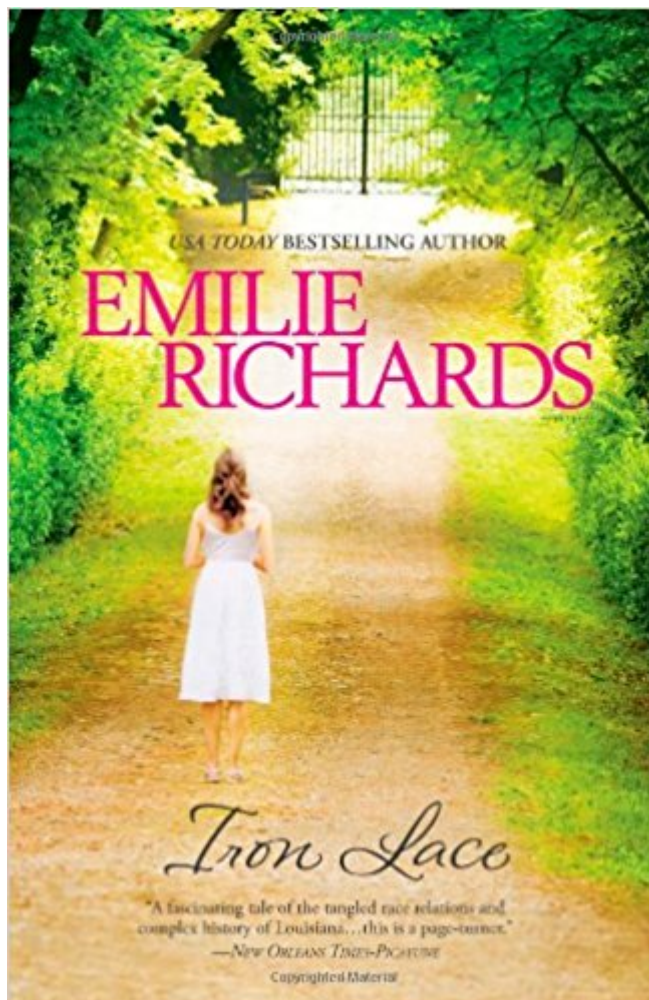


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# Iron Lace



## 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

Named for the trademark elaborate cast-iron grillwork of many New Orleans homes, Iron Lace is more aptly suited to describe the protagonists' lives in Richards's (Bayou Midnight) first title for Mira. Globe-girdling African American journalist Phillip Benedict is leery when he's asked by Aurore Gerritsen, an elderly white socialite to ghost her autobiography. She doesn't intend to publish it so Phillip asks the natural question: Why? "When we've finished, you'll have your answer," is Aurore's answer. As the story slowly unfolds (take a deep breath here), Phillip learns that his great-grandmother, Marcelite Cantrelle, had once been Aurore's father's mistress, and that Phillip's mother, Nicolette, is Aurore's daughter from a love affair with Raphael Cantrelle, Marcelite's

half-caste son. (Whew!) Unwilling to raise a child of mixed blood in rigid New Orleans society, Aurore had given Raphael custody of Nicolette. Now, after nearly 50 years, Aurore is trying to right a wrong. This portrait of racism from 1919 to the mid-1960s is intricate, seductive and a darned good read. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Richly textured and deeply moving, Iron Lace is a break-your-heart love story in the grand tradition." -- Karen Harper, bestselling author of Shaker Run --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Aurore Gerritsen, an aristocratic woman and owner of the Gulf Coast Shipping enterprise in the 1960's New Orleans area surprises journalist Phillip, a young black man with a request for a visit. She asks him to write her biography for personal use for her and her family. While surprised, Phillip accepts. We see Aurore's story in flashbacks interspersed with her present day. From the terrible hurricane that changed her family's life and destroyed her father's second family we see the difficult outcomes that choices can make on people and their families. The story is a rich history of New Orleans at the time and how race played a key role in the area. Aurore's story is filled with love, tragedy, and several surprising outcomes. We also get to see how her story affects Phillip and changes his outlook and his relationships with his mother and girlfriend. A wonderful, spellbinding story, with more to follow in the sequel.

This is a hard book to put down. The characters grab you and you just have to read what comes next.

Interesting read. Well crafted story. I can't wait to read the next book! This is the first book I've read from this author and I look forward to reading many of her other books!

I thoroughly enjoyed the characters but found the story complicated and confusing at times. I thought that, otherwise, it was a great read. I would have liked more completion of the reading of Aurore's will too. One more chapter of tying up all of the loose ends would hVe been very helpful.

One of the few recommended books that I would again recommend. Life in New Orleans has always fascinated me and this doesn't disappoint

Once again the characters came to life and made you feel connected to them. Very well written--hard to put down.

I fell in love with the characters and the way Richards winds a current story with the personal history that led up to her relation with seemingly unrelated characters and their stories. It is set in New Orleans in the early 1900's and in the 60's, so it was also a story of times in the South from the early century and during the Civil Rights movement. I would read until I just couldn't stay awake any more until I was done with the book!

The storyline exceeded my expectations. Was hard to follow the French words and descriptions but could guess pretty accurately.

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