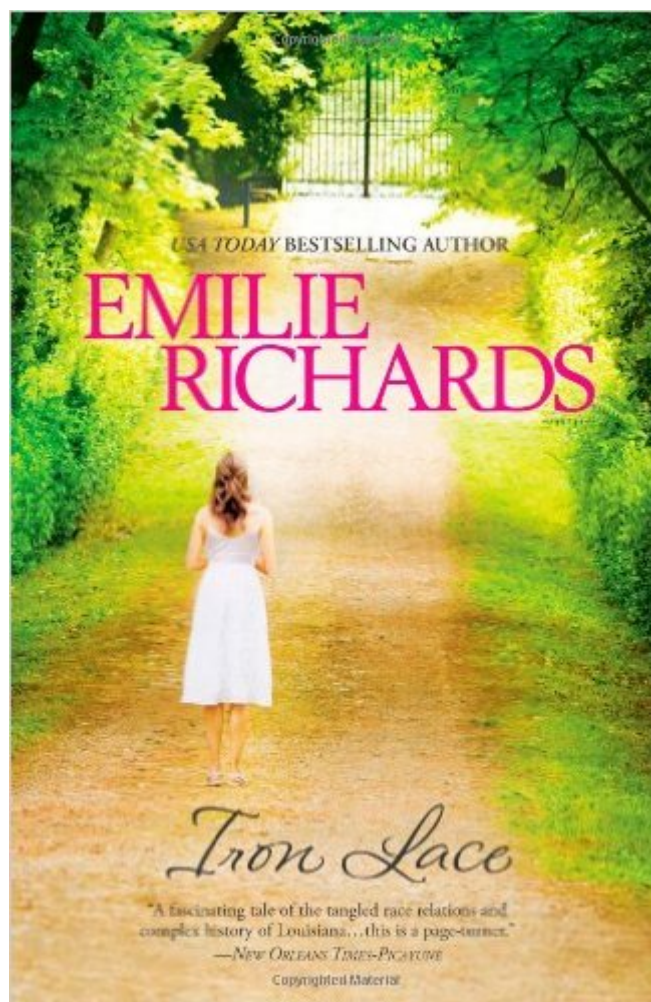


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# Iron Lace



## Synopsis

When Aurore Gerritsen watched her lover kill her father, it was just one act of violence in a long chain of dramatic events. Years later, behind the iron lace gates of wealthy New Orleans, beneath the veneer of her society name, linger secrets that Aurore Gerritsen has hidden for a lifetime, and truths that threaten to change forever the lives of her unsuspecting family. Now, as Aurore faces her own mortality, she needs to reveal those secrets that have haunted her for so many years. Aurore seeks out Phillip Benedict and asks him to tell her story. He's intrigued, but wonders why the matriarch of a prominent white family would choose to confess her sins to an outspoken black journalist. Finally Phillip agrees, but though he thinks he's ready for anything she might say, the truth is that nothing can prepare him for the impact of Aurore's shocking revelations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Iron Lace takes place in New Orleans in the 1960s, but most of the story is told in flashbacks of earlier times. An old white woman convinces a successful young black male journalist (who has a commitment problem) to write her life's story. The first hundred pages or so take place when the old woman is a little girl during a terrible hurricane. I am a sucker for a story about a good storm, so all of a sudden, I was 150 pages into the book. I can't tell you much more without revealing some of the surprises. The book has fascinating characters and exciting plot developments. It makes you feel like you are in New Orleans. The problem with this book is that when you finish it, you realize you have to read the sequel (Rising Tides) because there are still some loose ends. The sequel is more

than 400 pages long, and I have to read it right away before I forget who is who. Fortunately, the sequel contains another hurricane so I'm looking forward to it.

Iron Lace is a very entertaining book. It is set in the 1960's with many flashbacks into the late 1800's and early 1900's. Aurore Gerritsen is an elderly lady who wants to let go of her life's secrets. She hires a black journalist, Phillip Benedict, to write her story. Phillip really doesn't want to write Aurore's story but he agrees to anyway. There are lots of surprises along the way. The storyline is strong and very well written. The characters are well-defined. This book is a combination of *Gone with the Wind* (as far as characters are concerned) and *The Ghost* (all the flashbacks). It is almost like two books in one. Ms. Richards had done an excellent job in writing this book. You will be kept on the edge of your seat and will have to stay up all night until you get it finished. And then there's the sequel....

I am admittedly a Richards fan ever since I picked up *Prospect Street* by her and this book, while older, did not disappoint. I am also a fan of family sagas ~~ and this one did not fail me! This is a tale about Aurora and the choices she made in her life. Facing her death, she tells Philip, a renowned reporter, her story. And what a story it is! From the lush tropical days of the late 1800s to mid-1900s ~~ Aurora lives a life of regret, love and sorrow. She gave up her daughter at birth to her lover and repined over that choice for years even as she went on to marry and had two more sons. That single choice affected not only Aurora, but the daughter she gave up and her sons as well. If you like stories with a Southern twist to it ~~ this book is it. It's a quick but heartfelt read. Richards delve into each character's heart and mind so intimately that she is able to draw the reader into their stories. It's a great read ~~ escapism read as well. Richards continue to impress me with her writing style and ideas. *Rising Tides* the sequel does not disappoint as well. 11-9-03

The first book I read by Emilie Richards was *Whiskey Island*, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I was not disappointed when I read *Iron Lace*. The story is done mostly in flashbacks, but very easy to follow.

I was impressed with the quality of writing in this book. The plot is intricately and flawlessly constructed around colorful, dramatic, and believable characters. I was continually surprised by unfolding plot elements. I did get a little tired of the unrelenting emphasis on how blacks have been mistreated by whites, but since much of the book is set in the '60's (I think), then I guess that explains the emphasis (but I felt "beat over the head" with it). I read the sequel to this book, *Rising Tides*, and will definitely read both of them again. Very satisfying.

I usually do not read romance novels, but I couldn't put this book down. The chapters go back and forth between two stories that are somehow connected. You find out why at the ending of the book. This book made me feel all of the emotions under the sun, and I was upset when it was over. The sequel *Rising Tides*, is a great ending to this suspenseful and heart breaking story.

Emilie Richards is now one of my new favorite authors. *Iron Lace* is a wonderful multi-generational story and you won't be able to put the book down. It has a sequel which I just finished called *Rising Tides*. I highly recommend you read *Iron Lace* before the sequel in order to get the characters and their relationships fully in your mind, as the end of *Iron Lace* leaves a few loose ends where the sequel picks up. I have just bought another of Emilie Richards' books for my kindle. I can't imagine anyone being disappointed in this book. Loved it!

Emilie Richards is quickly becoming a "go to" author for me. While I like some of her novels better than others, based solely on personal preference of the subject matter, they are all good. "*Whiskey Island*" was my first exposure to Ms. Richards and it's probably my favorite. I have gone on to read "*Happiness Key*" and now "*Iron Lace*." Based upon these three novels, I have already loaded two more onto my Kindle (including the sequel to this one) and am waiting for the perfect moment to dive in. "*Iron Lace*" is a reprint of an older novel but it has aged incredibly well - nothing seems dated or old. If anything, the events of Katrina make it even more current today. Set in New Orleans in 1965, Phillip Benedict is journalist covering current events, provide him quite a challenge since he is a black man working in the South during the civil rights movement. A aging, wealthy, New Orleans matron by the name of Aurore Gerritsen asks him to her home and ends up requesting that he write her memoirs. These memoirs aren't to be published but only to be read by family. The reader isn't privy to her motivation, but as her story unfolds we finally understand her unconventional decision to utilize Phillip's writing skills and why she is so driven to share her life story. Emilie Richards has the unique talent of being a good story teller and a good writer. This novel is one that should appeal to a wide audience - fans of both chick-lit, literary fiction, and historical fiction will all find something to like. I have seen her categorized as a romance author and have to politely argue that point. Her stories are more about relationships and life lessons than what you would find with the typical romance writer. An enthralling story, well told, that hooked me at the beginning and didn't let go.

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