



# Silence

*Mercedes Lackey , Cody Martin*

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**Silence** Mercedes Lackey , Cody Martin

*NEW YORK TIMES* BEST-SELLING AUTHOR. ENTRY #9 IN MERCEDES LACKEY'S CELEBRATED SERRATED EDGE URBAN FANTASY SERIES!

Teenager Staci's father has just remarried, and now she finds herself being shunted aside by her new stepmother. Shunted all the way to the run-down and dying Maine town of Silence, in fact, and the custody of her alcoholic mother.

It gets worse. Silence seems to be stuck in the proverbial stone age. There's no cell phone service except at the very top of a bluff outside of town, no internet except dialup, and not one familiar franchise or business. Staci's mom seems to have gotten even *worse* since the last time Staci lived with her. The only bright spots in the whole place are a friendly waitress at the diner, and a bookstore where she meets a gaggle of geeks and gamers.

But all is not as it seems in Silence. There are strange things moving beneath the shabby surface, terrible plots in play, and deadly players in the game, and Staci is about to find herself caught up in the middle of it all.

## **SERRAted Edge Series**

*Born to Run* (#1) by Mercedes Lackey and Larry Dixon

*Wheels of Fire* (#2) by Mercedes Lackey and Mark Shepherd

*When the Bough Breaks* (#3) by Mercedes Lackey and Holly Lisle

*Chrome Circle* (#4) by Mercedes Lackey and Larry Dixon

*Stoned Souls* (#5) by Mercedes Lackey

*Elvendude* (#6) by Mark Shepherd

*Spiritride* (#7) by Mark Shepherd

*Lazerwarz* (#8) by Mark Shepherd

*The Chrome Borne* (omni contains *Born to Run* and *Chrome Circle*) by Mercedes Lackey and Larry Dixon

*The Other World* (omni contains *When the Bough Breaks* and *Wheels of Fire*) by Mercedes Lackey, Mark Shepherd and Holly Lisle

## **Silence Details**

Date : Published April 5th 2016 by Baen

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# From Reader Review Silence for online ebook

## annapi says

Mercedes Lackey's collaborations are hit-and-miss. This one is more miss than hit, though the ones with Rosemary Edgehill are worse, so by comparison this isn't so bad. But still it's a disappointment, after the first two books of the series in collaboration with her husband, which were very good. Subsequent books in the series were less so, and this follows along that line.

This particular book seems more geared to the YA set. Plot is simplistic, lots of cliches, dialogue and resolution leave much to be desired. When her father marries again, 16-year-old Staci is shuttled off to live with her alcoholic mother in the small dying town of Silence, Maine. She catches the eye of the rich Sean Blackthorne, whose family just about owns everything in town. But something is not quite right with the preternaturally beautiful Blackthornes and the handsome biker rogue Dylan, and when Staci discovers they are elves, she finds out her troubles are just beginning.

I thought the book had potential, but the pacing was too slow, and then the resolution seemed simplistic and rushed. For a younger audience these flaws are easily overlooked, and the story is decent enough, but there is much better fare out there.

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## Courtney says

3.5 stars

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## Kathy Martin says

Sixteen-year-old Staci finds herself pushed aside when her father remarries. They send her to Silence, Maine, to live with her alcoholic mother. Silence is the town that time forgot. The weather is always gloomy; cell phones only get a bar or so when a person is at the top of Make-out Hill; the only internet is dial-up. It is quite a change for a girl who grew up in New York City.

She gradually meets some other kids and becomes part of the nerdy group that hangs out at the local bookstore playing role playing games. The store is run by a mysterious guy named Tim. She also makes the acquaintance of another mysterious guy named Dylan who rides a really cool motorcycle. Then she catches the attention of Sean Blackthorne who is the son of the richest family in town. He begins inviting her to hang out at his palatial escape where she meets his assorted cousins and his father.

She soon learns that Sean and his family are elves from the Unseleighe court who have evil plans for the people of Silence. Dylan has come to try to disrupt those plans but needs Staci's help because she has an in to the estate. He begins to teach her magic since she has some elven blood. She proves to be surprisingly adept and an independent thinker who can use the magic she knows in creative ways.

This story has adventure, danger, friendships, and even a hint of romance. Fans of the Serrated Edge series and other fans of urban fantasy will enjoy this entertaining story.

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## Virginia says

I'm really glad I checked this out from the library instead of buying it. This book reads nothing like the other Serrated Edge series. It feels like a ploy to prey on fans like me who miss this series. I'm disappointed in this book.

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## Nick says

Until the final chapter, I was going to give this a fourth star. Both as an addition to the Serrated Edge series and as a fantasy novel readable by both adults and teens, this seemed like one that I could recommend.

Then, the final chapter had a clunker that was so bad that it ruined the ending for me.

You know how it is, when a big battle is over in a story and one of the characters just has to make a closing speech? Well, in this book that happens BEFORE THE BATTLE IS OVER, and in a way that was so forced and unbelievable that it was appalling. It completely took me out of the story, and felt jarringly out of character, because it reinforced everything bad that one of the characters had been saying, something that up until that point had been wrong. Worse, because the battle was not resolved, it made the character look like a complete idiot, something that he was not, up to that point.

For the most part, this is a rural version of an urban fantasy, because it takes place in a very small town in New England. The main character, Staci, has found herself in a Wicked Stepmother story, as her father has remarried. He exiles his daughter to live with her alcoholic mother. While we eventually learn some of the reasons for her alcoholism, she's still a really horrible and unfit mother, so both of her parents come across as really awful. The dad at least feels guilty enough to provide Staci with spending money.

The small town is basically owned by a rich family that lives nearby, and Staci slowly encounters the local characters, including a mysterious biker, a bookstore owner, and a few teens her own age. Then Sean, the teenaged boy of the super-rich family, takes an interest in her in a way that clearly seems odd, and the story takes off. Much of the story migrates to the home of the super-rich family, and the plot slowly unfolds.

One of the things I really enjoyed was how real the "regular" teen characters were, the ones that Staci spends time hanging around with. The other teens in the town are never anything more than window-dressing, and they never matter except when they're getting drunk or being endangered. So, there's kind of a weird dichotomy between the realistic characters and the cardboard ones.

There's a slight fantasy-romance aspect to the story, too, as Staci finds herself attracted to two of the male characters over the course of the story, but in one case it's part of the plot.

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## Kathy Davie says

Ninth in the SERRATED Edge paranormal fantasy series — this story is very Young Adult, and part of the overall Elves on the Road urban fantasy series. The series began around a group of elves fascinated by race cars; *Silence* has a different focus. If you're interested, there is a chronological listing of the overall Elves on the Road books on my website.

## My Take

I can not even begin to believe Staci's father. His ex has never been reliable or safe for Staci to be around, and he's packing her off??? He should be reported to Child Services! What a hen-pecked namby-pamby!

How does he even make it as a lawyer?? I have to admit that Staci does play him well, as she should. The jerk. I don't think much of Staci's New York friends either.

Besides the lack of reception, Silence is the most depressing place. Everyone slumps about, mumbles that nothing can be done. The only real work is at the cannery.

Luckily, Staci picks up with the gamers — it's that need for Internet access, lol — and there's a definite curiosity from the kids about what the Blackthornes get up to. *They'll* never be invited, as they have "nothing to recommend" them, but they are fascinated and repelled by Staci getting an invitation.

There's a lack of effort put into *Silence* with the story rolling along without any great dips of emotion or tension, well, other than how nasty Brenda is and events with the Blackthornes, but even that takes such a long time to get somewhere. I guess what annoyed me the most is all those opportunities to pump up the drama that were smoothed right over. Staci definitely annoyed me with how much time Lackey/Martin spent *telling* us that she was worrying that Sean didn't like her. Oh, woe \*eye roll\*. It certainly wasn't helped by Dylan assuming that Staci would fall right into playing undercover agent (when Lackey and Martin could remember). Not even Tim's attitude is all that believable. If he truly felt as he says, why is he even in Silence?

*Silence* has a mild tension throughout with my main curiosity being why it's such a depressing place so far back in time technology-wise. I can't imagine having to live somewhere without Internet access!! As for the ending. What??? Huh??? Staci at least does learn the value of true friends and how to tell the difference.

### The Story

Teenager Staci's father has just remarried, and now she finds herself being shunted aside by her new stepmother. Shunted all the way to the run-down and dying Maine town of Silence, in fact, and the custody of her alcoholic mother.

It gets worse. Silence seems to be stuck in the proverbial stone age. There's no cell phone service except at the very top of a bluff outside of town, no internet except dialup, and not one familiar franchise or business. Staci's mom seems to have gotten even worse since the last time Staci lived with her. The only bright spots in the whole place are a friendly waitress at the diner, and a bookstore where she meets a gaggle of geeks and gamers.

But all is not as it seems in Silence. There are strange things moving beneath the shabby surface, terrible plots in play, and deadly players in the game, and Staci is about to find herself caught up in the middle of it all.

### The Characters

Anastasia "**Staci**" Kerry is a senior in high school who is suddenly forced to leave her home in New York City. Her drunk of a mother, **Paula Kerry**, is a waitress at the Rusty Bucket in Silence, Maine. The lecherous **Pete** (his name is actually Patrick) is Mom's current boyfriend. **Melinda** is Mom's friend. Her father, is a lawyer who has recently remarried. **Brenda** is the false stepmother, all sweetness and nice until she's got that ring on her finger. **Tommy** is Brenda's precious son.

**Dylan ap Gwynnerian ap Griffud** is an elf of the Emerald Thorn clan who has broken with **Fairgrove Industries** and now works as a private investigator. **Metalhead** is his elvensteed who prefers to be a motorcycle.

*Silence is...*

...a town stuck in the 1950s with a curfew. There's only dial-up Internet with cellphone reception up on **Makeout Hill**.

**Tim** owns the bookstore where the gamer/geek nerds hang out: "**Jedi**" **Seth** has the ubergeek Force Knowledge to help Staci get set up. **Wanda** is Goth girl. **Riley**, the redhead, and **Jake** are a couple.

The skater kids include **Ken** and **Stan Jennis**, **Larry Green**, **Jerry Krause**, and **Tom Pendergras**. The science nerds are **Mary Krause**, **Bill Schoeder**, **Bob Flint**, **Kyle Peterson**, and **Maureen Silk**. The Goths include **Sue "Valentina" Griffin**, **Eric "Vlad" White**, **Brittany "Bella" Hailey**, **Rob "Blade" Ketcham**, and **Kelsey "I'm-a-mega-bitch-and-play-with-dead-things-because-it's-creepy" Johnson**.

The **Blackthornes** are the premier family in Silence and live out on Gray Oak Hill. The heir, **Sean**, is a senior at the local high school. More of the family includes **Meaghan**, **Brigit**, **Patrick**, **Ian**, **Caelen**, **Finn** (he is not a team player), **Siobhan**, **Niamh**, **Morrigan** is a cousin with an interest in Goth, **Liam**, **Connor**, **Niall**, and **Aengus**. **Bradan** is Sean's father. His particular cronies include **Ryan Dubghail**, **Lynch Collins**, **Nolan Gearlait**, and **Stewart Casey**. **Padrick** is the family chauffeur. **Harris** is a butler or footman. **Hunter** is muscle.

**Ray** owns and cooks for the **Diner**, the main place to eat in Silence. **Beth Phillips** is the easygoing waitress. **Reverend Franklin** and his wife, **Eloise**; **Fred and Thelma Krause**; and **Joe and Evelyn White** put on a once-a-month barbecue for teens at the First Methodist church.

**Krupke** is a cop who hired the young thugs.

**Kenning** is a type of magic which allows elves to duplicate anything they want.

### **The Cover and Title**

The cover is almost pitch black with a flaming, wavering red, far in the background with more red outlining the letters in the gray metallic title and the series information and around the white letters of the authors' names, and reflecting off the back end of Dylan's motorcycle, which you can barely see in the bottom left where it's tucked under the black silhouette of a bare-branched tree. Dylan is leaning against his parked bike, mesmerized by the electrical pulses sparking from his gloved left hand.

The title is both the town and a metaphor for its citizens, for all are in *Silence* about progress and the missing.

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### **Becky says**

Meh anything I've got to say about this had already been written in other reviews. Just make sure you get it from the library and don't waste your money

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### **Mark A says**

Only relationship to the Serrated Edge novels is a couple of mentions of Fairgrove Industries. Otherwise, this is a YA romance with, at most, 10% supernatural.

I love Mercedes Lackey, and assume she lent her name but really had little else to do with this novel.

The others in this series include teens and young adults as major characters, but none could be considered romances. And the hero bounces from one to another to another (not a good role model for a modern feminine character).

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### **Bea Charmed says**

When I saw this book available at NetGalley, I ran to request it. Long ago, I loved this series, and have fond memories of it. I had no idea she had a new book out in that world and was shocked to discover that I had missed several books in the middle of the series over the years. That wasn't a problem as the book easily stood alone; there were hints at events in earlier books but you could jump in with this one. I wouldn't recommend it though. Maybe my expectations were too high since I had such fond memories of those first books in the series but this was a let down. In fact, several times I came close to not finishing but just saying the heck with it. :(

This was a bleak book; bleak story, bleak setting, bleak events. The earlier books I had read weren't happy happy joy joy but they had hope and there was light and humor. This, this was like being in a long dark tunnel with no good way to turn. Again, it may have been my expectations. Someone without my expectations might enjoy it more.

The concept of magically cutting off the town of Silence so it was technologically cut off was interesting; Lackey's typical harsh and dysfunctional family life was at the forefront once again; our elven hero was actually a jackass and that was a shock for me. The attitude toward elves in this book was dark, distrustful, and even hateful. It surprised me and I didn't like it. Most of the twists I saw coming. All around, this book just didn't work for me.

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### **Lynn says**

#### **Silence needs to be quieter**

I was so excited about this book but I had to force myself to finish it. Plot was poor, characters were weak, dialogue boring. Good guy rides off leaving the heroine alone without her boyfriend. Worst Mercedes Lackey book I ever read.

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### **Snail in Danger (Sid) Nicolaides says**

I went on a 90s (and earlier) fantasy nostalgia binge recently, which led to me re-reading lots of Mercedes Lackey. I was mildly surprised to see that she'd co-written a new SERRATED Edge book recently, so I grabbed it from the library.

This isn't much like the earlier books in the series; it feels like an attempt to reboot by adapting to and riffing on current YA conventions. (I've heard that the earlier books were to some extent a response to the Borderland series, but don't have a citation for that, so take it for what it's worth.)



Unfortunately, I found myself generally uninterested in the main character. Instead, I was following along mainly to see if it would be revealed that there was something other than the surface motivations to the stepmother (didn't happen).

There's a character who switches sides, and if they showed up in a sequel, I'd read that to see what happened with them. There are also hints that the group of elves that we know from the previous novels in the series might make an appearance. If they did, again, I'd read the sequel for that. But I wouldn't read it for Staci, based on this book.

Staci isn't bad, as a person or as a character. She just didn't jump off the page at me, and her story didn't excite me. I should probably note that I've generally moved on from reading YA; I was heavily into it for a few years (despite having aged out of the category, strictly speaking), but I don't find as many exciting things there anymore. If this were the story of how Staci's mom got to be the way she is, and where she is, that might be exciting. But it would almost certainly not be YA.

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### **Kessily Lewel says**

I love Mercedes Lackey. I've loved almost every book by her I've read, and that's most of them. This series has always been dear to my heart since it's about elves hiding in modern society and quite often rescuing unwanted and abused children. Old mythology about Elves often has them stealing children, Lackey turned that into rescuing instead. Since they so rarely have children of their own they can't stand to see one abused.

I fell in love with the idea that there was hope out there for these poor lost kids and so this series has always been one of my favorite from her. But as much as I wanted to like this book I didn't really. I didn't hate it. It was an okay read. It just wasn't what I've grown to expect from her at all.

It wasn't the predictable trope of the inattentive distant father, spiteful stepmother, and alcoholic mom that bothered me, like it has some reviewers. Things are sometimes a trope because they are actually common, and this situation is far from unrealistic. It really bothered me that.... okay to be honest it felt a bit like fan fiction. This girl, just an average teenage girl attracts the attention of the two hottest guys around, okay. The right kid wants her for plot reasons and that's fine.

The elf who is hundreds of years old wants her because... ?!?! I have no clue. She's really not special or unique in anyway and I'm confused what he could see in a girl who can't be more than a toddler to him. It's every teen girl's fantasy, as evidence by Twilight, but it just didn't connect as plausible to me. I honestly think I'm only giving it 3-stars because I love the rest of the series otherwise it would get 2.

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### **Joy Touchstone says**

#### **The worst of the serrated edge books**

The only reason I am giving this book two stars is because I was excited to see the return of the urban fantasy series. But this book was pretty awful. It was very badly written and the characters were mere sketches. And the plotting? Dreadful. The entire book felt like a decent fanfic written on An Archive of their Own. In fact some of those there ARE much better written. I actually was ok with the set up for the story.

Staci had potential but deteriorates as the story goes. Dylan...well he was so badly written, little more than a plot device, and the way his last scene was handled? I couldn't believe I was reading a work by professional writers. I actually was torn between dismay and laughter. Not what I think was intended. Anyway, there are so many inconsistencies in this book and irritating little writing idiosyncrasies (like the constant use of the phrase "the gang") that after a while the reader just throws up her hands and tries to rush through to get to the end. I really felt burned by this book. I very much regret letting my excitement over a new Serrated Edge book lead me to buying this book before it had more reviews. My advice would be don't buy this. Borrow from a friend or the library if you want to read but seriously, we can't reward publishers and authors for putting out product as poorly written as this if they expect us to pay \$8 or more for it. I can't believe Mercedes Lackey had anything to do with this. I am going to console myself and blame it on the cowriter.

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### **Brian Palmer says**

This book won't win many prizes for original setting -- it's yet another teenage girl with absentee parent issues who moves to a small town and attracts the attention of a rich and mysterious fellow student. (The tone is a bit erratic; at parts it's self-aware and mocks Twilight-like narrative, and at others it just toes the line). The main character, Staci, is effectively abandoned by her parents: the father manipulated by the fairy-tale like manipulative stepmother, the mother a hard-drinking waitress who's rarely home physically and never present mentally. It reminded me of Lackey's earlier work *The Lark and the Wren* but dialed up to 11. The ending is a little shaggy dog, as it is clearly based on a well-worn RPG story floating about the Internet, (view spoiler)

If you don't take it seriously, and nod through the very well-worn genre set pieces as they're ticked off, it's breezy YA -- the one standout to me is the town in its depression felt real (surprisingly, more real than the generic gaming bookstore or diner where much of the exposition is set). I expect it would play better with actual young adults, though.

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### **Jess says**

My mom gave me the first SERRATED Edge novel when I was a teenager. I loved it and all the books in the series after. They connected well with my teenage self, but rereading them as an adult, they still hold up as well written stories with characters a reader easily connects with and cares about.

This book...is not that. It's a poorly rehashed version of Twilight. Yes, there's an attempt to counter some of Twilight's more damaging themes, but regardless, it basically follows Twilight, right down to the setting and lead character's back story. Missing is Mercedes Lackey's ease with dialogue, compelling back stories and complex characters and all that is left is a whining, self-indulgent, petulant "heroine" and about a billion references to clothes and shopping and hot boys, as if that's all that teenage girls respond to in a lead female character.

I don't know what happened with this book, but Misty totally lost the plot.

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