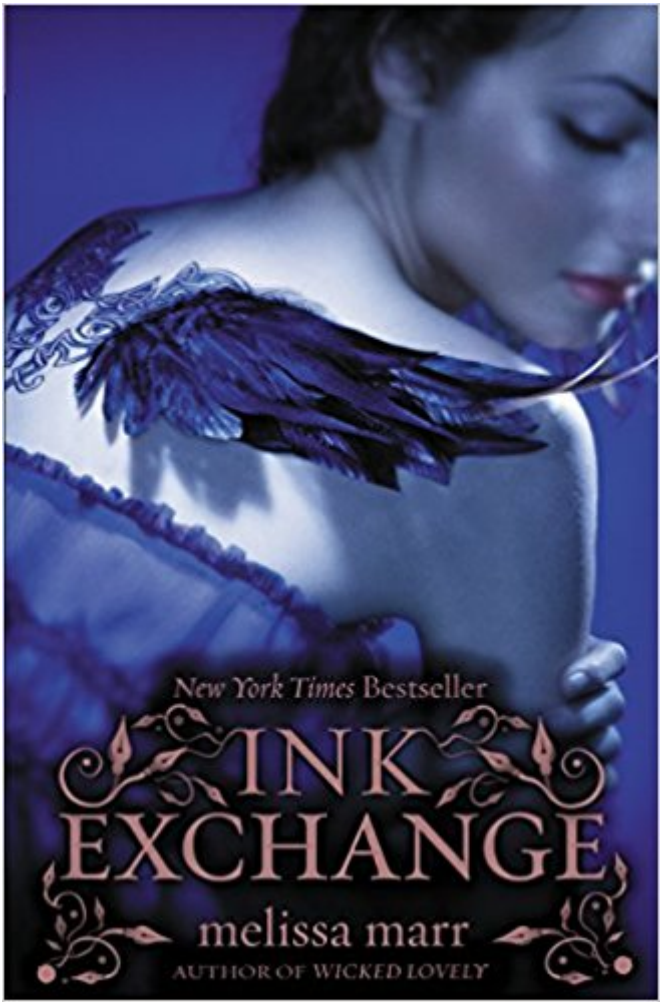
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Ink Exchange (Wicked Lovely)



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Synopsis

The second installment in Melissa MarrÃ¢â ¬â„¢s #1 New York Times bestselling Wicked Lovely series brings readers back to the land of faerie and delivers another stunning, high-stakes romance.Unbeknownst to mortals, a power struggle is unfolding in a world of shadows and danger. After centuries of stability, the balance among the Faery Courts has altered, and Irial, ruler of the Dark Court, is battling to hold his rebellious and newly vulnerable fey together. If he fails, bloodshed and brutality will follow.Seventeen-year-old Leslie knows nothing of faeries or their intrigues. When she is attracted to an eerily beautiful tattoo of eyes and wings, all she knows is that she has to have it, convinced it is a tangible symbol of changes she desperately craves for her own life.The tattoo does bring changesÃ¢â ¬â •not the kind Leslie has dreamed of, but sinister, compelling changes that are more than symbolic. Those changes will bind Leslie and Irial together, drawing Leslie deeper and deeper into the faery world, unable to resist its allures, and helpless to withstand its perils. . .

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 9 UpÃ¢â ¬â •This urban fairy tale, a sequel to Wicked Lovely (HarperTeen, 2007), is impossible to put down. Leslie lives with a father who has given up on life, a drug-abusing brother who allowed his dealer to rape Leslie in lieu of payment, and a burning desire to banish pain and fear from her life. Unable to confide in her best friend, Aislinn, she devotes herself to working to

pay the family bills and to get the tattoo she believes will help her reclaim her body. What she doesn’t know is that the art she has selected will bind her to Irial, the king of the Dark Court of Fairy. He removes her emotions like fear, panic, or anger, and uses them to nourish the fairies of his court. What Irial doesn’t expect is his growing love for Leslie and her desire to make her own choices. In Leslie, Marr has created a damaged, wounded character who still comes across as being incredibly strong. Irial needs to care for his court, knowing them too weak to win a war, but his feelings for Leslie make him unwilling to do what needs to be done. The lesser characters are also well drawn: Rabbit the tattoo artist, his father, Gabriel, and also Aislinn, Keenan, and Seth from Wicked Lovely. While reading that book first would give more shades to some of the characters, it isn’t necessary to appreciate the intricate world that Marr creates.Ã¢â ¬â •Lisa Prolman, Greenfield Public Library, MA Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
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Newcomers and returning readers alike will devour this companion novel toÃ Â Marr’s ragingly popularÃ Â Wicked Lovely (2007). The new peaceÃ Â between the Summer King and the Winter QueenÃ Â isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t good for everyone: those of the Dark Court, who feed on faeriesÃ¢â ¬â„¢ destructive emotions, are dangerously weakened. Irial, King of the Dark Court, needs a solution, and he finds one inÃ Â the Summer QueenÃ¢â ¬â„¢sÃ Â mortal friend Leslie. Tormented by memories of abuse, Leslie wants nothing more than to reclaim her body by getting a tattoo, but theÃ Â enchanted design she selectsÃ Â provides Irial with a direct linkÃ Â to mortalsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ emotions. TheÃ Â tattoo binds Leslie and Irial together even as a third faerie works toÃ Â prevent their destructive yet seductive connection. All of MarrÃ¢â ¬â„¢s characters are complex, defying easy description and evoking sympathy and horror in equal measures, and all cast a thrall that will leave readers willing to forgive plotting that can be difficult to follow. This dark fantasy about survival and transformation is as mesmerizing as its urban faery subjects. Grades 10-12. --Krista Hutley
--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

well, the first book, wicked lovely, was a decent read, so i was expecting i guess more of the same in this book. instead the author attempted to take on darker subject matter and instead of fleshing this out to the full, she skirted around the issues and didn’t really address them, kind of making the story/ characters fall flat. basically a pg book took on r rated issues but kept them pg, relying on suggestion to get a point across rather than just addressing the issues. because of this the plot had a kind of cardboard feel to it. i kind of felt like she kind of skimmed through the plot as well. events

took place, but there was no conviction to anything and the author didn't really follow through and finish an event. i thought the ending was kind of rushed. overall decent set-up but poor execution.

first became acquainted with the writing style of Melissa Marr back in February when I read her first book, Wicked Lovely. Which tells the story of Aislinn and introduces the reader to a world of faerie which co-exists alongside ours. In Ink Exchange we return that that world with the story of Leslie, Aislinn's best friend. Leslie's story is different from Aislinn's though because she knows nothing of the faerie world. All she knows is that her friend has changed over the last few months. Not only that but she has changed as well as her home life gets progressively worse as she deals with her alcoholic father and drug addicted brother. Leslie often works longer hours not just to escape from being at home but to also earn the money that will pay the bills. Leslie has also been thinking for months about getting a tattoo. No design ever seems to appeal to her though nor does she think she can justify the cost.Until one day a tattoo artist named Rabbit shows her some of his personal designs. One time only deals that means each tattoo once used will not be used on another person. Leslie flips through the pages and is immediately drawn to one. She can't get it out of her head and convinces Rabbit to sell it to her. Rabbit says that it will change her life and since that is what Leslie wants she doesn't think about the cost. This is also no ordinary tattoo, it was designed by one of the Fey and it will change its bearer and not always the way that they want.I enjoyed returning to the universe that Marr created in Wicked Lovely and it was great to see the cameos of all the characters that were in that first book. However, this book didn't have the same draw for me as Wicked Lovely did. The build up for Leslie getting the tattoo was a little slow and often seem stilted. The relationships that were tossed in her path with the two Fey folk Irial and Niall seemed a little too contrived to be believable. Then when Leslie finally does get herself inked the changes seem to go so fast and then before you know it the book is over. I felt as though that there were parts of the story that were untold and these was no easy ending to it. Marr has obviously left the door open for a third book.Despite the fact that the 1st half of the book doesn't really mesh well with the last half (the 1st was slow and plodding and the ending had that rushed feel) the writing style was the same as in Wicked Lovely.....although of a darker quality to suit the darker aspects touched upon in this novel. I am still intrigued with Marr and the universe that she has created and since she has left things open for a return then I will sit back and wait for the next installment. For I do wonder what mischief all my new Faerie friends will come up with next.[...]

Torn up inside after her drug-dealer brother betrays her in the most horrible way, Leslie puts on a

brave front with her friends, pretending her drunken dad isn't letting the bills pile up and hiding all her pain. Hoping to take back control over her body, she decides to get a tattoo, and picks out a special design at the tattoo parlor she often hangs out at. Unbeknownst to Leslie, that tattoo is the symbol of Irial, the king of the faerie Dark Court, designed to allow him to filter the unpleasant emotions that feed his court through her into him and his people.As Leslie finds her vision changing and her feelings shifting in unpredictable ways, Niall, a faerie of the Summer Court who has always admired her, steps in, hoping to help her and keep Irial away. He has his own tangled feelings about Irial, whom he once counted as a friend. But as Leslie sinks further under Irial's thrall, enjoying the escape from the hurt and fear she'd been living with, only she can decide when to pull away--or whether she would rather stay with him, after all.INK EXCHANGE is a darkly imaginative novel set in the same world as Marr's first novel, WICKED LOVELY. Readers will enjoy exploring the lives of some of that novel's minor characters and seeing more of the shadowy side of the faerie courts. They may find Leslie, Niall, and Irial less engaging than the spirited and perhaps more sympathetic narrators of WICKED LOVELY, but the trio still make for a fascinating "love" triangle as each deals with conflicting emotions and tries to decide what is right both for him or herself and for those who are counting on them.The imagery is striking and evocative, and the politics of the different faerie courts is intriguing to explore. A great book for dark fantasy fans

I enjoyed the book. The ending wasn't what I had pictured but this is the second book of Marr's that I've been surprised at the ending! The ending does leave me wanting to read the next in the series just because I want to know if the characters I like get with the loves I want them to have. It's not the same to books like Cassandra Clare's Mortal Instruments but it's got a great plot that keeps you reading. I give it 4 stars just because I felt that the ending could have been better spread out, I feel it was a little rushed & that the majority of the book dragged on the conflict instead of spacing it out a little better. Overall a very good book!

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