



The Warrior

Sharon Sala

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John Nightwalker is a strong, rugged Native American soldier who has seen many battles. While hunting down an old enemy, he crosses paths with Alicia Ponte. On the run from her father—a powerful arms manufacturer—Alicia seeks to expose her father's traitorous crimes of selling weapons to our enemies in Iraq. But Richard Ponte will do anything to stay below the radar...even if it means killing his own daughter.

Drawn to the mystery that surrounds Alicia, John feels compelled to protect her. Together they travel through the beautiful yet brutal Arizona desert to uncover deadly truths and bring her father to justice. But their journey is about to take an unexpected turn...one that goes deep into the past.

The Warrior Details

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From Reader Review *The Warrior* for online ebook

Sara says

I might call this paranormal, but it's more mystical in nature. A warrior from an early American Indian tribe witnessed the massacre of his village and was granted immortality until he could avenge his people on the soul of the man who slaughtered them for a few trinkets. Over 500 years later, he encounters a woman on the run from her father, an arms dealer guilty of treason, and knows that if he can kill this man, his journey will come to an end. Lots of running hither and thither and a couple of murder contracts later, things finally come to a satisfying conclusion--along with some strange "coincidences" of past lives, etc. A pretty good read.

Melissa says

I thought this book had a lot of potential that it just never lived up to. I liked the idea of the John being immortal until he shed the blood of the man who killed all his tribe but the relationship the hero and heroine really fell flat for me. I didn't ever see a real connection between them to move that relationship along or make it interesting.

jenjn79 says

Another solid book from author Sharon Sala. I was hooked right from the start. *The Warrior* is a very vibrant and emotional tale that had me reading even when I had other things to do.

The story begins with a prologue that takes place 500 years earlier. Night Walker is a second chief to his tribe, which sits on the Georgia coastline. He knows something bad is coming, he feels it. Then a greedy, heartless explorer arrives and he and his men slaughter the entire tribe, including Night Walker's beloved wife, White Fawn. Night Walker is the only one to survive. In his raging grief, he vows revenge on the man responsible, and the Old Ones oblige. He will live forever in a state of stasis until he is able to kill the soul of the one he hates.

And since that time, Night Walker, who now goes by John Nightwalker, has roamed the earth searching for the reincarnation of the soul he seeks. He's come close, but never been able to kill him. Then one day he rescues a woman in danger and the clenching sickness in his gut tells him she is somehow connected to the evil soul he has to kill.

Alicia Ponte lived a privileged life, but when she finds out her father has been providing arms to terrorist, she runs away, horrified at what she now knows. When her father finds out she knows, he'll do anything to stop her from talking. If it hadn't been for John's rescue, she would have been a goner. She's grateful for his help, and strongly attracted to the enigmatic Native American. Even when she finds out that he has his own plans for her father, she sticks with him, knowing she needs all the help she can get to survive. But as the two spend time together, John's need for revenge is blurred by the growing bond between him and Alicia. Would she believe him if he told her the truth about his life? And even if he did, would they be able to have a future together?

The best thing about this book, to me, was the characters. With all the detail and the emotions, they came to life on the page. John wasn't perfect (no ~~man~~ person is) but I really felt for him as I was reading this story. He had such pain in him over what happened to his tribe, and the loneliness he suffered, missing his wife and past life. It was hard not to suffer right along with him. I liked Alicia, too, but not as much as John.

At times the story is a bit sad and morose because of all that. The prologue is enough to bring a tear or two to your eyes. Then there are flashbacks and nightmares, and John's emotions about what he's been through. It made the book a little depressing at times, but the vibrancy of it all also made the story all the more real.

The suspense plot is on the basic side, but I liked what Sala did with the bad guys actions near the end. That shark thing...*shudder*...very creative. So while this book wasn't very complicated or intense in the area of the suspense plot, it wasn't a big deal because this book was about the story as a whole...the characters, the emotions, the relationship, etc. When it all came together, it made a solid, interesting story that I really enjoyed reading.

Even saying all that good stuff, the book did falter a little bit for me in the second half. Mostly in the relationship aspect, and I think it was because the trust between the two characters was very frail. There was love between them, but the trust wasn't entirely there. As crazy as John's story was, I wished Alicia was a little more open to possibility and showed more belief in him. It was kind of a turn off when she'd think to her self that she didn't care that he was crazy as a loon; she loved him anyway. Even at the end of the book, there's no clear sense of whether Alicia accepts his history. She should, given what's happened, but there's no reconciliation moment on that issue. I really wanted her to tell him she was sorry for doubting him. But the book ended leaving that issue a little up in the air. Which all in all left the relationship angle of the book feeling a little off for me.

Still, this was a very enjoyable book to read. Not surprising, though. Sala knows how to tell a great story. I think I've only read one book by her that I didn't really care for. So liking this one wasn't a surprise, and I think other fans of Sala will enjoy it as well.

Brenda says

John saw his people massacred by the Spaniards,swore revenge. Then he meets her.Alicia

Pat Cromwell says

Granted her last several books have not been up to the famous Sala prose but the criticism some so-called Sharon Sala fans have leveled at her infuriates me because they are making it a personal attack on her and a political statement in general. The buzz amongst the Sharon Sala bashers is downright cruel. It started with her book Survivor which she struggled to complete (per her acknowledgement in the book) because she was dealing with losing her soul mate Bobby. I think with his lost a part of her disappeared too; true Sharon Sala / Dinah McCall fans will see that in all her books following Survivor, including this one.

To HECK with the me-minded Sala readers -- abandoning her and spewing spiteful rhetoric will come back to bite them because one of these day's our beloved Ms. Sala will write the book to rival her greatest book of all time "Out of the Dark" and those nay-sayers and want-to-be-critics will miss out because they will be to

dense to know it. I refuse to turn my back on this writer and will purchase and read anything she writes be it a romance or a 3 page pdf of her favorite recipes. As she did in her previous books she writes an acknowledgement about Bobby. It is a lovely tribute -- as they all have been, honest and heartfelt. That story is coming and as with all her stories, I'll be smiling all the way to the bookstore to get it.

Ruth Hambley says

Wonderful

I absolutely loved reading this one. A well written time travelling romance. I can't wait to read more by this author

Keri says

This could have been such a fabulous book, but just wasn't. John Nightwalker is 500 years old. He can never die until he avenges the death of his wife White Fawn and all of The People that were killed that fateful day. The day John killed everybody that killed his family except for one man. The man that John is destined to search for over and over again. As long as the evil one's soul is reincarnated John can feel him on the earth and once he dies it can't. But 60 years ago he felt his enemy born again and here he is feeling he close like right on the other side of him getting gas or like his echo or something. So John gets the shock of his life when he looks over and sees a beautiful woman instead. Alicia is on the run from her dad. She has discovered that he has been selling arms to both sides in the Iraq war. Now she is on the run, trying to figure out who she can go to. Once she runs into John, she feels like she has come home in a sense.

At first John figures out the he can use Alicia to get to her dad, but soon develops feelings for her. At least that is what I am told. It got to the point that they were either fighting or having sex, I never really felt the connection. John finally tells her some of the story, but eventually once he heals right before her eyes he ends up telling her the whole story. She doesn't believe him of course, thinks he's as crazy as a bedbug. Eventually though she is visited by a Native American angel who tells her to believe. Ok that is all it takes, after John brow beats her into believing that.

This is where I have more issues with the book. John had a thousand ways of convincing her he was who he said he was and he was as old as he was. He had pictorial proof. They even talked about a picture that was about 100 years old that John had posed for and at the time he passed it off as one of his ancestors, even though they had exact matching scars. It was never brought up again as proof. Then there was another picture taken 25 years ago that would have put John in his 60s today, but again it was never brought up as proof. Instead I don't think Alicia ever believed John, she just kinda went along with it. Also she never caught on that she was the reincarnated spirit of John's dead wife White Dawn, even though they were dreaming the same dreams of the exact same events and talking about it. It was things like that that drained my enjoyment out of the book.

Eventually John does face her dad and the minute her dad is dead, then John becomes a regular man again with the ability to age. Luckily he gets to age naturally and didn't turn to dust the second it happened. I kind kept expecting that. The epilogue was sweet, one of my favorite kind, but it couldn't save the book for me.

Lara says

The Warrior was the first Sharon Sala book I've read. I thoroughly enjoyed it. There were little structural problems that drove me crazy...but all in all the story is fantastic. John Nightwalker is a fantastic Alpha Male and eventually I got so I liked Alicia. The story moves quickly...even with the constant POV changes.

Jane Stewart says

I enjoyed the experience. Well done romantic suspense with some fantasy (immortality and reincarnation).

STORY BRIEF:

In the early 1500s, the pirate Vargas and his men kill an entire village of American Indians, except one called Night Walker. Night Walker was able to kill most of the pirates but Vargas got away. Due to Night Walker's rage and grief, the gods gave him immortality so that he could live long enough to kill Vargas. It is now present day. Night Walker is still alive, using the name John Nightwalker. Vargas has been reincarnated into the wealthy munitions manufacturer Richard. His daughter Alicia overhears Richard talking about selling arms to enemies of the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan. She runs away and wants to report his treason to the authorities. Richard wants Alicia dead. She accidentally runs into John who helps her. Upon meeting her, John psychically knows her father's soul is Vargas.

REVIEWER'S OPINION:

The ending is nice, feel good and fulfilling. The characters and plot are interesting. I enjoyed the relationship development. There is not a lot of sex, so don't expect that. If I were to make any suggestion at all, it might be to add a little more emotion or passion to the sex scenes. But that's not necessary. It's a good book as is. It's what I expect when I read romantic suspense.

DATA:

Story length: 421 pages. Swearing language: strong. Sexual language: mild. Number of sex scenes: 5. Total number of sex scene pages: 9. Setting: 1500s and current day Georgia, Washington D.C., Arizona, Europe and a few other places. Copyright: 2009. Genre: fantasy romantic suspense.

SheLove2Read says

Very gritty, emotional story.

John Nightwalker is 529 years old. 500 years ago, his entire village was slain by Spanish explorers for little more than a few trinkets and "glory". He was unable to save them but managed to send a few to their destiny before they got away completely. In his rage and despair, he called out to the Old Ones for revenge upon the one who had killed his beloved wife, and they answered. John has been alive since that day in search of the soul who took everything dear to him. That soul has been reborn many times but unless John himself kills the body that soul inhabits, this never ending nightmare continues.

John is the epitome of the tortured hero. He cannot be killed, although he can be gravely injured. He goes

through life alone, moving from place to place so that no one discovers his long life or asks questions he can't answer. John knows that he is close to finding the man who embodies the soul of his enemy, because his body feels it when he is near, so he is shocked beyond words when he comes upon a desperate woman on the run who sets off his internal alarms.

Alicia is on the run. She's just discovered that her father is pure evil. Not only is he a traitor to his own country but now he's trying to find her and have her silenced because of what she knows. In her reckless attempt to run, she finds herself in the direct path of John Nightwalker. Alicia isn't the soul John seeks - her father is.

If you can get past the woo woo aspects of the story, this book will keep you on the edge of your seat. Alicia is a vibrant young woman who was in the wrong place at the wrong time and heard something that changed her world forever. John feels like he has been alive forever and only seeks to end this self imposed curse he is living with. He still mourns his wife and family. He is a man out of his time yet a man who has adapted to the time he is in. At first he is using Alicia to get to her father, but the longer they are together, the more bound to her he feels. Their relationship isn't easy.

The story unfolds at a quick pace and I found myself wishing I could read faster. Sharon Sala has a way with words that just flows. 426 pages seemed to fly right by. I highly recommend this book, especially if you're a fan of hers.

Bob Clarkson says

This is the 3rd book by Sharon Sala that I have read. The Healer was the first and was a suspenseful romance, heavy on the suspense; the second book, Familiar Stranger, was a romantic suspense, heavy on the romance.

This book is similar to the first, and like the first has a strong Native American hero.

John Nightwalker has lived more than 500 years as a result of a promise he made to the Old Ones after his entire tribe, including his wife, was slaughtered by Spanish pirates led by a captain Vargas. The Old Ones told him that he would not age until he had killed the soul of the one who had slaughtered the tribe.

Reincarnated many times through the years, John knew immediately when Vargas's ugly soul again was born. Each incarnation was evil and did evil things. Even though John knew when he was alive, and even where, he had not been able to get close to the soul because it was reincarnated in far away places like the West Coast of the United States, Australia, Europe and the East. Until just recently, travel time to where Vargas had been reincarnated had been the biggest hindrance.

John had felt the Vargas soul, but it moved all over the world, seemingly centered in the southeast part of the

U.S.

Alicia Ponte is the twenty something daughter of a rich and successful businessman. When her mother died, her father had made her the de facto hostess of his business empire.

One day she overhears a conversation between her father and one of his business partners and realizes they are talking about smuggling guns to Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. Shocked and feeling betrayed, she grabs some clothes, gets into her car and speeds away.

Ponte deduces what has happened and sets his security on her trail. Not knowing which way she headed didn't matter at all to her father, he had put GPS transmitters into all of the family and business vehicles. The "security" (muscle) guy simply has to trace the GPS. His orders, when he catches up with Alicia, kill her and try to make it look like an accident - but in any event, make sure she is dead.

Alicia crosses paths with John and is befriended by him.

And thus the dance began.

There is a surprising catch at the end and it's definitely worth the read to find what it turns out to be.

Loreta says

Another great page turner book by Sharon Sala.

John Nightwalker is on a 500 year mission to avenge the death of his tribe and cannot die until he has done so. He tries to help Alicia Ponte whose father is trying to kill her because she blew the whistle on his selling arms to the enemy. The soul of the man who killed John's people has passed down through the centuries and has now been born in Alicia's father. John agrees to help Alicia because it will get him closer to his sworn enemy.

This is a fast paced adventure where the two main characters fend off those sent to find and kill them.

Jeb says

Apparently, Sharon Sala has written a bunch of books. I was clueless up until reading this book. On a whim.

The principal appealed to my fantasy side because it's about an immortal Indian who is on a five hundred year quest to locate and exact revenge upon the Western Sole who killed his wife and all the members of his village.

Yep, sounds like a guy's book. That is, until you read it.

It's a romance novel. One that seems to superficially track to the story line but is really about this immortal wooing a woman who can lead him to the soul for whom he's searching. As any romance novel would, it includes several sexual encounters despite the obvious distrust and occasional dislike between the two characters.

Sorry, my relationships are far simpler than this and I had trouble being convinced by the dislike/passion antagonism that always devolves to sex.

Tom Tischler says

John Nightwalker is a rugged Native American soldier who has seen many battles. Hunting an old enemy he crosses paths with Alicia Ponte who is running for her life from her father Richard who is a powerful arms manufacturer who Alicia is trying to bring down for selling arms to our enemies in Iraq. But Richard will do anything to stay below the radar, even kill his own daughter. John feels compelled to protect Alicia and together they travel to the brutal Arizona desert. There they unravel truths to bring her father to justice, but the journey is about to take an unexpected turn. One that goes deep into the past. This is another pretty good novel by Sharon Sala although it stretches the imagination somewhat. But that is why we read fiction.

Julie (jjmachshev) says

Reviewed for queuemyreview.com; book release Apr09

Fans of Native American lore and the paranormal will be thrilled with Sharon Sala's new book "The Warrior". This is a story of love, loss, revenge, and resolution. When an early Native American warrior is too late to save the rest of his village from Spanish marauders, he keens his sorrow and lust for revenge to his gods...and they answer. Until he spills the blood of the man who killed his woman, he will not die. This is his story, and his revenge.

John Nightwalker cannot die, at least not yet. For over 500 years he has searched the world each time he feels the essence of the killer reborn, but never managed to catch or kill his enemy despite coming close once or twice. He's learned to keep to himself, helping others when he can. But he is always alone, just he and his nightmares. Until the day he helps a woman escape from a man and feels 'the' connection. She's not the one he's searching for...but she is of his blood.

Alicia can't believe her life has gone from privilege to peril so quickly. But knowing her father the way she does, she's afraid he will not give up or stop hunting until she is dead. When the handsome Indian protects her from one of her father's hunters, she has no idea that he has ulterior motives for helping her. And the

closer they become, the more she realizes just how little she knows about this man who heals his own wounds...but before long that just doesn't seem to matter.

I like the thought of reincarnation, but with my luck I'd come back as a slug! I found this story very different from the current stock of paranormal romances available. The hero is a very strong character who's also a bit of a victim in that he really has no idea how the magic he's involved in works. His revenge is literally what he lives for, but he also uses his abilities to help out his fellow man. The concept of gods and angels, ingrained prejudice, and the human fear of the unexplainable are all skillfully played out within the boundaries of the relationship between the main characters.

The story moves between several states and the pace is quick which intensifies the reader's suspense. The pull between the hero and heroine is strong from the first and becomes believable even with their vast social differences. I quite enjoyed reading "The Warrior". Sharon Sala's books tend to be rather 'hit or miss' for me, but this one is definitely a hit!
