, and to Niall as well, in order to save herself from who she might become as a member of the Dark Court, IF she even survived the Ink Exchange experiment.

At the end of Ink, Irial bestowed the leadership of the Dark Court to Niall. Everyone is trying to adjust to these recent changes. Leslie is now trying to live her life without faerie influence, going back to school, having new MORTAL friends, although that is almost impossible to do when you're still under the Dark Court's protection, as she is receiving mysterious phone calls that have her spooked, and Irial and Niall even more protective of her. Even though Leslie is no longer a conduit to feed the Dark Court, she is still a potential pawn in the constant power struggles between the courts.

Irial & Niall both still love Leslie, and she struggles constantly with her feelings towards them... knowing that if she tries to pursue a relationship with either of them, she'll lose herself in the Dark Court... she doesn't want to be that person who lives amongst the Dark Court. She had a glimpse of that version of herself when she was under the influence of the ink exchange... and that terrified her enough to find the strength to sever those ties (with Niall's help).

Leslie constantly fights the addictive pull to she has to both Irial and Niall... that's one side of the story... all the while, it seems, Niall and Irial are trying to figure out exactly what their own relationship is to each other. There is a strange sort of intensity between them that is further explored as the story unfolds.

I liked how this filled in the little gap left between Ink and Fragile Eternity... as well as what happened to Leslie's brother Ren. However, what I don't think got answered was what happened between Michael (Leslie's new mortal friend that likes her) and Irial??? Curious...

Gracie says

OHMYGAWD!!!

If I didn't love Niall in Ink Exchange, then I'm completely, utterly, irrevocably 190% more taken by him in this short story.

Niall is one of those characters that will really get you hooked, simply by the fact that their whole background is a bit mysterious. And who doesn't like a good mystery?

Leslie and Niall's story was by far, more interesting than Ash&Seth's will ever be.

And with Irial in the picture, this combo (or trio?)'s adventure will be anything but easy :)

Doreen says

A quick little glimpse into the love between mortal girl, the dark king, and the former dark king. A love that has the power to destroy and also protect.

Tracy's Place says

4.25

I really liked this short story that continues after Ink Exchange. I knew that there was a relationship between Niall and Irial but I guess I just didn't pick up on the extent of the relationship in IE. This story really shows us more and is quite good.

Alexandra says

Ok, so I read this as a bonus within Fragile Eternity. And I'm surprised by how much I like it, given how I felt about Ink Exchange. Maybe the story just works better as a short one, since I don't think much happened in the novel anyway. It took me until this story to realize that this is a true love triangle - in which all three

people involved in it actually *do* love the other two people.

That's so fascinating (and not in a sexual way at all! Although I imagine if they really had a threesome it'll be explosive), and the longing and love between them just really got to me for some reason. I was a bit indifferent to them all in the actual novel, so I don't know what it is about this short story that made me suddenly sympathize with them all so well. Maybe it's the angsty tone that I just couldn't resist, and the fact that it's just about their relationship here without all the complicated court stuff. Anyway, I really liked it and I almost want more.

Kaka_shi says

Meh, cute.

Sarah says

I read *Ink Exchange* more than a year ago, and I don't remember all the details, but I do remember the basics. Great characters, good plot, fantastic writing, and pretty much just that I loved it. But, this isn't a love-letter to *Ink Exchange* (I promise).

So, liking *Ink Exchange* as much as I did, I was thrilled to find this short-story in the back of my paperback copy of *Fragile Eternity*.

Stopping Time picks up a while after *Ink Exchange* ends, and Leslie has moved away from the town where the rest of the Wicked Lovely-world characters live (what's it called? There's one of those things I don't remember. I think it starts with an H though). And there was one of my favorite things about Leslie; She was strong enough to walk away. So many of these paranormal-YA girls have the "Oh, it's so awful but I positively *can't* leave" and they're really dumb. Leslie is not one of those girls. She knew what she couldn't handle, and she got out before anything caused her permanent harm. But leaving didn't mean she didn't still love Niall and Irial. Meaning, basically, that she's a brilliant character.

This short-story is about what happened after *Ink Exchange*, and after Leslie left. Irial and Niall still love her (and are okay with knowing the other one loves her. No competition. It's refreshing, actually). I won't give away anything about this short story, other than the fact that it's really, really good. It's the ending I wished *Ink Exchange* had, but I'm glad it's a separate story. I also lovelovelove the ending of this story. It's perfect. I also love how the ending ties into the title, *Stopping Time*.

And then there's Melissa Marr's writing, which is always great. She's an amazing story-teller, and the writing is beautiful and flows really, really well. I also find it pretty amazing that she wrote a short-story that was so great, because a lot of novelists can't write short-stories. She obviously can.

True, everything in this story went really fast (like all short-stories) and I would've liked to have seen more, but I think the way it was done was close to perfect. It leaves the reader with only a glimpse of what happened, and with a few hints about how the characters will continue after the story itself ends. I don't really know how I should rate a short-story though, so I'm just going to leave the star-rating blank.

If you loved *Wicked Lovely*, and, more importantly (for this), *Ink Exchange*, you should definitely read this.
