



The Pawn

Kate Sherwood

Download now

Read Online ➞

The Pawn

Kate Sherwood

The Pawn Kate Sherwood

Adam Challoner was born a member of the wealthy elite, but he can't forget that his power and comfort come from the suffering of the vast underclass—people oppressed by the very regime that keeps him safe. Living with that knowledge is uncomfortable to say the least. When Adam meets Remy Stone, his discomfort becomes intolerable.

Get in, seduce his target, give him all he could ever dream of, then get out—that's Remy's assignment. No man has ever been able to resist Remy before, but Adam Challoner is unlike any of Remy's previous clients. In a world where Big Brother is always watching, Remy needs to perform his assigned duties in order to survive, but Adam seems to be as oblivious to that as he is to Remy's charms.

Luckily, Remy's determination to accomplish his mission piques Adam's interest. But just when Remy's hard work starts to pay off, a rebel bomb attack interrupts their would-be tryst. Unforeseen circumstances force them apart, then throw them back together. And just as they discover new reasons to live, they realize some things are worth dying for.

The Pawn Details

Date : Published March 1st 2013 by Dreamspinner Press (first published February 28th 2013)

ISBN : 9781623803971

Author : Kate Sherwood

Format : ebook 216 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Science Fiction, Dystopia

 [Download The Pawn ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Pawn ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Pawn Kate Sherwood

From Reader Review The Pawn for online ebook

Kaje Harper says

This is the near-future story of a man who was orphaned in a failed colonial revolt at age nine, and essentially enslaved (despite calling it a "contract") to a man who runs sex workers and gathers information on his wealthy clients. Remy has grown up to become very, very good at his job. Then he's sent as an unwanted gift to spend time with Adam, a man whose motives are more honorable than Remy ever expected to find, and who is tangled up in the chance of a new revolution.

I really enjoyed the character of Remy, and his struggles to find dignity and control in the life of sex-work and information-gathering that had been forced on him. I thought he was well drawn and believable, against the backdrop of Adam's privileged almost-innocence. And I was cheering for him to break out of his constraints, and pleased that the author didn't just have him suddenly shrug off every remnant of his past and his conditioning. I definitely empathized with him.

The plot was light, but a reasonable backdrop, although the end came too quickly and easily. In a society where, despite the heavy automated surveillance measures, enforcement is still done by humans, I envisioned something far more serious and chaotic. So I felt a little dropped out of the story at the end. But it was Remy who pulled me back in, and sent me looking for the next book to find out how the next part of the story goes.

Ayanna says

The futuristic stuff is weird. I know I'm not one to judge someone else's universe or their interpretation, per se, but it just Seems...incomplete.

Like the author didn't quite commit to it. Either that or went in a weird direction.

Of course, now that line from Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead comes back to me ("Audiences know what to expect, and that is all they are prepared to believe in.") so I don't know if my argument is valid at all. But then, you know what, I'm part of the illogical audience known as humanity, so I object.

I think it's all "retro" stuff. It's weird that they would keep referring to things that exist now like that. Makes it feel like the author arbitrarily decided to make it "futuristic" because he either didn't want to research what does and doesn't exist now or wanted some gimmicky way to explain away certain elements the author wanted to magically include somehow.

That's probably why it feels like the author didn't really commit to her world. It makes it feel like the author's almost apologetic about it.

I didn't have as much issue with the tablet thing because that's the direction most people seem to think technology is going in, especially as, in our world, tablets are growing in processing power and capabilities and such. Me, I can't quite picture "typing" on a tablet. I like the feel of the pressure of the keys so I know when I'm actually typing and when I'm not. It makes me feel like I'm not typing gibberish.

There are a couple of times when the phrasing's really...weird...

Remy's insight was interesting/weird. It was kind of cool because you could see the effects of the whole thing on his psyche, but it was subtle and well-worked.

(view spoiler)

Until the random "I will fight with you" moment.

That was Marius moment if ever I've seen one.

But then it goes right back to the previous mindset, which is a bit weird, but makes sense.

(view spoiler)

It was nice/interesting because Remy didn't seem like a dysfunctional small child. So often with this character type the narration comes off sounding like we're dealing with a terrified child. You know, between the cringing and groveling and sniveling and sobbing and all that. ...that came out harsher than I meant for it to. Argh, I can't think of any other way to describe it. I mean, I know regression is considered a perfectly viable defense mechanism, but it just...well, can get annoying.

Remy actually felt like an adult. An adult with a certain set of trained responses, yes, but still an adult (as opposed to a traumatized teenager).

But then...maybe I just haven't been paying attention to the ages of other characters and they actually ARE teenagers... *shrug

Actually, the way Remy referred to himself was an interesting point, also. I liked the way it was lampshaded. I also liked that it was lampshaded at all. It would have been extremely weird if Challanor hadn't picked up on so obvious a nuance that.

Remy's insight on during the whole (view spoiler) was interesting, too. I liked the way the author explored his mindset.

I didn't have much issues with the (view spoiler). But then, I knew it was coming.

Actually, Emma, if you read this, I didn't have issues with Remy's apparently Heel Face Turn because to me it seemed more like he was transferring his...allegiance?...codependency?...whatever...to Challoner. So, in a sense, Challanor went from simply "a client" to basically "The Master," for want of better terms.

I mean, for all that he seems to bear enmity towards Challoner, that mostly just stems from him not knowing what to do to please him.

(view spoiler)

One point of concern: the orgasm pills.

Now, when they say "behind the molars," they mean between the molar and the cheek, right? They don't ACTUALLY mean "behind the molars." They can't; there's no way you can physiologically lodge a pill there and not accidentally swallow it when you try to talk/open your mouth.

But then...if it's against the cheek, wouldn't it cause a bulge? Unless it's not large...

Ah, conundrums...

But anyways. As the revolution starts spreading, it starts getting...dare I say stupid?

Ridiculous, at the very least.

That's when it started getting weird.

I mean, Remy magically develops a self identity, people are suddenly willing to jump on the potential-suicide-boat, things start getting pedestrian...all sorts of shit.

Did I forget anything? Oh, yeah. How could I have forgotten?
Remy starts to develop Looooooooove~
Like magic.

Remy's complete personality makeover was annoyingly instantaneous. I mean, up until that "spread the word!" point, it was quite good.

The last 10% was extremely stupid.
See Emma's review for more information.
(It cost it its "magnum opus" status. And it's >3 star rating. Sheesh.)

Makes me wonder...did the author run out of time, had to race the deadline or something (the way Rowling did)?

You know what the author needs?

What do you mean, you "don't know how to end this"?
So you're just giving up? You're just going to throw in some token deus ex machina and then make your readers wait for book two?
No! That is *not* what you do!

ETA:
I also am definitely NOT enamored of the cover.

Leanne says

[In fact, I love that

Tiya Rosa says

[and have an

LiveYourLife BuyTheBook says

4.5 Stars

The newest offering from Kate Sherwood is The Pawn. It's the first in the Against the Odds series. It's quite unlike her previous books as it contains no horses. The stables described herein are full of whores. I admit, I have a soft spot for whores in fiction. I don't think it's any stranger than liking fantasy. Really! Anyway, Remy Stone is a whore in a futuristic, unequal society. He uses the name David. His pimp sends him to the hotel suite of Adam Challoner. Adam won't have sex with "David." He doesn't even want him there at all. Remy uses all his seductive wiles and years of skill to at least manage a blow job. Then terrorists attack the hotel. Remy happens to know one of them. He spends days in interrogation, gets released and is immediately sent to work. It just so happens he's sent to the estate of Adam Challoner. Who let's him sleep. Then for the

next two days Adam feeds Remy, lets him relax, teaches him chess, and refuses to have sex with him. In short, Adam spends two days treating Remy like a human. Remy can't just go back to sex work after that. He also can't refuse to go back to sex work after that. Drugs are his only solution to make continued work as a whore bearable.

Two different clients of Remy's think the new drugged out Remy shouldn't continue to work as a whore. One of them is Adam Challoner. Mr. Baryman, Remy's pimp, absolutely hates Adam Challoner and sees in Remy the means to destroy him. Little does Mr. Baryman know Adam is part of the terrorist group that bombed the hotel. Remy didn't know either, and boy is it awkward when the two of them meet and learn who they really are! Remy now has a lot of knowledge that he simply shouldn't have. That doesn't bode well if the government ever decides to interrogate him again. Despite the awfulness of the first interrogation it could have been so much worse. Adam tries to get Remy out of the country and to safety. Remy refuses to leave. He wants to be a part of something that matters. He wants to stop being a person for whom decisions are made. It's time for him to take a stand against the extreme exploitation he's been subjected to since the age of nine....

Faye's full review can be found at
Live Your Life, Buy The Book

Molli B. says

I didn't like this quite as much as I usually like Kate's stuff, but it was still a solid, engaging story. Very light scifi. Very light steam, too. More focused on plot than on the romance, although I did like Remy and Adam together. Kate's writing is, as always, very good.

My biggest complaint about the story (and it's a weird one!!) is Adam's last name ("Challoner"), which, unfortunately, is what Remy insists on calling him even once he knows his first name. And since we're in Remy's POV, it gets used a lot. My head just doesn't *like* it--like, has a hard time pronouncing it--so every time I read the name, my brain skips and I'm pulled out of the story. I've never had anything happen like that before. My iPad says his name was used 818 times, so... yeah. LOL. What a weird issue.

Tamarrion Lash says

????????????? ?????? ?? ??????. ????? ?????????? ??????, ????? ?? ?????? ??? ?????, ?? world-building sucks. ?? ????????? ??????. ????????????? ?????????, ????? ?? ??? ????-?? ?????? ?????????.

?? ????, ??? ? ?????? ????????????? ?????? ?????? ????????????? ?????????? ?? ????????????????? ???????, ?????? ?????? ??? ????????????? ?????? ?????? ?????????? ?????????? (? ??? ?????? ??? ????????????? ??? ???-?? ????????, ??????-????????? ??????? ? ?????????? ??????????) ? ? ?????? ????????????? ?????? ? ?????? ?????????????? ?? ?????????, ?????? ? ??? ?????????? ?????????????? ??????????. ?? ??? ?????? ?? ?????? ??????? ?????????? ??? ?????? ??????, ? ??? ?????????????? ??? ?????????, ??? ? ???? ?????? - ??? ?????? ??????. ?? ???.

Ambre says

I like this author. I am not sure what genre this would be considered. Speculative fiction, maybe? It basically

takes place in a fantasy world in which a totalitarian regime has instituted total surveillance and individual rights have been voided. Remy is a prostitute who was coerced into a lifetime contract (so although slavery is ostensibly illegal, he has no options). He meets a wealthy man and gets involved in a revolution.

I think the plot is insightful up to a point. It doesn't compete with the masters of Speculative sci-fi and fantasy, but it is definitely an improvement over the majority of m/m fiction. She does consider ethical questions and psychological impact.

Sometimes, though, she doesn't quite consider them enough. So she has Remy react to an offer of rescue with defiance rather than fear or gratitude, but then the expected fear turns up later. It doesn't read as volatility or instability, but as inconsistency.

I think that this author's area for growth would be to go a little deeper in her character development. Decide exactly what's going on psychologically, based on the circumstances. Does Remy suffer from PTSD? Learned helplessness? Who does he fear and who does he trust? The trust thing was another unstable characteristic.

Overall, though, a good read. Not much sex and what there was was not really erotica.

Emma Sea says

[via Jeff Goldblum and Timothy Olyphant. Really, Kate Sherwood? *Really??* (hide spoiler)]

Mike says

Owned and indentured prostitute, the noble but naive client, and the ultimate game of chess

The first two-thirds of this intriguing story explores a whore's life in a modern dystopian world echoing both of the economic and political oppression outlined by Dickens and Orwell. The interplay between the prostitute and his noble but naive (and very wealthy) client has a nice mix of the slow slipping of a thick mask worn to please others (in order to simply survive) with eye-opening realities for the powerful man who seems unable to help.

The last third is less about personal relationships and a bit pat (it is a romance novel rather than an entirely dark urban-fantasy). However, I found the societal musings and the need to break some shackles to be entertaining and enjoyable reading if a bit simplistic and brief.

A solid read for those looking for some personal darkness before heroes need to sacrifice the pawn to threaten the King.

Aniko says

4.75 stars

Wonderful writing and beautifully drawn characters are pretty much a given with a Kate Sherwood book and this one doesn't disappoint. I loved this book so much. The story is original and grabbed me right from the

start. The characters are complex and fully realised. If you want to read something that has an intriguing plot and characters that are layered and engaging, then buy this book. You won't regret it. I am really looking forward to seeing where Kate takes Remy and Adam in the next book!

Pjm12 says

I very much enjoyed this. Remy is both fascinating and sympathetic. His past life is revealed slowly and as he opens his eyes to new possibilities, we see the truth and horror of his existence. That part was hard to take, but Sherwood is not too graphic or gratuitous.

Adam reveals himself as Remy's saviour. But he has taken on a lot. I hope he can fit Remy's well-being into his gruelling schedule.

I look forward to the next one.

Eve says

Not sure how to rate this. This action packed story kept me riveted and I read through this book in one sitting, enjoying both the characters and the plot. On the other hand, once I was done, I sort of had a feeling that I hadn't read anything very memorable. So, I guess that for me, this was a fun 3 hours, but not one for re-reading.

Sherry says

[And apparently space travel and planet colonization is possible, although it isn't explained either (hide spoiler)]

Pixie Mmgoodbookreviews says

3 1/2 - 4 Hearts

Review written for MM Good Book Reviews

<http://mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress.com/>

Remy is a sex worker, but his contract means he is more like a slave, told to seduce a target and get whatever information he can on the man Remy thinks it will be a piece of cake, but finds that Adam Challoner is a more complex man than he ever thought. Adam is mightily tempted to sample Remy's charms, but he has qualms about using someone who will report all his actions, when a rebel bomb interrupts them they are forced to go separate ways, but Adam has to see Remy again and before long Remy's eyes are opened and there is no turning back.

This is a very interesting futuristic/science fiction story, where the North American government is big

brother and you had better do what they want and stay in your place. Remy was sold when he was only nine; his family had been on a colony planet that rebelled against the Government and was completely wiped out, Remy is now a sex worker doing as he is told, but meeting Adam shakes the very foundation of his being and sets him on a path that there is no turning back from. Adam hates the way North America is; he lived in Europe for many years and is disgusted by his own Government, but complaining will get him killed, any sign of discontent will have a boot heel on his neck and being dragged in for interrogation. Meeting Remy is hard for Adam as he fights his attraction; he will not take advantage of someone who has no choice in his life, but there is something about Remy that keeps drawing him back.

This is far from your typical romance, in fact there is very little in the way of romance and much more in the way of plot and storyline. Remy and Adam are brilliant characters and although there is something between them, especially more notably with Adam, this story is more focused on the iron gripped control of the Government and the dismal treatment of anyone without money. I really would love to go in-depth with this story, but I really don't want to give any of the storyline away because the blurb only reveals a small amount of what you can expect to enjoy, all I can really say is that there's secrets and intrigue that really pull you in and make this story enjoyable.

I would love to say that Remy and Adam fall madly in love and they live happily ever after, but they don't, in fact Remy is so confused that he really doesn't know what a normal reaction is, he is so used to doing what he has to and anticipating what the client wants that Adam completely throws him. Adam won't take advantage of Remy no matter how much Remy throws himself at him; it doesn't mean that Adam doesn't struggle to keep his hands to himself because he fights himself hard to keep things feeling *right*. After reading this book, I now want to know more and I really can't wait for the next and final book *The Knight*.

I will recommend this story to those who love complicated relationships, damaged young men, feeling hope, secrets, intrigue and an ending that could be a new beginning.
