



Iridescent

Carol Oates

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Candra Ember used to dream of saving the world one person at a time. She never expected to become an angelic weapon and the last hope in the battle against ultimate darkness.

Falling for a Nephilim wasn't part of Sebastian's plan. Distraction is something he can't afford when his rival, Draven, wants what Sebastian has.

Lies, manipulation, and corruption are twisting the lives of the citizens in Acheron. The Arch is missing from Heaven, and a demon is intent on claiming the city. At a time they should be growing closer, grief and paranoia is driving Candra and Sebastian apart.

If the price of restoring the Watchers to Heaven is a human soul, who deserves to be saved?

Iridescent Details

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Author : Carol Oates

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From Reader Review Iridescent for online ebook

Starr says

I received a digital galley, free, in exchange for my honest opinion.

Synopsis from Amazon: Candra dreamed of saving the world one person at a time. She never expected to become an angelic weapon and the last hope in a battle against ultimate darkness. Falling for a Nephilim wasn't part of Sebastian's plan. Distraction is something he can't afford when his rival, Draven, wants what Sebastian has. Lies, manipulation, and corruption are twisting the lives of the citizens of Acheron. The Arch is missing from heaven, and a demon is intent on claiming the city. At a time they should be growing closer, grief and paranoia are driving Candra and Sebastian apart. Soon, Candra must face a terrible choice. If the price of restoring heaven is a human soul, who deserves to be saved?

My Thoughts: I really liked Ember, I thought that it was a very original take on angels and their history and interactions with humans. I haven't read very much fiction about the nephilim, and the research that I have started for my own WIP has portrayed them as dark creatures. But, I didn't get that feeling of darkness while reading Iridescent. In fact I would say that this was a bright read. I was glad to be back into the world of Ember and Sebastian. Now that they are "officially" together. There were some steamy moments, that were heart-melting.

Of course, nothing is ever easy. As Ember tries to figure out what exactly she is and what her role in the upcoming war will be, there is the constant flux of not truly knowing. Sebastian and Draven are now working together to fight the impending evil, but the tension between them has not completely lifted. Lillith, a new character on board, has her own agenda and does what she can to manipulate Ember to her side so she can lay claim to the city she believes is rightfully hers. In the midst of this, Ember is still adjusting to Ivy's death. But there is a confidence in Ember that is growing, it's a confidence that I don't remember seeing a lot of in the first book. (But I definitely like!)

When you put all of these ingredients together you get one heck of a edge-sitting, heart-gripping story. And I loved every minute of it! If you have not read Ember, then I definitely think you should do so now. You'll have to because Iridescent is definitely worth picking up as well.

4 stars ****

Andrea says

It's a battle between Heaven and Hell, Good and Evil...and one girl will be the most dangerous weapon of all.

My. Heart. Iridescent almost killed me! This books was so intense, emotionally and physically, that I could hardly keep up. There was just so much going on in Iridescent: Candra and Sebastian's relationship, Draven's feelings for Candra, Anachel (HATE HER!), the battle for control between good and evil... Because I enjoyed Ember so much, I was really excited to have the opportunity to read an early copy of this story, and it certainly lived up to my hopes.

Iridescent picks up almost immediately after Ember's dramatic ending. Candra is reeling from everything that has happened. Devastating loss, learning about her heritage, being torn by Sebastian and Draven, taunted and manipulated by Anachel all takes it's toll on her. She and Sebastian are trying to hold onto the security of their love, but his own doubts, self-loathing, and need for atonement may be enough to drive them apart.

Throughout *Ember*, I struggled to choose between Sebastian and Draven. Neither of the two was all good or all bad. Both made some big mistakes and provided true swoon-worthy moments. In *Iridescent*, that struggle isn't the focus on the story. The three are all working to stay alive and save each other. A sad, yet understandable decision does drive a wedge between Candra and Sebastian, and gives Draven an opportunity to prove his worth. Love triangles don't always work, but in this case, with two worthy choices, the triangle is fantastic.

Iridescent was a bold sequel to *Ember*. The story went to dark, sad, scary places that I never expected. I spent a good portion of the story worried, swooning, and crying. The resolution was shocking, breathtaking, and ultimately triumphant. *Iridescent* was a wonderful story that tied this series up beautifully.

If you enjoy Paranormal Young Adult with a angels, demons and drama, *Iridescent* should hit the spot.

Stephanie Ward says

'*Iridescent*' is the second book in the *Ember* series, which continues to follow Candra - a teenage girl who had her entire world turned upside down when she learned that she's a Nephilim, the offspring of an angel and a human. After breaking all the rules and falling for Sebastian, an angel, Candra must now also face an unknown threat that's coming to kill her and start a supernatural war. She has also learned that she is a secret weapon of some kind and she is their only hope.

There are plenty of paranormal young adult novels out recently that deal with angels and fallen angels. This novel has an interesting take on the various mythologies of angels, especially by mixing it with the fascinating story of Nephilim. I thought that the storyline was fresh and unique for the genre. The novel was well written and full of action - making it fast paced as well as a fun and easy read that I devoured in a few hours. The characters continue to grow and add depth and layers as more of their haunted pasts and difficult choices are revealed. I thought these characteristics made them all the more realistic and easy to identify with. I liked the romance that continues throughout the book - it continues to be a story of first love that must deal with overwhelming obstacles and problems, and I thought it grew and fit nicely with the narrative. The story behind the Nephilim, the angels, and the heavenly war that is approaching is very intricate and detailed, which fascinated me entirely. I will be looking forward to reading the next book in the series and I recommend this to lovers of YA paranormal fiction with angels.

Disclosure: I received a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

Jessica says

Iridescent by Carol Oates is the continuation of the story that began in *Ember*. The gang is faced with a new foe: the soul stealing Lilith, who possess a powerful weapon and is bent on taking over the earth as her own.

After finishing the first book in the series, I couldn't wait to jump right into this one. There was no lull in the action - it began as soon as the story opened. I felt a little more trusting this time around, like I knew the characters better and could easily predict which direction the plot would move in. Boy, was I wrong! This book had just as many twists and turns as the first. If anything, it was even more intense, more taut, than the first book was. I found myself on a never-ending emotional roller coaster during the book's final chapters.

The ending was satisfying in a way, but I felt it was more than a little rushed. I actually thought I had inadvertently skipped a chapter, even going back a few pages to make sure I hadn't. With the author's gift of detailing scenes, I was disappointed by this sudden lack of information, but it didn't really hurt my opinion of the book. I still found it to be highly enjoyable and I was sad to see it end. Without a doubt, another winner for Carol Oates.

Giselle says

An Electronic Advanced Reader Copy was provided by the publisher for review. Quotes have been pulled from an ARC and may be subject to change.

We're back with Candra and her love triangle between Sebastian and Draven. Her love for both of them confused me just because it felt so fast. Insta-love at its best? I'm not sure if it was their angelic powers of persuasion, but she is still as lusty as ever. (*It's only normal.*)

This time around there is a plot developing, and when it finally gets unleashed, I got real excited. There's a clear cut villain in the form of the demon Lilith and her minions and as creepy as it may sound, she was definitely the most interesting character in the entire novel. Someone who is as power-hungry as another tyrant, and she uses souls as quickly as she can tire them. I loved seeing more of Draven in this one. His point of view is finally shared, and you can finally spot a personality forming. I also still loved Candra's brutal bravery, and strength. She has admirable qualities in a character that many other readers can definitely root for. In Ember, Candra's true power isn't revealed, but it is revealed in Iridescent. (FINALLY.)

What bothered me about the pacing in this novel was the sheer amount of dialogue and thoughts. There was still way too much. I needed action. I needed Lillith to be ruthless and take someone down. As the stubborn reader that I am, I do plow through, and rarely do a DNF, and since the mystery surrounding Candra's powers grew, so did my page turning. I just needed to know why! I felt the reader and the characters were still left in the dark, thank God, some questions were finally answered. But that ending! I was still confused. What happened exactly? I can only assume it was for the better. *sighs* At least this one had more action than romance. *applauds*

Sarah (Head Stuck In A Book) says

Just like the first book this one has a gorgeous cover as well although I do think that this one is definitely better, it's sooo pretty!

Iridescent continues on from where Ember left off, Candra and Sebastian are together, and Candra is still dealing with her grief after the tragedy in Ember (those who've read it will know exactly what I'm talking about), and also the knowledge that she is some kind of weapon who will save mankind, though no one really knows what she can/will do.

There is a new bad in town Lilith, and through the betrayal of another who is believed to be on the side of good, and the blackmail of Sebastian, it's not looking good for Candra and Sebastian, through the machinations of others and the believe that Candra is better off without him, Sebastian distances himself from Candra and ultimately pushes her into the arms of Draven, who is also in love with her.

While I really like Draven, it's Sebastian that Candra is meant to be with, and I was biting my nails hoping that Sebastian would come to his senses and that everything would work out between them, if anyone deserves happiness in this story it's Sebastian.

There is a lot of action packed into this book, and I felt that I couldn't read or turn the pages fast enough to

get to the end, but the question is will good triumph over evil?
And will our favourite couple find our way back to each other?
You definitely need to read this to find out and I promise you that you won't be disappointed!

Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says

In this sequel to *Ember* we get to see so much more. I want to Thank AToMR Tours for allowing me to be a part of this EPIC Tour! *Iridescent* picks up right where *Ember* leaves off. All Candra wants to do is save the world. She wants a world where there is peace and everyone gets along and no one has to suffer. Well that is not Candra's reality because she is smack dab in the middle of a war between good and evil. She is the angelic weapon the angels intend on using. She is the last hope for mankind.

Sebastian is very happy about being with Candra. He never thought he would fall in love with a Nephilim. He never thought he would have to fight Draven for Candra either. See Draven wants her for his own and he will stop at nothing to get her. What is an angel to do? Sebastian will have to pick his battles with Draven because one false move and he could lose Candra.

The city of Acheron is falling apart. The Arch is missing from Heaven and the demons are coming to claim the city. The city is full of lies, secrets, and corruption. With the city falling apart and Draven running wild what is Sebastian and Candra to do? Will the good out way the bad? Will Draven win Candra or will she stay with Sebastian and fight the good fight?

YA Novelties says

Check out our review of both *Ember* by Carol Oates and *Iridescent* by Carol Oates on our blog!

******WARNING**** This is a review of both *Ember* by Carol Oates and *Iridescent* by Carol Oates**

3.5 Stars

Angels seem to be the next big thing in YA paranormal. Much of the latest YA paranormals have been Nephilim based. Whether or not this emerging trend is a blessing or a curse is not a concern, but I have to say that this trend allows me to be thankful that a series like this one has come out. *Ember* and *Iridescent* together create a series that is rich in realistically conflicted characters and intricately woven writing.

Ember begins with Candra trapped in a conflict between angels and her relationship between her bodyguard, Sebastian, and acquaintance, Draven. The plot of *Ember* is somewhat mediocre, but the characters were so beautifully described and mysterious that I just couldn't look away. Each of the characters had his or her own secrets hidden from everyone else and those secrets were dark, disturbing, and helped the plot to be set apart from most others. Instead of being good vs. bad, everyone wasn't just black or white, they were all a variety of shades of gray.

In terms of plot, I felt *Ember* was flawed in its execution and presentation. For the first 100 or so pages, I was lost in this world of Nephilim. I had no idea what was going on, but as time went on, I was able to discern the the plot more easily and could along more easily with the events. If only the setting and world had been expanded on more, this book would've been more polished an exciting to read.

Meanwhile, *Iridescent* fared slightly better. Of course, the climatic buildup at the end slowed the book in the beginning. This time, the setting and conflict was already known, so I found it easier to following the events occurring. However, this does not mean that I found *Iridescent* an improvement over *Ember*. They still both had the shaky plots that drove me insane. Well, at least *Iridescent* had a more realistic portrayal of romance. *Ember* was insta-love, as *Iridescent* was more like love development and trials.

The thing that struck me most when reading *Ember* and *Iridescent* though was the beauty of the author's writing. Carol Oates has a true gift in writing. Despite its disappointing plot, the book was able to flow because of Oates' inherent ability to write with a voice that is so vivid and descriptive. Even as I was confused over the events at the beginning, I just couldn't resist the dream-like quality that the book possessed that was absolutely enchanting.

Overall, *Ember* and *Iridescent* were fascinating retellings of the Nephilim. Regardless of its numerous flaws, I was thrilled as I dived into this Nephilim world. I do recommend for anyone to try *Ember* and *Iridescent*, they're just reads that will leave you as conflicted and emotional as the characters are.

Angie @ YA Novelties

Nickle Love says

Originally published in Night Owl Reads.

I received an eARC copy of this book from the publisher as part of the tour. I enjoyed and loved reading the first book, *Ember*, and jumped to reading this one right away. The story picks up right where the first book left off, Candra and Sebastian are finally together but there's still a threat to everyone's existence. It was established that Candra is a weapon that no one has any idea what for, and dealing with the loss of her best friend isn't exactly helping anyone.

My favorite scene in this book can be found in chapter 12. Yes, I'm in this for the romance and the intimacy that makes me feel young and in love. I crave the intimacy Candra and Sebastian shared and it's kinda sad that I can only experience it from a book. Moving on...

Candra and Sebastian's relationship feels real and natural, their love isn't just about being together and being all lovey-dovey, they argue and pick fights like a normal couple. Their relationship is put to a test when a new villain comes to town and threatens the existence of Watchers and humans all together. There are twists in the story that I didn't expect and somehow made things worse, or better?, for the couple.

Another thing I liked in this book is that Draven, who seems likely to be the bad guy, isn't that bad at all. He's just not meant to be happy, I guess. As for Anachel, she did everything for her love for Draven. She may have been bad, but she meant well. Maybe.

The ending totally surprised me, I did not see that coming. I was confused at first because I thought I missed a whole chapter with a big jump like that. It did kinda feel like the end was rushed, but I still recommend it to everyone, you have to read it for yourself, you won't regret it.

Valerie says

4 stars - A twisting turning ride with a kick-butt ending!

This one picks up right where Ember left off and we are right back in the action. And if anyone thought that Draven had given up on Candra, they thought wrong.

I love the characters in this book. Candra is strong and ready to face that she's the weapon in this war between good and evil. She doesn't shy away. She doesn't look for anyone's protection. She loves Sebastian and he loves her. But will that be enough for either of them to survive. Speaking of Sebastian, I am totally team him! Love the guy. Bad boy affected by the love he has for Candra. He is just too yummy to believe!

As for the world that Carol creates, I really enjoyed it. It's not your normal angel/fallen angel kind of story, it's fresh and unique. I like that. The choices don't seem so clear cut as they are in most angel stories. I like that shades of gray. That lets the story hint at reality enough to make it so much more.

The story is fast paced and the pages flew by easily. I was eager to find out what would happen and the twists and turns had me guessing wrong, something else I like.

Great sequel to Ember. If you like angels or a different kind of angel story, or if you like the YA paranormal scene, then this series is for you!

Amber says

I loved Iridescent it was a lot more action packed than Ember was and had in my opinion less romance. I still loved it with all the drama. Iridescent seemed to be a lot more fast paced than the first too. Again Carol Oates kept me captivated and enthralled. I couldn't wait to get to the next page I couldn't turn the pages fast enough, I needed more. I cried and laughed and even got angry while reading this story, I love it when a book brings out my emotions, the more the better.

Candra is still recovering from the loss of her best friend, Ivy, when Lilith shows up claiming to be her. However this isn't so, Lilith has somehow captured Ivy's soul along with many others. Now it is up to Candra to send her back to where she came from and save the souls she had taken.

Now Ananchal, Draven's second in command and Sebastian's ex, is black mailing Sebastian, making him give up Candra or else. Now Sebastian leaves Candra thinking the worse of him in order to push her away, straight into the arms of Draven.

Even with all the loss Candra is going through she has no choice to stand up to Lilith. Lilith is not holding back and will stop at nothing to get what she wants: Candra's soul.

Beckie Treble says

Now, I love Carol, and I got the chance to help her with this book, back when it was Lilith. I need to read the new version but either way, it's gotta be better than back when I read Lilith. It was fabulous then, it's fabulous now. ♥

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

Carol Oates is an author that I look forward to reading her latest work. She has a way with words that I find very appealing. She definitely knows how to catch and keep my interest in her story. This book was no different.

The book picks up where "Ember" left off. Candra is suffering emotional trauma with the passing of her best friend. She doesn't get to rest from her role as a Nephilim. Immediately a new threat comes to town. Lilith throws her into another emotional spin.

Then of course, there are the two fallen angels vying for her attention. Lots of decisions and action in the book. If you love paranormal books that have fallen angels, nephilim, and demons, I think this book will be one that you will enjoy.

Because of some physical content I would recommend only to readers 16+.

Marissa says

After reading Ember, I just remember, looking forward to reading this next story, to continue Candra and Sebastian's story, and let me say first, this was pretty Awesome! It just was! I feel there is so much story that leads you to a few twists and turns. There are misunderstandings, possible betrayal, love, and an evil desire for power. I really liked how we read more into Candra and Sebastian's relationship and you will read some swooning like scenes and angst moments. There are some other unlikable characters, one new, and one you are probably familiar with from the last story. One threatens to tear Candra and Sebastian apart. The other one wants power over the city, and will do anything...anything to get it! Then there is Draven. You remember him? Well he is back, and actually I liked him here, as he is actually pretty sweet with Candra after a horrible situation that happens... something you have to read for yourself! Let me lastly say that there are definitely some shocking twists in the story, with wonderful writing, and oh my, the End! Wow, I now just really look forward to a third book, because you will definitely be leaving this read with wanting more :)
4.5/5

Emily Mcnew says

"Maybe heaven isn't back there. Maybe my heaven is right here, with her." *sigh* Love, love, LOVE it!
