

The Iron King

Julie Kagawa

Reviewed by: Ashley Yamashita, 15

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Meghan Chase has lived a normal life with her brother, mom, and step-father, excluding the time her father was kidnapped when she was six. After finding no clues as to where he could have gone, Meghan and her mom moved to a new town, where Meghan's mom met her step-father. Later, Ethan was born and everything was quiet and peaceful, that is until Meghan has to tutor Scott Waldren in the computer lab. Meghan has a small crush on Scott and spent most of her day stressing about how she looked with those crazy butterflies dancing in her stomach. When school finally ended, Meghan met Scott in the computer lab and introduced herself. As she was doing so, the computers went haywire, displaying an embarrassing message about Scott. Scott, frantic to get rid of the message, blamed Meghan for the weird incident and Meghan was forced to run away embarrassed. After the incident, Meghan comes home to find that her loyal German shepherd attacked Ethan. Ethan claims that Max was protecting him, but protecting him from what? Later on, Meghan realizes that Ethan went missing after this creature attacked her, disguised as innocent Ethan. Robbie, her best friend, comes to her rescue, and in the process explains her true identity as a fey creature, and why Ethan may be missing. Together, Robbie and Meghan travel to the world of the Fey to save Ethan.

This book has such loveable characters ranging from Ash to even Ethan. My favorite character by far was Ash. Not only did he have the most character development, but he also seemed genuinely worried for Meghan and her well-being. He took a huge risk by protecting and loving her, and by defying his mother's orders. By doing so, Ash risks the punishment of treason against his own home. This story emphasizes the worth of love and that love can thaw out even the bitterest of hearts. Even though Ash was my favorite character, I always found it interesting that he would risk his life every time in battle when there were other easier alternatives to defeat the enemy. In the beginning, I was constantly scared Ash was going to get himself killed but soon realized that he's risked his life way too many times to die.

I would recommend this story to people ages 13 and up, since this story does have fighting scenes and descriptive, minor gore. *The Iron King* is perfect for a nice quiet read in the park since it has some romance aspects and lots of action. This book is empowering to those who have faced bullies or overwhelming conflicts since Meghan experienced both of these situations. Meghan is a likable character that goes through a lot of pain, loss, and happiness that shaped her into the character she is at the end of the story. Her determination towards protecting those she loves is such an admirable trait that she has.

Recommended Titles:

The Iron Daughter by Julie Kagawa

The Traitor's Kiss by Erin Beaty

Beautiful Creature by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl