



The Iron Quill

Shelena Shorts

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With Weston's self-imposed forty-eight hour deadline having already lapsed, Sophie's patience is pushed to the max—especially with her realization that his concern is not for his own well-being, but for hers.

Just when they embrace a reconnection, she'll learn that her greatest threat is not necessarily something that might happen in the future, but something that's happening... right now. And this time, Sophie and Wes will need the help of more than one person to fix it—even if it means giving up his secret.

With time forever moving, and the dark cloud at its lowest, the third book in the Pace Series stays true to its signature grace and determination as Sophie and Weston take the biggest detour so far.

The Iron Quill Details

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Author : Shelena Shorts

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From Reader Review The Iron Quill for online ebook

Bethany says

The third book in a series usually isn't as strong as the books before it, but The Iron Quill is just as equally great as the first two books. I was so caught up in the story I had to finish it as soon as I could. I needed to find out what was going to happen next. I'm happy to say that I'm very pleased at how this story played out. I want to read the final book now, but I guess I'll just have to wait.

Natalie Plaatjies says

I enjoyed reading the 3rd instalment of The Pace series way more than the 2nd. There are lots of plot twists which made this a very interesting read.

Brandi Kosiner (Brandi Breathes Books) says

The Pace Series is one that since I discovered it, the next installment is always on my anxiously waiting for list. The Iron Quill, like its predecessors did not disappoint. The characters, the writing, and the pacing are right in line with what I expected, and the ending left me with that longing and expectation for the next chapter in their story.

There was no time wasted getting right into the plot and it was like I didn't miss a beat. It was like picking up with old friends, a comfort level, and a sense of completeness. That isn't to say that it started with Sophie and Wes in an easy place--that seems next to impossible with their situation, and their history, but I was glad to be back in their lives nonetheless.

There are old characters that we're used to, and a new and intriguing character that we get inside his head. He's a great addition, and I love how he's introduced and then how he impacts the story.

Ms. Shorts gives the right information at the right time, and kept me breathless on the edge of my seat waiting to see how things would turn out. She writes with an obvious passion, and I really appreciate how she can flesh out what the characters are feeling and thinking, putting me right into their shoes. She isn't afraid to blow up the character's worlds though, and no matter how hard it is to read, this really is a feat of a writer. Especially when I see no way to really reconcile it all, but have faith that somehow she will get them to the end!

This is a wonderful series, a great installment, and I can't wait until more from Sophie and Wes.

Ivana says

-review originally posted at Willing To See Less

Contains spoilers!

I have to admit that I was slightly disappointed with the third book in The Pace series. Despite the fact that there is much more going on in terms of plot, somehow it didn't grab me as the The Pace and The Broken Lake did. I couldn't feel the suspense and never actually worried about what's at stake, even though the

stakes are pretty high in Pace #3. There was something enticing about the first two books that this installment lacked, so much that for the first half of the book I would read a few pages at the time, then move on to something else. Too much waiting, so much build up. Things became more interesting after that first half, but even then, I can't say it was a page turner.

Now to the positive: One of the things that distinguishes this YA novel from many others is that A) you know how there's always the fear that someone will find out about the paranormal abilities of our heroes? Say, the government? But never do? And it drives me crazy sometimes that it's so easy to avoid it when in fact someone was bound to know something. Almost as if an author is afraid to go into that territory. Here you have the opposite.

screaming spoiler

Military abduction and facilities conducting dubious experiments and attempt assassins of unwanted witnesses.

and

B) I like novels where the parents aren't conveniently away (dead, missing, absent every single day etc.) or completely unaware of what their kids are going through. The mother here is very much present and involved. I mean...yes, I was a teenager not so long ago and kept many things to myself. But no, I don't think that, now being a mother, I wouldn't know something was terribly wrong in my kid's life and god help me if I wouldn't pry it out of him by hook or crook.

More than the previous books in the series, this one reminded me most of Twilight. Shelena listed Stephenie Meyer as one of her favorites, and it shows, so Twilight fans will be delighted with this series. I'm not too crazy about the Twilight echoes in any book. But if you ask me, Shelena can tell a better story, is a better writer and creates better characters.

This is the third book in the series, and the final book, The Hour of Dreams, is coming this year (no set date). Considering the events in The Iron Quill, Shelena will have some tough decisions to make regarding her characters' fate.

Mica says

"The tension the image gave off was, in my mind, symbolic of trying times, but that didn't mean it had to end in separation. Not this picture. This picture was the snapshot of the two hands making their way back to each other. Just like Wes and me. That was what I saw, and that is what I believed as I drank the last of my lemonade."

These are my thoughts not only of The Iron Quill but of all 3 books of the The Pace series (The Pace, The Broken Lake, The Iron Quill).

Beyond the themes of star-crossed lovers and the blurred lines of science fiction and the possibility of medical breakthroughs, the series talks about humanity's capacity to do greater things - things beyond what

logic, science and even human emotions could fathom.

As the story progresses, the characters are pushed to believe in things that are beyond what is normal or even real. Instead of giving up and succumbing to status quo, they each push their boundaries and achieve a mission that was set out for them.

Isn't that what this world needs? A reminder that we could all make a difference in our lives and the lives of others. With the right amount of trust, our family and friends will help us get there. Even those who wronged us could bring new strength we never imagined we have.

These and so much more from a series between an immortal man and an always reincarnated teenager, right?

Angel Charms says

I *LOVED* this book so very much. This happens to be one of my fave series (and I've read a LOT of series). So let me just start by saying *Thank You* to Shelena for three things:

1. For a wonderful sequel to a wonderful series.
2. For not leaving us readers in much torture with yet another cliffhanger.
3. For not adding a love triangle.

Let's start with Story / plot:

Story picks up right where *The Broken Lake* ends. It's like you are just continuing with the next chapter instead of a new book. I like that Shelena didn't bother with going thru re-cap of the sum of whole 2 books. In my excitement to start with the book, I neglected to go back and skim thru the second book and ofcourse I forgot everyone's names but Sophie and Wes. I started this book and went "huh...Chase? Chase who?", so ofcourse I had to go back and skim thru *The Pace* and *The Broken Lake* to get in the flow. So I recommend anybody who read the second book about an year back, to skim thru the last book to get into the story. Ms Shelena Shorts is an amazing story teller and I loved every page of the book. *The Pace* (pun intended) of the book was steady, not too fast or slow, it kept me glued to it till I was done.

Characters: I can't do Sophie and Wes saperately....they have to be described together:

Sophie is one my fave Protagonist. She is funny, smart and very lovable character. Wes is dreamy and ... well WES, need I say more?

The relationship between Sophie and Wes...how do I put it. *scratches head* Okay I am not finding the right word, but they have *such* ease, comfortable with each other. Small jestures like Sophie holding Wes ankle with her feet while talking playfully, or burying her forehead in his back, sitting in his lap whenever etc, they show the closeness, playfulness and companionship between them. That's what made their relationship so freaking awesome. I really wish I was sophie and had my own Wes...Oh well wishful thinking.

I also have to applaud Ms Shelena's knowledge in science. It's very impressive that she didn't just throw random terms and expect reader to figure it out.

I have one question though, since so much was explained with science....how come Sophie and (view spoiler) look the same in different incarnations? Shouldn't they look based on their current biological parents?

Overall I loved this series and I would do *anything* to get my hands on the last book in the series *now* . It would be one sad and exciting day when I finish this series. Ms Shelena, tell me what can I do to get to read

the 4th book *now* * puppy dog eyes * Pretty please with cherry on the top?

Mateja says

The story of Wes and Sophie is one of the most beautiful love stories I've ever read. I loved their relationship since book one and *The Iron Quill* made it one of my favorite to read about.

Wes and Sophie are amazing together. Sophie is such a strong female character. She showed a level of maturity, that some female lead characters lack, in the most difficult times and was very brave. And Wes is practically perfect.

The storytelling is so incredibly beautiful. There were two points in the book where I just couldn't hold it anymore and actually cried. Every page of this book was filled with emotion. Especially the end. What a perfect ending. While I would have found it cheesy were this any other series, with Wes and Sophie it simply works.

While not everything is resolved and Wes and Sophie are not yet enjoying their happily ever after, they finally got to a point where they can relax and enjoy the moments they have together. A lot of their burden was lifted after having confided their secret to the people ready, willing and able to help them.

I'm really excited to read the next book and will definitely reread the first two while I wait for the release of the last book in the series. I'm sad it's ending.

Lacey says

Warning: Proceed with caution, is known to cause lack of sleep and aloofness from others. Be cautioned that once you begin there is NO stopping till the characters have told their story.

Okay I'm still reeling from this story, I can't believe I'm even saying this but I like this book even more than the other two. There was just something about the deeper connection to the characters that got me and held me tight. Shelena did an awesome job on creating a story that can be very relatable and convey such deep emotions that you wish you had your own Wes (or at least I do, is there a way to order one on E-bay?) But in all this story was beautiful and I loved the risks the author took, there were some things I didn't expect but thought they added even more to the plot! And best of all I was finally able to get some answers!! What I thought was really nice was the medical knowledge, I thought she did a great job and knew she knew her stuff!

Summary:

It has been 48 hours and Sophie has yet to hear from Wes, she's worried sick, Wes had told her to give them 48 hours before calling the police and here the time is up and she doesn't know what to do. She soon has the help of others and along the way she demands to find answers herself and to be reunited with Wes and perhaps solve the nearing deadline of her life....

Last Words:

Okay so my summary was short, I mean super short but honestly I didn't want to reveal anything that happened in the book, I want you to read it and become immersed in Sophie and Wes's world and be swept off your feet from love, battle through fatigue and stress, to worry along side Sophie and Wes...Experience everything I was able to because I don't think my words can quite compare to how beautiful and wonderful this book was. This is a book you will pick up and have a very hard time putting down. I urge you to read it and see for yourself what an amazing job Shelena Shorts did. I defiantly can't wait till the final and 4th installment of the pace series. Though I do believe that will be a sad day for me. But I definately give this book 5 stars and will be eagerly awaiting for the final one. Thank you Shelena for creating a world where I can experience love without the physical hardships!!

Shelena says

Release day is tomorrow. Re-reading. A little nervous! Took some chances with this one, but I love it. So proud of where the characters are now :)!

Shanon says

This book picked up right where "The Broken Lake (The Pace, #2)" left off. Wes has been kidnapped by some mysterious military special ops group, and Sophie is understandably freaking out. Her and one of Wes' closest colleagues have to work together to find and return him home safely.

Unfortunately, I found nearly the first half of the book to be boring, even though I'm sure the author meant for the reader to get caught up in Sophie's distress and Wes' rescue. You would think that since one of the main character's life/identity is basically being threatened that I would be on the edge of my seat, absorbed in finding out what happens, but that was most definitely not the case. Things were moving way too slow for me and I found myself thinking, "either rescue or kill the dude already, I've got stuff to do today". I honestly feared that I might have to give up on this series if this book continued on the way it started. But I kept reading, and to my delight, I found that the second half of the book pretty much made up for the slow beginning, and it ended up providing me with a fair amount of chuckles as well (Yeah, I know, this review seems like one big mood swing/contradiction, but bear with me).

After Wes' ordeal, some serious, unexpected events unfolded. I knew that there were going to be some acts of revenge being carried out, but to what degree, I had no clue. Those acts, while shocking and upsetting, allowed for some touching events to occur between Wes and Sophie. I don't want to reveal too much, but the last happenings of this book had me close to tears (happy ones). I was also pleased that we received more answers regarding Wes and Sophie's past, and I quite like how the new character, Dr. Carter, fits into their lives.

Although this book had me on an emotional roller coaster at times, I know that I will definitely be reading the last and final book, "The Hour of Dreams", because I've become quite attached to the love story of Wes and Sophie. But I know that the story of "star-crossed lovers" can never be cut and dry, so I am sure that these two will probably have the rug pulled out from under them again. However, I am choosing to think positively about their future. So, if you like a somewhat cheesy yet likable romance, with a one-of-a-kind

scientific and miraculous twist, then I recommend this series to you.

This review can also be found at:

<http://escapingwithfiction.blogspot.com/>

The Reader says

THIS BOOK WAS AMAZING AND I CANNOT WAIT TO GET THE NEXT ONE!!

Shelby says

I'll admit, I actually kind of liked this one. There was suspense, mystery, and a good dose of romance to keep me satisfied.

The plot was good but not great. It was certainly more entertaining than the last two books, but I had trouble with the separate narratives of Sophie and Dr. Carter. Without any romance, the story's plot went a lot slower, almost as if there was NOTHING there in the first place. Without all the kissing and cuddling, I got to read more of the mystery, but I found myself wishing for more Sophie and Wes time. Since I sort of find Sophie to be a pain, it wasn't a good sign. The whole nonexistent plot problem reminded me a lot of Shiver by Maggie Stiefvater (both books feed you a couple hundred pages of making out with rare chapters dedicated to the actual problem). However, in general, I did like how Sophie took charge without Wes by her side; it's nice to see the story's heroine survive without having one arm wrapped around her boyfriend.

Other than that, I feel like the order of events in this book caused the flow to be a little uneven. (view spoiler)

Well, overall, I wasn't very inspired by the series in general. But apparently there is another book coming out (I thought it was going to be a trilogy, but whatever), and I'll read that...I doubt I'll find it any better than this though. Hey, at least I got an actual ending this time. No more chopped off sentence or whatever.

Emma says

I love how both her existing mom's were there for her big day.

Mitchii says

3.5/5 - I like the first two books better but this one isn't exactly bad. I just find the first two more interesting. I wasn't impressed by the events in this book, that said it's still good! Can't wait for the next one!

I was anticipating a very plot driven story. Book two ended with hair-pulling, jaw dropping cliffhanger that I'm so excited to read the third book. But sadly it felt a little short to my expectations. If there's a need for emphasis to which ones I didn't like particularly, or didn't work for me. Then I'll go ahead with it: (1) the rescue. If you read the *The Broken Lake* you know that Weston was kidnapped and time is running up with no solid clues as to who got him. That's a great groundwork for a great follow-up, but sadly this is saddest attempt to rescue a guy who is been kidnapped by military people. I mean, seriously? Walk away from his captives by a chopper. Oh great heavens, no way. It was super, super anti-climatic. I don't know, this is probably a personal thing, and based on numerous rescue thingie I watch in TV/Movies but they were, if not all, heart-stopping. I don't know but being surrounded by military personnel the place wasn't super strict that you can actually walk away from it. I mean, literary. It was. (2) Sophie and Weston's wedding. I know, I should be happy, I said their relationship was bit mature. I said that... before. I'm gonna swallow my pride again, because I kinda didn't like it. I really don't like teenager posing like adults (when I mean adult, like rushing things). They were. I know that this is their third chance and Sophie wasted 2 lifetimes but I don't know it doesn't feel... right. Not to me. Personal opinion, maybe. (3) For a third book it doesn't give more details in the whats and the whys of Weston's situation. I just find it amusing though that that Dr. Thomas was reincarnated too, and three of them are alive in this particular time. So the question is, what's the catch? Why now? It felt this book is a filler. And I can't believe books have fillers, I thought that's only in anime.

Needless to say, it was still good. It wasn't a great follow from its predecessor though.

Stacey Conrad says

YA, paranormal, romance, series

At the end of *The Broken Lake*, Wes was in trouble. *The Iron Quill* starts right up where *Lake* left off without the tedious recap so often involved in a series. Thank you Shelena! I can always reread it if I need to remember. The pace in this third installment of the series is fast. A lot of issues are resolved that had been left hanging at the end of *Broken Lake*, but there is still enough story left, for me to want the fourth one. I was left satisfied at the end and not frustrated. :) The characters keep growing and getting more interesting. Sophie is a smart girl; she uses her head, and feels very real. I also like her mom; it's nice to see an involved parent who pays attention. I will be buying a physical copy for the HS library. I read mine on my Kindle.
