



Tenacity

Auryn Hadley

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WAR, HEARTBREAK, MORE WAR...AND A NEW FRIEND

In the fifth epic of the Rise of the Iliri, Auryn Hadley interjects a compelling sci-fi action fantasy with a heart-warming tale of everyday community and the heart-wrenching reality of war—and the loss it mandates. **A jarring emotional roller coaster, *Tenacity* tells the age-old tale of pure love amidst a struggle between good and evil—but with a heaping dose of the light-hearted, cross-cultural birds and bees. This one has plenty of laughs. And plenty of heartbreak.**

Slowly, region by region, the Lieutenant Salryc Luxx and her elite Black Blades are pushing forward and liberating an enslaved nation from the emperor's reign of terror. But the battle's not without consequence.

While scoping out the quiet remains of a fallen town—too quiet, actually—they discover scores of slaughtered families. But they also discover life: a young girl, locked in a cage below a tavern. No one is certain exactly what she is. She has unusual streaks of red, blonde, and white hair, and two different-colored eyes. She's fluent in iliri language, and she's terrified. So terrified that when an officer approaches to unlock her, her fear burns a hole in his armor.

The girl's name is Shaden. She's too young to know what exactly her talents are, or how to control them, but she's powerful. Immediately recognizing Sal as the fabled Kaisae, she trusts only Sal. Meanwhile, as the Black Blades continue their assault on a city thought to be impenetrable, **Shaden manages to harness her power to help keep her newfound family of warriors safe.** But for Sal's part, Shaden triggers difficult emotional memories of her own enslavement as a girl. And her longing to free anyone she can.

With every win, Sal is bombarded by the thanks of those she rescued, and the disdain of those whose families she could not save. She can't sleep, she can't eat ... but she cannot stop fighting, either.

Victory is near. The Emperor is losing. He knows this. **He knows Sal's responsible, and he knows exactly how to destroy her—go after those she loves most.**

Women readers will thrill to the reverse harem idea that pushes the boundaries of epic fantasy in this breathtaking series that may remind some of *Avatar* without the scary beasts; or even *Game Of Thrones*, but happier, with more color—plus a dazzling female protagonist and plenty of action. Fans of Anne McCaffrey's *Dragonriders of Pern* will find Sal's planet Ogun a thrilling destination for their next fantasy fix.

Like all the books on this series, *Tenacity* is a complete novel, not a cliffhanger. And because the illiri have insatiable and exotic sexual instincts, the smoking hot sex may make it unsuitable for humans under 18.

Tenacity Details

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From Reader Review Tenacity for online ebook

Tiffany Wood says

Ok firstly read this crap at your own risk. Spoilers...big ones. So if you don't enjoy knowing bits and pieces ahead don't read this until after ya read this book. Ok secondly...DAMN YOU HADLEY!!!! Just just not even cool. I get why he had to die...but I had barely recovered from Zep!! For two hours TWO DAMN hours after I read the initial death scene I cried like a fucking baby. Those ugly sobs to...had my husband rushing in the room thinking something happened lol my answer was "that bitch killed him!!" apparently it's weird to cry over book characters? I normally don't write a review until I read the final book, then I rate the prior books and just add a full review about all in the finale....yeppp couldn't wait this time. Needed to bitch at someone that won't think I am completely insane about being heart broken over a fake person lol. I mean...why Blaec!!!! He was so amazing sometimes. Yeah sure sometimes he was too human and too far up his own arse to realize what he was doing. But the symbol of him, the things he did...it was so powerful. And then ya just gotta take him from me just so not cool. I blame you completely for my ugly sobs, you know this right :P? And then Kolt wtf!!!!!! I am normally really great at predicting how a story goes, at least a couple chapters prior...but nope ya hit me like a damned freight train with that one. Ok..done being mad at you..sorta. I have quite literally forced my best friend to start this series (she hates RH books with a passion) lol told her if she didn't read it that I got to write her book reviews for the next year...a very valid threat if you knew her. She just finished the first and is hooked lol. Well I will save the rest of my review when I finish the others in a day or two. Hopefully I can actually get some sleep once I am done lol.

Kylie Johnson says

Book 5: Tenacity

Remember how, at the beginning of this series, Sal was a slave, Blaec was LT and human, Zep thought he was human, Cyno was nearly feral, and the Blades were a special force of the Conglomerate? Yeah everything is officially backward and forward, sideways and upside down from that. This book... like the others so much happens, but it really reaches a head here.

I will be honest, there were huge sections of this book that I skipped. Like whole chapters. The story just wasn't moving fast enough for me, and I found that skipping pages and pages didn't affect the story line much. I was able to pick right up with the story with no struggle at all.

The development of relationships and alliances. The strength of the Anglian military is outstanding... too much so. Yes this is a fantastical, dystopian, whatever story. However even in the story line it is unrealistic. Sal and Zep, Sal and Jase, Sal and Blaec... just wow. The redeeming quality of this book, is the development of the Kaisae and the Anglian army. That is it. Well maybe that and the fact that Hadley is so amazing at using body language and touch in her stories. To the Iliri, touch and body language is HUGE in communication. To really get the understanding of the book, it's crucial to pay attention to it at every single interaction. The rest of the book is truly awful and I am looking at it more as a place holder. It was a rough go with this one for sure.

Guys. The deaths. The deaths...

Finally, we are presented with what it truly truly means to be Iliri in this book. In every way possible.

Remember the soldier that reminded Sal that she could still fight? The one that cared for her when she was a slave? That didn't force himself on her? He's baaaaaacckkkkkk. And I love him.

My ongoing review for this entire series as I read is at kyyzillathebookdevourer.blogspot.com

Cassandra MADEUP BookBlog says

As always with the Rise of The Iriri series, I was entirely hooked on this until the very last page, and as is the way with her writing, there are many amazing moments throughout.

This instalment of the Iriri Series has left me destroyed in several ways. As to the plot line, I cannot say much without ruining the shocks and surprises along the way, other than to say that Auryn has once again stepped it up in surprising ways, that will both amaze, horrify, and generally astonish readers.

The storyline has twists and situations that you won't expect, to the point in my case of gasping out loud. The Author has a talent for making you feel multiple emotions all at the same time, you can admire, dislike, love and fear for a Character all at the same time. Such a rush and mixture of emotion would be draining you might think, but it's invigorating. There are very few Authors who can write well enough to break your heart whilst putting it back together at exactly the same time, and it is that type of talent that makes this series amazing.

Throughout the story so far, I have had characters that I respect, dislike, and want to hug all at the same time. The Characters are so diverse and complex that we can understand and empathise with their decisions, even whilst wanting to scream and rage about them at the same time.

I have flown through this book, staying up until early hours of the morning because I simply forgot to look up from what I was reading in order to check the time.

I have enjoyed the very different perspectives we get of the Characters, and a new side to Sal and Blaecs relationship that is brought forth in a truly shocking way. This is a very powerful story, that considers various topics.

I've loved seeing Zep, Sal and Jase continue to build their relationship, and read about all the differences in their actions and emotions as a result, seeing how they act towards and around one another is beautifully handled, the Cessivi element to the story being incredibly well described so that you can almost feel what they are feeling.

If you have enjoyed the books up until this point, you're going to love this! But... perhaps have snacks and drinks nearby. You won't want to put this down...

Reena Jacobs says

A little tedious but I'm enjoying the story line

I feel sort of bad reviewing this, because if I've read it up to the fifth book I feel like I should be a devoted follower who is giving the books 5 stars. Unfortunately, that's not the case. I am definitely enjoying the storyline. However, the writing is an always stellar. In many Of the story arcs it seems like the author is beating a dead horse. On the plus side the author continues to introduce new elements that make me want to read the next book.

In this novel, I feel the author made a strategic move to get rid of a main character Who really wasn't moving the story forward. I don't want to say she replaced him with someone better, but I feel like she replaced him with someone better. In my opinion, it's given the interpersonal dynamics of Sal's pack a boost.

Some things I struggle with, which is why the three stars, is the world building seems a little inconsistent. Sometimes Sal is a demon who can't be stopped, while other times she seems weak and helpless. I have a hard time understanding how she can be taken off guard and captured so easily at times.

The maast also seems a little bit weird. The Sexual nature of it almost seems forced at times. It's as if the author uses mass as a way to bridge or explain relationship between the characters when it's not necessary.

Even with the areas I don't really buy into, I am loving the direction the series is moving. The new girl, shade, has captured me. Arctic has become pretty sexy. I'm curious to see where the new Starfall guy fits in As well as the Emperor's son.

Finally, I want it in with one thing that continues to nag me throughout the series. It's the superiority of the iliri. Why does one species have to be superior to the other? Can't each species recognize the strengths and weaknesses of each other without trying to lord things over another?

A Little Nerdy says

My heart will forever be scarred.....

Andrew Palmer says

I read books 1-8 in quick succession so am giving a review on the series, to date.

The world building is excellent. Humans colonize a distant world, low on metals and with indigenous life. Thousands of years later, the resulting society is one of basically medieval tech, but with ceramics and resin replacing metals. Very clever extrapolation and made more interesting with the integration of the indigenous life.

The series is both a Sci-Fi/Paranormal-esque epic adventure and a romance. The heat level of the romance rises throughout the series, not hitting 'erotic' levels until about Book 7 and starting relatively low, though all well written at the heat levels they're at. I mention this because this switch/transition may surprise some readers. At times, the balance between the epic adventure and the romance is off a bit, throwing off the pacing of the overall story, but not so much as to want you to stop reading - it remains engaging throughout.

The plot, and plot twists, of the epic adventure are well done, creating a well-crafted story that could stand alone, even without the romance. There are some quibbles around how the military is organized, specifically around unit sizes and organization, but unless you have a background in the area or read a lot of military fantasy/historicals you probably won't notice. The fight scenes are well done, even if all in the contexts of small skirmishes.

Overall, I'm thoroughly enjoying this series. It's based in a wonderfully crafted world and includes some amazing elements. It's only some nits about how these elements are put together that keeps this from getting 5 stars.

C.S. says

So good

Such an amazing story!!

SPOILERS

I'd heard a spoiler about this book, #5, that had me scared. Something really bad happens. I cried a lot. I knew it was coming since book 2. I almost didn't keep reading that one, knowing what was coming. This story is just so good and each book gets better.

So yea, I cried, a lot. The story though continues to grow into this lively beautiful thing. An entire continent joining together. People changing and growing. Not just one or two, but entire nations.

So be warned. Have Kleenex, but it's worth it.

Dyantha Bogerd says

SPOILERS !!!!!

I am horrible at writing reviews so this one will be a mess, it won't be in any order, but I really had to say my peace :P

Shade is a nice addition to the group and I really can't wait until Artic and her spent there 'first' time together and I know well I hope so bad that will happen.

Staying with Artic, when he and Sal had their talk and where Sal opened up about the mysterious man who's name she did not know but smelled like hope, and where he vowed to himself he wanted to find the man, I could not wait to meet him. I could not wait for him to be found and for him to emerge himself in the group, but for some reason I imagined him another friend or some type of father figure just like Ran would be like) Oh boy was I wrong and I will complain about him a little later)

So Blaec died :(and I cried, His and Sal's last moments were heartbreaking. and I am really sad he is gone. The fact is Blaec never was my favourite, even after finding out why he held back, I liked the other Characters more but his loss I did feel strongly. Also we heard about a link breaking because of Circ but getting to experience it with the other it was heartbreaking.

Now the venting! I really really really don't like Kolt, and while Blaec can't be replaced and while when Sal was grieving he mentioned he will never be like him I feel like he is the replacement. He pushes the wrong buttons with me, it's not the fact that he is dominant and will not go down with a fight, it's the fact that he

gloats about it. I know he is important to the story and his time will come, but the way he acted towards Zep really pissed me off, the way he went back down and kept fighting. Zep is insecure even with being Cessivi and he pushed on that. The fact that he is going to be linked in worries me and I don't see myself liking him in the future. Maybe it's because he came to soon after Blaec died, and maybe it's because she grieved with Kolt, instead of her pack. And because he is the replacement of Blaec, getting his sword his tent.

Sarah Ashley Shirey says

Do NOT be afraid of this book no matter what anyone says! This book is honestly one of THE most moving and incredible books I've ever read. If you really want a book that will make you catch your breath, bring you to tears, and leave you completely undone, this is the series for you because this book did all of those things. I am a crazy avid reader (like hundreds of books a year because I'm pretty much always listening to them on my kindle) and I can say that this book honestly was only the second book to ever completely bring me to tears. It is also the only book to ever bring me to tears the second time I read it. And yes, even though you know what's going to happen, it's worth it to read it over and over. It's not because of what happens in the book that makes you cry but it's the WAY in which Auryn writes it that takes your breath away. Because of the way the characters are all linked together, you can FEEL everything they feel. You feel like you know exactly what they are experiencing! Have no fear, everything that happens to these wonderful characters happens for a reason! There's some difficult moments but the journey that they are on has to happen exactly as intended. I promise you, this book is totally worth the strain on your heart! :)

Puna says

Grab a glass of wine, this is going to take awhile.....I'm going to be completely honest, completely transparent and it may not be the opinions that others have. I'm a fan of this series. I've enjoyed it from the very start. I love the feral ways of the iliri, the predators of the grauri and not everyone is as they seem. They define who they are by what's on the inside not on the outside.

I've had problems with this series because Blaec was my favorite from the very beginning. And I **HATED** the way I saw his character play out. I knew what would happen to him. He was replaceable and now I know why. I'm so disappointed. I can't stress this enough. I can't even think about him or a burst out into ugly tears. I think he deserved better. I love him so much that I'm blaming Sal. Which isn't a good thing. I strongly, strongly, strongly, dislike the way this book played out. If you love LT, then don't even bother with this book. Or you'll be like me, getting angrier and angrier the more you read on. (view spoiler)

I will read the next book (view spoiler)

Overall: 3/5

Chelsey Nixon says

#SpoilerWarrior

Holy crap. I read the first four books of the series quite awhile ago, and then just walked away from it one chapter into book 5 and honeybruhs, was that a mistake. This book was amazing. It had emotions and feels and more feels and love and loyalty and although Zep is kind of getting on my nerves, I can't wait to see where it goes.

Anna says

**“No one can let you down if you haven't been leaning on them.” Her finger caressed the pendant.
"Maybe it's time to start leaning”**

This book turned out to be something I did not prepare for. I got quite used to the writing and general feelings these books bring forth and I got pretty comfortable with it all, so the emotional punch here caught me completely off guard.

Blaec. Even though I damn well knew it was coming for a while now and even though I thought that I was prepared... I wasn't. Not for how it was presented. It hit me hard, way harder than I expected. The way it was written, showing the event from different angles, basically hitting you in the same place over and over again... the way the author managed to convey all the emotions is enough reason to give this book five stars.

There were of course a lot of other things that happened here - like the situation with Shade, Arctic and Audgan (two males who I was sure were meant for Sal, but actually weren't). Then there is Kolt and all the secrets and possibilities that come with him.

The war with Terran and the Emperor who turned out to be even more than anyone expected. Also, I'm pretty sure that he's building himself a space ship to fly off back to Earth.

But honestly? All of that pales in comparison to the main point of the story, so I'm not gonna say any more about it. I need to go find a quiet corner to sit and think.

Julie Selby says

I binge read all seven of these books that is how great they are. I cannot wait for the remaining books to be released. Each book had its moments. Some made me laugh out loud, others made me cry. The one thing I found most refreshing about this series is that it is reverse harem but its not about sex. I really appreciated that this was a book series where I could enjoy the characters and the journey complete with it's ups and downs without every other page being about them all going at it. It was a subtle sexual tension but by no means was it lacking anything. I also have to apologize to the author as i saw these books a while ago but due to my being a cover snob I never gave them the chance due to my thinking they looked too science fiction for my tastes. Boy was I wrong! I really want to encourage people to give this series a chance. It blew my mind and I couldn't put them down.

Tara Hawkins says

Umso... (Spoiler Alert)

I cannot remember the last time a book made me cry so much. Okay I am so upset about this that I can't forgive you for his loss. Why? I ask you why you would make such a horrible thing happen. You broke my heart for the Blades. Even now I am still crying because Blaec was a favorite of mine. But I now know why he never let Sal in. I'm so sad. I feel the loss and this is all fictional. You know a book is that amazing when it affects like this. Still pissed that you killed off LT.

Alisha Thompson says

Okay.... readers beware this is a hard book to get through I thought the last book was it for me emotionally but this one ruined me, I mean ugly crying !!!!! Such great writing by Auryn you can't help but feel a semblance of what the characters feel.

I've always said that I love Sal that she is my spirit animal and that hasn't changed, but I like how this one doesn't just focus on her relationships but we get a glimpse into Arctic's. I have a bit of a soft spot for him and always hoped him and Sal would become more than they are but he has found his mate. Shades story is heartbreaking and Arctic is willing to wait, such a great guy!!

There are many twists, especially now they are preparing to return to the CFC to beat back the Emperor and save their countrymen, but be prepared to have a box of tissues on hand!
