



Silver Shark

Ilona Andrews

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Claire Shannon is a killer. She uses no weapons, only her mind.

Born on a planet locked in a long war, Claire is a psycher, a woman with the ability to attack minds and infiltrate a biological computer network where psychers battle to the death. But when the war abruptly ends, Claire must hide her psycher's ability to survive. She is deported to a new planet, a vivid beautiful place, where she meets Venturo Escana, a powerful psycher, whose presence overwhelms both her mind and her body.

She thought she had left war and death behind, but now she must fight for her new life and this battle might just cost her everything...

Silver Shark Details

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Author : Ilona Andrews

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From Reader Review Silver Shark for online ebook

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

4+ stars for this SF romance novella by Iona Andrews. I've read this one a few times now, whenever I need a quick romantic adventure pick-me-up read. :)

It all begins on a different planet, a bleak mining world where a bitter war has been raging for generations. Claire Shannon is a captain in the military, a "psycher," with extraordinarily strong mental powers that manifest both in real life and on the bionet (a type of virtual reality), where she leads military teams in forays against the enemy's online files and kills people with her Mind!Powers. When the war suddenly and unexpectedly ends badly for Claire's people, Claire quickly goes into hiding, since her dangerous mental powers would mean instant execution by the victorious enemy.

She ends up being deported to a new planet that has no interest in allowing any immigrants with her kind of mental gifts. So, still carefully hiding her psycher abilities, she takes a job as an administrative assistant ... to a man who's one of the most powerful psychers she's ever met, not to mention the sexiest. He's polite enough not to use his own psycher abilities to unearth Claire's secrets, but can that last?

Silver Shark was a lot better for me than the first story in this series, *Silent Blade*, which was about half the length of this one. I was so sucked into this story that I actually read it twice the first day I downloaded it, front to back (it's maybe 100 pages). It totally gave me all the feelz. :)

The connections between "Silent Blade" and *Silver Shark* are pretty tenuous - the same world, and a brief appearance by the main characters of the first story in this one - so you can read this one as a stand-alone story. This novella is only \$2.99 on Kindle.

Content notes: R-rated for an explicit sex scene and a few scattered F-bombs.

Sh3lly (grumpybookgrrrrl.com) says

Silent Blade: ★★★★★

I liked this even better than *Silent Blade*. It involves psychic kinsmen and a female captain who survives a war and has to find work as a refuge as an assistant to another psychic and has to hide her true identity. Of course, sparks fly. I liked the descriptions of the bionet.

Hollis says

This one felt leagues away from the first in the *Kinsmen* series and it was both entertaining and satisfying and sexy. Would definitely read more of this world and yes I know I say that about all of Andrews' series. But for real are we getting more?

Irene Sim says

Euphoric!

That's how I feel after finishing this story...

There isn't really much I can say and I hate to repeat myself.

If you haven't read any book by Ilona Andrews and you want to get a taste of the author's infinite talent, just pick any short story of her Kinsmen series.

I hope we'll get more stories in the future set in this world. And I really hope they'll be longer than this...

Jen Davis says

Claire has lived her entire life surrounded by war. She was forced into military service at 14; her psychic gifts, powerful enough to kill. But now, the war is over and those very same abilities have turned her into a target. Such a powerful Kinsman could never be kept alive. So Claire must hide her skills and appear as a normal person in order survive.

She is forced from the bleak, war-torn world and becomes a refugee on a new planet. There, she goes to work for Venturo Escana, a Kinsman whose power rivals her own. He doesn't know who she really is, but... like calls to like. There is an undeniable connection between the two of them. The feelings are as alien to Claire as the beauty of her new home. But despite the happiness she finds in Ven's company, she lives in constant fear of discovery. If anyone figures out her secret, she'll lose everything she has worked so hard to build.

I really, really enjoyed this novella. Ilona Andrews is pretty awesome at world-building. Part of what makes it so good is the seamless way it's incorporated into story. The characters are three-dimensional and engaging. And I never feel compelled to skim over the narrative. (That's a mighty big compliment too, because it's an urge I am forever having to fight. Too many authors fill up chunks of space describing every detail from the wallpaper to the shape of the sconces on the wall. Andrews sticks to describing only what truly adds to experience of the story.)

The tension Claire feels is palpable; the danger is real. The pull between her and Ven is fantastic. And *omigod*, the payoff is so hot.

So why am I not giving it 5 stars? I felt like there should have been more, especially toward the end. As hot as the sex was, I would have liked to have seen a little more of the relationship work out on-page after the truth came out. And I felt cheated out of the action referenced in the Epilogue. I wanted a full length book, dammit. The potential is there. I hope Andrews revisits this world again in the future. 4 1/2 stars.

**ARC Provided by author for review.*

Maria Dimitrova says

Buddy read with the IAA.

When I find an author I adore I always dread the inevitable moment when I've read everything he/she/they have published. So I kept putting off reading this final virgin territory for quite some time but eventually I got roped in a buddy read with the-one-who-can't-be-defied aka Sarah.

What can I tell you about *Silver Shark* that won't sound like a fangirl excessive praise??? Oh screw it! I'll fangirl all I want. It's my review after all. It was bloody amazing and I can't contain my adoration or my disappointment at the fact that there are no more books in this brilliant universe! Why, oh why have the mighty IA stopped at only two books? It's so damned good it deserves a gazillion instalments. Okay, I might be a bit OTT but I'm an eternal slave to the masterful writing of the IA gods. Of course there were some tiny itty-bitty problems with this book. The first and obvious being that it's too short. There were so many things that could have been explored in more detail. Like everything! More about the bionet, more about the other kinsmen families, more about the stupid rock the two factions were fighting over. Second was skipping the most interesting part and just letting us know in general what has happened in the epilogue. That was just plain cruel! I will log a complaint! Maybe now that KD is coming to an end the gods can be persuaded to give us a third, more fleshed out book *looks hopefully at the IA altar* I know it's probably just wishful thinking but *Kinsmen* really deserves a new instalment because it's one of the best sci-fi/fantasy series I've read and has so much potential it's criminal to be left unexplored.

? Jaela ? Killer ? QUEEN says

If only this book was any longer!!

Wonderful wonderful! Have I ever said that I love the worlds IA creates? Yes, a 1000 times. This book had some similarities with Psy-Changeling series of NS. The bio-net similar to psy-net, tasteless foods the heroine used to eat in her planet and the overwhelming sensations she has in the new world. Or if you have seen the movie eXistenz with Jude Law, then you know what I mean

Claire and Venturo are so good together, I loved the development of their story and I wished there was more to read.

"I want you. Do you want me?"

"Yes," she whispered. " Yes, yes, yes, yes..."

Simple, effective, no drama included, perfect!

So damn short. The author hasn't proceeded with this series. Why Ilona, why??

Nevertheless, 5 amazing stars :)

Liz* Fashionably Late says

3.5 stars? 3.75? 3.99? Whatever.

It's IA.

It's sexy, funny and action packed. And too short.

Jessica ❁ ⇒ Silverbow ⇒ ❁ Rabid Reads-no-more says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

4.5 stars

Oh, look! There are TWO kick-asses! Whoopsie. Must've been a mistake, right?

NOPE.

Silver Shark is just that awesome.

We're back in the world of the Kinsmen, only this time we aren't dealing with two rival families.

The blurb (YAY, I actually read one this time) does an excellent job of summarizing the position Claire Shannon finds herself in on a new planet---she's hiding her ability, she has a tenuous grasp on a new start, and she has 3 months to successfully find and keep gainful employment, or she'll be sent back to her home planet, and presumably, KILLED.

So no pressure.

And the employment process is kind of like that of a temp agency. You only get so many opportunities, and refusing an interview is *mightily* frowned upon. Which puts Claire in a tight spot when her first interview is with a company that specializes in the very talent she is trying to keep hidden.

And it gets even better---bossman is HOT. And brilliant. And surly. And all good things. And HOT.

Yeah . . . this short story was a lot of fun. The sci-fi parts are way cool without being overly technical. Claire and Ven are great together, b/c once again, Andrews effortlessly creates immediately likable characters (which is good b/c short story). My only issue was that the ending was slightly abrupt, but then again, that could just be me not liking that it was ending at *all*. Even *more* highly recommended.

Emma says

Obviously it was good. It's Ilona Andrews! The only frustration was that it was too short. The world reminds me of the one from the Psy from Nalini Singh, combined with elements of The Hidden Legacy series. I don't think this couple are capable of writing a bad book.

Jo ★The Book Sloth★ says

3.5 Too Short Stars

These books would have been great if they were normal-length but they are too short and sadly suffer from novella syndrome. They seem too rushed and not really complete, and you don't get enough time to get used to and understand things like the bio-net or psychers. I would love a new full-length novel on the series.

Generally the book was good but nothing really impressive. The first one was much better and although Claire was badass, she was also a bit whiny at some points so she doesn't get a perfect score.

BR with my girls at IAA.

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

[Because I was high on some superior

Milda Page Runner says

Ready Player One meets sexy romance. I liked it. Quick moving plot and excellent worldbuilding - in this case of two worlds and bio-net. Really fast read.

Alexa says

Read with the awesome bunch at Ilona Andrews Addicts!

This one was a lot better than Silent Blade. I think it was a combination of a longer page count (almost double!) and the fact that there was some groundwork laid out in the previous book about the Kinsmen and how the society works.

The best part? There's no insta-love! Hurray!

Ilona does several fast-forward cut scenes, which I thought was genius. By doing this she implies that the two main characters have been working together for a while, so it's not insta-love, but she doesn't actually *has* to write down the whole day to day of both of them. You go from them knowing each other, to them in a working relationship based in trust, and you can fill the blanks however you want. There's insta-lust which is okay for me, but no talk of undying love and "can't live without you" crap.

There are a lot of coincidences, but I chose to ignore them in favor of just enjoying the read.

Nice fun read. Perfect for a rainy afternoon. :D

Robin (Bridge Four) says

3.5 Stars

Buddy Read with my lovely ladies over at Ilona Andrews Addicts (IAA)

This quick story set in the Kinsmen world seemed like a great blend of The Matrixx meets Hackers (anyone else besides remember that movie) and classic Ilona Andrews flare.

Claire is a trained killer and one of the most powerful psychers alive. She has been at war since childhood and they just lost. To survive she must pretend to have no psychic ability and start over on a different planet. She comes from a world of grey and rationing to an extra colorful and extreme planet full of flowers and passion that might be just as dangerous.

*"Your people kill each other in the streets?" Unthinkable. How could this be allowed?
"Sometimes. Most Kinsmen are so enhanced, the fights rarely last for longer than thirty seconds. Don't worry. They almost never injure bystanders. It would be very rude."
"Rude?" This whole planet was insane.
"Of course. Will all of the targeting implants and inborn abilities, they are so fast, you would have to actively work to get in their way. Killing a civilian would be sloppy and the height of bad manners."*

The nice thing is that this story happens over the course of months. The attraction that builds between Claire and Ventura might not get a lot of page time but it does get a bit of general time. Problem Ventura is a psycher and if he gets close enough to read Claire's mind he is going to know she is shielding something. The other problem is that most psychers do not get involved long term with someone who doesn't have the same abilities.

*"Someone's smitten," Renata said.
Claire glanced at her. "Is it that obvious?"
"Yes. Very." Renata paused. "Claire, you do know what psychers do, don't you?"
She needed to give a general answer, "Provide security?"
"If they catch hackers on the bionet, they kill them." Renata leaned closer. "Venturo's death count is in dozens. You can't keep doing that sort of work and not be affected."*

The bionet was fascinating and amazing. I enjoyed the descriptions of it and how it looked different for everyone. My only complaints are that I really wanted to spend a little more time in it. Hard to do with a novella yes but it was so interesting to me that I was disappointed I didn't get to see more of the bionet world and the fighting that is done in it.

I would love to have a full length novel set in this world or even more novellas it is just as rich as some of the Andrews other creations in such a short time that it can be a lot to process but I love all the time I spend in the worlds they create.

