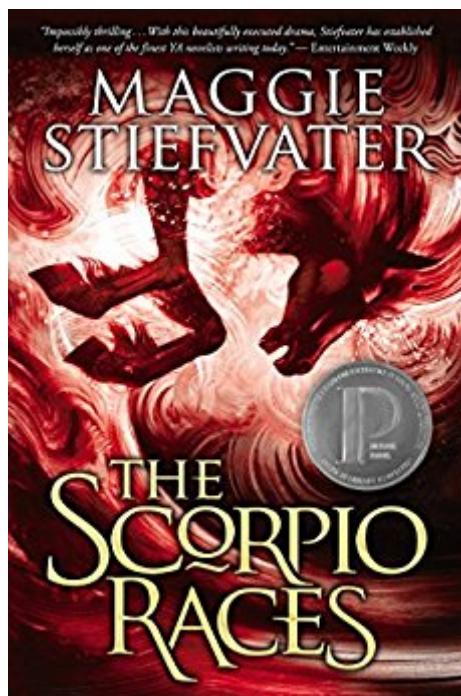


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The Scorpio Races



Synopsis

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Shiver* and *Linger* comes a brand new, heartstopping novel. Some race to win. Others race to survive. It happens at the start of every November: the Scorpio Races. Riders attempt to keep hold of their water horses long enough to make it to the finish line. Some riders live. Others die. At age nineteen, Sean Kendrick is the returning champion. He is a young man of few words, and if he has any fears, he keeps them buried deep, where no one else can see them. Puck Connolly is different. She never meant to ride in the Scorpio Races. But fate hasn't given her much of a choice. So she enters the competition - the first girl ever to do so. She is in no way prepared for what is going to happen. As she did in her bestselling *Shiver* trilogy, author Maggie Stiefvater takes us to the breaking point, where both love and life meet their greatest obstacles, and only the strong of heart can survive. The *Scorpio Races* is an unforgettable reading experience.

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Customer Reviews

What a great story. I love horses and just had to see what this was all about. The water horses are a

race of beings that live in the water, emerging to feed on flesh or drag you to a watery death. The thought makes me shiver. Every year, riders mount these monstrous beasts for the Scorpio Races. It's hard enough to win a regular horse race. In this race, you have to worry about surviving as much as winning. The characters are numerous and very genuine. Puck is a young lass willing to risk her life in the races. She lost her parents to the water horses, and now her older brother is leaving her and her younger brother Finn to fend for themselves. The money from the race would help save their home. Sean and his stallion, Corr, are four time winners of the races. He'll ride again this year, but the stakes are much higher. Puck and Sean have a growing attraction for each other. But both must win the race. I so loved this world and the characters that galloped through the pages, human and other. I wanted this one to win. And that one to win. This one to stay. That one to stay. I feared the worst and hoped for the best. This story is so much more than a race. I struggle to even tell you about it. There's desperation and hope, bravery and honor, magic and danger. And I couldn't have asked for a better final scene.

I was torn between 3 or 4 stars, but I decided it leaned a little towards the latter. I don't usually read much YA but Stiefvater came highly recommended to me so I gave her a shot and I liked it, liked it enough to get another one of her other books (*The Raven Boys*). As for this book: the writing was very accessible and the whole water horse thing was new to me, I didn't even know that they were already a thing until after I finished the book. As a whole, I think that the characters were a little underdeveloped, particularly the boys. Stiefvater definitely writes a better girl character. In fact, I think the whole novel was catered heavily towards women. Not a complaint, just an observation. I'm curious to see if the next novel will have the same feel to it. Characters aside, the story itself was good. It had a little love, some sorrow, a few stabbings, and lots of horses. It was a fun read and I will definitely recommend it to my niece--it's well-suited towards her age group. One last thing... it includes a recipe for November cakes at the end of book. I'm super stoked about it, I'm gonna have to get all Betty Crocker with it ASAP.

This book never gets old. NEVER. I cannot get enough of Thisby, Puck, Sean, Finn, Dove, or Cor. I love them all. I love their interactions, their love for one another, their hesitancy with each other, their love for horses--land and sea horses alike. I've made it a point to read this book each year and I missed it by about a week for the year of 2016. I'm sorry, but I'm not. I love that I could be on Thisby for The Scorpio Races in January. My plan is to revisit them in October/November when the water

horses make their way out of the sea and into Skarmouth, on to Thisby. If you've never read Maggie Stiefvater, this is an excellent starting point. In fact, I'm still standing by the fact that this is her best book. I may love those Aglionby Boys (because those books are beautiful in their own right), but they are no Sean and Puck. They aren't Thisby.

Based on the synopsis, I wasn't sure what to expect apart from a book about aggressive horses who apparently swim to shore from the sea. I was immensely surprised at how much I ended up loving this story! The main character is bold, brave and has the type of personality you root for long after the actual book has ended. She enters into a deadly race as the first ever female competitor and does everything she can to prove her capabilities and place amongst her hometown. The relationship is beautifully well built up with a realistic and enjoyable chemistry between the two main characters. I loved the sci-fi feel involved with the aggressive/dangerous horses and I was impressed with the overall creativity displayed by the author. This was a beautifully well written book that I highly recommend if the summary sparked even just a little bit of intrigue!

Only people interested in smoothly written and finely crafted fantasies that feel completely authentic should read this book. Oh, and if you like romance, you should read it. And, also, suspense--if that's your thing. Gritty, realistic relationships and family situations, if you're into that, it would be a good read for you. A fabulous but real heroine, if your books have to have that, this one's got it. If you want to think about beautiful things you haven't thought about before, or remember important things you've forgotten, open it up. If you love books that hit a certain stride where you have to stay up until 3 a.m. to finish them, this is the one for you. If you like boring autobiographies and memoirs or historical fiction, or issues-oriented books, this may not be your thing, but no guarantees. Wait! It did have a strong feminism thread, so you issues-oriented folks, maybe. Also, the world Stiefvater creates is based on history and myth, so I take that back about historical fiction readers. And it's sort of written in a memoir style, so... I gave it four instead of five stars because, well, I'm stingy with my five stars and I felt like it took a bit to hit its stride in the beginning. It was worth the wait, though. I think this book is categorized as YA, but it's appropriate for anyone who appreciates good story-telling.

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