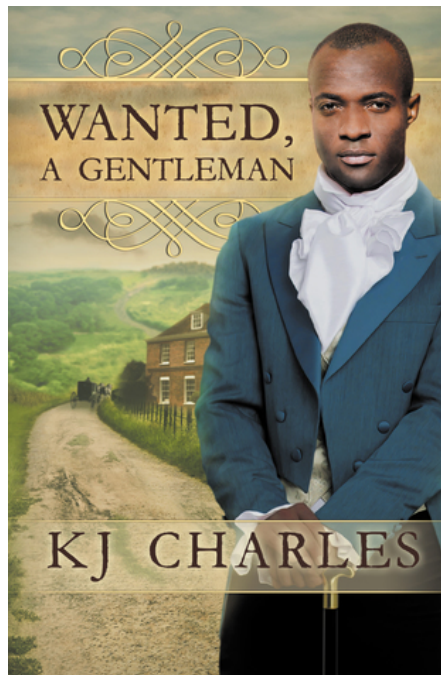




Wanted, A Gentleman

K.J. Charles

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Wanted, A Gentleman K.J. Charles

Theodore Swann is a jobbing writer, proprietor of the Matrimonial Advertiser lonely hearts gazette, and all-round weasel. He's the very last man that Martin St. Vincent would choose to rely on—and the only one who can help.

Martin is a wealthy merchant who finds himself obliged to put a stop to a young heiress's romantic correspondence in the Matrimonial Advertiser. When she and her swain make a dash for Gretna Green, Martin drags Theo on a breakneck chase up the country to catch the runaway lovers before it's too late.

Theo guards his secrets. Martin guards his heart. But as the two of them are thrown irresistibly together, entanglements, deceptions, and revelations come thick and fast...

Wanted, A Gentleman Details

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From Reader Review Wanted, A Gentleman for online ebook

Kaje Harper says

This is a light, fun, classic romance that would be a great choice for introducing an M/F historicals reader to the M/M genre. It gives us two great characters, a touch of well-researched historical background, an amusing adventure and a plot that is not too tropey, but which harks back to the classics like Georgette Heyer.

This doesn't have the depth of theme or emotion of, say, *A Seditious Affair* by this author, but it was a very pleasant way to spend a couple of hours. The presence of a black main character in a historical lends it a less-common dimension, and some moments of emotion, although this book doesn't dive deeply into that aspect of the society in which it takes place. As always with K.J. Charles, well written and well edited, and a good balance of heat to story.

Chelsea says

4.5 hearts!

BR with SRAL!!!!

Now wasn't that just a lot of fun! I love KJ Charles! She's written some of my favourite books ever, so I was very conscious not to compare this book with her others, but just to read and enjoy it for what it was. Spoiler.... I enjoyed it immensely!

I just get so sucked into Charles' writing. Her characters and little twists are always gripping and so well done.

Martin, and especially Theo were such interesting characters with so much depth. Martin is a free-man, after being freed as a slave by his Masters, and is now hunting down their wayward daughter as a favour to them. He lives with a lot of anger and resentment, obviously, but also a lot of guilt, and it was really interesting seeing Theo's reactions to that. Theo was my favourite, life and circumstances have been hard on him and he too is full of a lot of resentment and regret. He is such a weasel though, and I loved that more human, very cheeky side to him.

[Martin] didn't look while Theo changed into his nightshirt. That was probably because he was a decent man with morals who knew right from wrong.

Theo looked. He watched Martin pull his white shirt over his head, baring his deep chest, a rich glinting brown in the candlelight.

I loved watching these two get to know each other. The banter was wonderful and it ended up turning into an 'enemies to lovers' thing, which was fun! Once again I forgot how incredibly hoooootttttt KJ Charles' sex scenes can be. I think part of me still assumes the sex won't be as good because the stories are too interesting. Well I was WRONG! Theo is one wanton minx and Martin is all delicious dominance and I

freakin loved it!

If you like historical or KJ Charles' works, I know you'll adore this. It may not be up to the standard of a certain tall lord and fiery shaman for a lot of you, but read this as its own book and I guarantee you'll have fun!

Got My First ARC From Netgalley And Its This Beauty!! Eeeeeeeccccckkkkkkk

? percy ♡ says

"Martin," he said. "This has been a delightful interlude, but if you don't fuck me right now, I am going to set fire to your house."

Mandi Schreiner says

Favorite Quote: "You don't give an inch, do you?"

"I just took at least eight," Theo pointed out.

I really need to go back and read KJ Charles's backlist – as I've only read a couple by her and what I have read I've really enjoyed. In this book she gives us a more serious stoic hero paired with a wily, cocky hero – and the pairing really worked for me.

Theo makes a living by collecting advertisements to run in the paper for those people looking for a wife, husband or just love in general. For example:

Wanted, a Gentleman. A lively and engaging Lady who finds herself in Distressing Circumstances due to her too liberal Heart seeks a Gentleman whose Kindness will be well rewarded by all the Happiness and Beauty, Congeniality, and Youth may confer.

It's all anonymous, many times these people leaving the ads at the local tavern for Theo to pick up. Sometimes Theo gets ads that he probably shouldn't run – let's say a slyly worded ad for a man seeking a man – but since Theo does enjoy men...and money, he runs them, feigning ignorance if anyone comes around with a complaint. Theo is thin and always has ink stains on himself. He is a little on the weasly side and is scrappy.

Martin is a former slave whose owners freed him when he turned eighteen and he has remained friends with the family since then. He is now an investor, respected by his fellow businessmen. He was loved growing up, working in their house and befriending their daughter. He knew he had it good as a slave, since this family also owns sugar cane fields and the slaves that work those are not treated well at all. He also knows, that yes he was treated well – but still owned. Still not free the first eighteen years of his life. This is a great conflict within him – how he can still be friends with the people who enslaved him.

“I was always well treated,” Martin said again. “I could so easily not have been. I know how my life might have played out. There was a time, during the revolution in France, when Mr. Conroy’s business went through difficulties, and it seemed he might find it necessary to sell me—”

“Sweet King Jesus.”

“But he didn’t. Instead I was kept in the household, and freed on such generous terms that I have been able to prosper ever since, and how can I resent that?”

“That sounds to me the kind of generosity that could kill a man.”

Martin let his head thud back against the leather rest. “It is. It sticks in my throat like thistles, it chokes me.” His hand was at his throat, he realised, that old habitual gesture. He let it drop and repeated, quietly, “It chokes me.”

[...]

“Do you know how much the Conroys gave me as a gift? A hundred pounds. That was Mr. Conroy’s estimate of what I would fetch at the auction block.”

“Christ Jesus fuck,” Swann said. “Fuck them both and their brat. Let’s leave her to her sluttery and go home.”

This family has realized their daughter has run off with an unknown man – most likely heading to Gretna Green to get married without their permission. Martin learns that Jenny and her anonymous lover, were communicating with each other by posting advertisements in the paper – which leads Martin to Theo, demanding information as to who this anonymous lover is. Theo has no idea, but after reading through their printed correspondence, he realizes they write in code and they are for sure headed to Scotland to get married.

Martin offers to pay Theo to come with him, to find Jenny and bring her back to her family. Theo agrees and off they go. Along the way, their attraction to each other comes out and naughty things happen in a carriage.

Initially I wasn’t sure how this pair would go together, as Martin seems so much more mature than Theo – I didn’t see how Theo could take a romantic relationship seriously, but after a while these two definitely fit together. Theo is able to listen to Martin, and understand his personal fears and thoughts and give a nice, steady shoulder. Theo is the first to come to Martin’s defense if someone looks at Martin for only the color of his skin. Theo knows how to put a smile on Martin’s face, which made me smile.

Theo also writes romance books under a female name, books that Martin reads too. This whole scenario made me smile, as Martin loves Theo’s villains but he thinks he definitely needs work on some of the other characters. The way Theo plots his villainous books plays into how the try to find Jenny – which is cute.

Did I mention there is sex in a carriage too?

“What are you doing?” Martin demanded, although it was quite evident what he was doing. “Theo, for God’s

sake!”

Theo nudged his legs apart and settled between them, hands sliding up Martin’s thighs. “Enlivening the journey?”

“On this road?” Martin demanded, as the chaise bumped. “If we go over a pothole you’ll bite it off!”

“Give me a little credit.”

Grade: B

♣ Irish Smurfétté ♣ says

Well, y'all, this is an enjoyable, quick read of an historical.

I've read a fair amount of historical stories in my time, with most of them falling on the heavy side with the details of life, constantly setting the scene. I love that, it's one of my favorite things about an historical, being lost in all that... history.

This story isn't like that, and I didn't know I'd need this kinda thing in my life until reading it. Having spent time with Martin and Theo. Having gotten to know them, and how well they know themselves and what they want. Having watched them so thoroughly enjoy each other. Their chemistry and levels of desire, of compatibility, are deliciously high. We've got two very intelligent, resourceful people who've had to figure out how to survive some rough stuff, the kinds of things that leave deep scars, and they're working together. Tis a good match, this'n.

Charles' writing is, as usual, top notch. The banter, the honesty and humor. The story is a good one, just with a few spots that feel a bit underdeveloped, not quite fleshed out. She faces the truths of the times, early 1800's, including slavery, what occurs during and after on an individual level.

Yup, I recommend. :)

Caz says

I've given this a B+ for both narration and content at AudioGals, so that's a solid 4.5 stars

Wanted: A Gentleman is a standalone novella from the pen of K.J. Charles in which two very different men undertake a journey to foil an elopement and, along the way, discover that perhaps they’re not so very different after all. The audiobook clocks in at around four-and-a-half hours, but a thoroughly entertaining four-and-a-half hours it is, packing in plenty of social comment, witty dialogue, engaging characters, steamy love scenes and fascinating facts about the rigours of coach travel in Regency England.

Jobbing writer and part-time scribbler of romantic novels, Theodore Swann is the proprietor of the *Matrimonial Advertiser*, a weekly newssheet in which, for the price of a shilling, men and women can place advertisements extolling their virtues and setting out their requirements for a life partner. Into his dingy

office one day bursts Martin St. Vincent, a tall, handsome and obviously well-to-do black man who makes it immediately clear that he is in no mood for pleasantries and explains that he wants to know the identity of one of his advertisers, a man calling himself "Troilus". This individual has been corresponding with "Cressida", the seventeen-year-old daughter of a wealthy merchant who is his former owner, and her father wants to put a stop to it. St. Vincent is brusque and to the point, cutting through Theo's sales patter and asking him to name a price for his assistance.

You can read the rest of this review at **AudioGals**.

CrabbyPatty says

Theo Swann eeks out a small desperate living, publishing a lonely hearts publication (probably the 1805 version of Grindr, Tinder, OKCupid and everything in between). One day Martin, a freed black man and former slave, asks Theo's assistance in learning the identity of an anonymous gentlemen who has been courting the 17-year-old daughter of his former owner via the want-ads.

What follows is a wild race from London to the Scottish border at breakneck speed (not to mention sore arses and aching joints) and along the way, Theo and Martin learn they are both inclined to men:

"I'm not doing this with spit," Martin said flatly. "Damned if I'm listening to you bitch about your arse all tomorrow as well." [Theo] "Oh, get on, will you? I've done worse." [...] "You are not going to share a bed with me and walk away saying 'I've done worse.' Martin's voice was slightly ragged and his eyes were fixed on Theo's with disturbing intensity. "That is not how I fuck."

I was all in on this book, until there was a Big Reveal around 66% that seemingly came out of nowhere (not wanting to spoil the ending here) and while the ending was satisfactory, it sort of felt like a gothic romance.

On the whole, I enjoyed the story (giving it 3.5 stars).

I received an ARC from the Publisher, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.

Eugenia says

Another fabulous story by KJC!!!

What a fabulously paced novella!!! This one sprinted straight from the starting gun and never stopped. Along the way it dealt with issues of slavery, freedom, debts, obligations, regrets, prejudice, and trust.

It was ridiculously fun to read and watch two imperfect men work together to stop an unscrupulous cad from marrying an underage girl.

We also get to see that villains can also be heroes.

Highly recommended!!! Sexy times, social commentary, and a rescue mission....what's not to love?

K.J. Charles says

So...did you know the Georgians had Lonely Hearts ads? Well, they did.

London 1805. Jobbing writer, proprietor of the Matrimonial Advertiser and all-round weasel Theo Swann is just trying to get by when Martin St. Vincent turns up. Martin is a merchant, tasked with putting a stop to a wealthy young heiress's romantic correspondence in the Advertiser. And when she and her swain make a dash for Gretna, Martin drags Theo after him on a breakneck high-speed (fourteen miles an hour!) chase up the country to catch the lovers before it's too late. The question is, as entanglements, deceptions, and revelations come thick and fast, will any of them be the same again?

I had a lot of fun with this book, I hope you enjoy it!

Ulysses Dietz says

Wanted, a Gentleman
By K.J. Charles
Riptide Publishing, 2017
Five stars

“You’ve the world before you. It’s quite a big place, once you can raise your head and see it.”

Oh, how good it feels to give five stars to a book after having just read two books back-to-back that were so bad I couldn’t even publish the harsh notes I wrote about them. K.J. Charles has saved me again, and indeed she has accomplished this with what I think of as the most difficult of all m/m genres to pull off: Regency Romance.

I’m one of those odd men who adored Georgette Heyer as a youth. I devoured her historical romances, set in the Regency period, when I was a fretful teenager in the 1960s, retreating into romance as a happy place where I could forget my troubles. As an adult I read all of Jane Austen, marveling at the emotional restraint with which she expressed such powerful feelings. This is a period I know.

Ms. Charles is a very gifted writer, and this book proves it. The Regency setting is hardly new to the gay romance world, and yet she has managed to take it and turn it on its head with one twist: Martin St. Vincent, the main character, featured in period dress on the cover, is black. And a former slave.

But Charles doesn’t sensationalize this, not in the least. No embarrassing shadows of “Mandingo” here. She creates a story that is deeply rooted in the social history of its period, but also sends shivers of recognition into the world where we all sit right now, with its strained conversations about topics that we, today, would call white privilege and male privilege. The fact that both Martin and his catalyst in the story, the novelist-cum-marriage-advertiser Theodore Swann, are gay is both central and sidelined in the story. Being gay is what they are, its impact on the plot has only to do with the connection between the two men. That is the unseen romance in the story—the one that only we are allowed to witness.

A very young heiress runs off with a man who has wooed her through Theo’s advertising bulletin. Martin must find her and save her. Theo is the only one who can help him. Seems pretty obvious, and yet...the action gets all mixed up with the plots that Theo fabricates for his successful romances, written under the nom de plume of Dorothea Swann (which in itself has modern echoes in the world of m/m romance). Theo’s emotions are no less complicated than Martin’s, whose skin color and history are a lens through which he

can't help but see the world. Martin and Theo are so at odds with each other, so completely different, that their being thrown into complicity with each other comes off—quite marvelously—like a Dickensian version of a 1930s road trip movie. It is all so carefully thought out, so beautifully pitched to pluck every emotional heartstring in the reader, that it just swept me along, even as my modern rational mind tried to figure out where the author was going to take us.

Now, I am of that small group of gay romance readers who has decided I could do without the sex bits. But I have to credit Charles that, even there, she does a fine job, keeping up the period tone as she writes things that nobody in Regency times ever thought of putting to paper.

My hat is off to K.J. Charles. It is not only as good as I was told it would be, but better.

~☆~Dāni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

~3.5~

I enjoyed this story because it's K.J. Charles, so of course the writing is engaging, the dialogue masterful, and the sense of time and place (in this case London 1805) strong.

Theo makes his living putting together a sort of "city weekly" for those seeking marriage or more. Not all the ads are honest, but Theo doesn't care. He just wants to make money. His true passion is writing fiction, and he does that under the pen name Dorothea Swann.

When Martin barges into Theo's shabby office/living quarters asking questions, he's not immediately taken with the man who has ink stains on his clothing and a sly smile that keeps secrets.

Martin needs help, and Theo is a man for hire. Martin has to pay handsomely, but Theo has IDEAS and a wicked tongue. The tongue is not for sale; Theo gives that away for free.

This isn't a long book, so Martin and Theo spend but a few days together on page chasing a spoiled, stubborn 17-year-old girl who thinks it would be quite an adventure to elope to Scotland with a rake (a not so dashing one).

Martin, who's of African decent, is a free man and while he doesn't feel he owes anything to his former master, his relationship with the man is complicated. And he cares for Miss Jennifer, his former master's daughter, whom he's known since she was but a babe.

In many ways, Theo is more than the sum of his parts. He really sees Martin, is angry on his behalf, and doesn't treat him any differently because of the color of his skin. Martin gets that, appreciates it, and can't help but lust after the man who fucks like a tomcat.

Where the story lost me is with the "twist" around the 65 percent mark. I wasn't expecting it, but then again, the narrative isn't entirely honest. We get both men's POV, yet one of them isn't forthcoming with us.

The last couple chapters read a bit like a penny romance, with the hero, the villain, the maiden in distress, and none of it as it seems. It's supposed to read this way, but I didn't find it entirely appealing and wished for a less dramatic resolution.

The ending is a fairly hopeful HFN, and the last scene gets all the thumbs up.

This is not my favorite K.J. Charles book, but it was still good fun. Rounded up because Theo has a dirty mouth and Martin is only sometimes a gentleman.

Caz says

4.5 stars

This new novella from the pen of K.J. Charles is a Regency Era road-trip undertaken in order to foil the elopement of an heiress and her unsuitable beau.

The couple has been corresponding secretly by placing messages in the pages of the *Matrimonial Advertiser*, a news-sheet dedicated to publishing what we would today call Lonely Hearts advertisements, and run by Mr. Theodore Swann, a jobbing writer who owns and runs the paper as well as scribbling romantic novels on the side.

Into his dingy City office one day, bursts Mr. Martin St. Vincent, a well-built, well-dressed and obviously well to-do black man, who is trying to discover the identity of the man who has been corresponding with the seventeen year-old daughter of his former owner. He's blunt and not in the mood for humour, small-talk or any of Theo's sales patter – and quickly cuts to the chase by asking Theo to put a price on his assistance.

Before he can discover the man's identity however, the young lady elopes with her swain, and the family turns to Martin for help. A former slave, his relationship to the Conroys – who, by the standards of the day treated him well – is a difficult one, but he used to play with the young woman when she was a child and read her stories... and it's for her sake that he agrees to try to find her and bring her home safely.

Realising he'll need help – and having been reluctantly impressed with Theo's quick wits and sharp tongue (among other things) – Martin asks Theo to go with him – and after they have agreed on a large fee, Theo agrees.

This is a novella of some 150 pages, but K.J Charles does such a superb job with the characterisation of her two principals and adds such depth to their personalities and stories that I came away from the novella feeling – almost – as though I'd read a full-length novel. There's a spark of attraction between the two men from the start, and this builds gradually as they travel and get to know each other better, but what is so wonderful is the way the relationship between them grows alongside it. Martin is a former slave, and while he doesn't feel he owes anything to his former master, he can't help resenting the fact that he has been very lucky when compared to so many others:

“I was kept in the household, and freed on such generous terms that I have been able to prosper ever since, and how can I resent that?”

“That sounds to me the kind of generosity that could kill a man.”

“It is. It sticks in my throat like thistles, it chokes me.”

And Theo gets it. He sees Martin as a person, he believes he's entitled to be angry:

“I, uh, feel strongly about gratitude. Forced gratitude, I mean, the kind piled on your debt as added interest. To be ground underfoot and then told to be thankful the foot was not heavier – I hate it.”

Their conversations are insightful and often humorous, showcasing many of the things I enjoy so much about this author’s work. Her research is impeccable and I always like the way she doesn’t just gloss over the social issues of the day. There were moves towards abolition in England at this time, but there were still many people making money out of slavery; there was serious social inequality and no safety net for those who couldn’t afford even the most basic of life’s necessities; yet all these issues are addressed in a way that is not preachy or dry history lesson. Instead they arise naturally out of the direction taken by the story, the lives of the characters and the situations in which they live.

Both protagonists are attractive, likeable characters, although Theo is probably the more well-developed of the two, with a bit more light and shade to his persona. He’s quick witted, devious and sarcastic; and I really liked that his lady novelist alter-ego, Dorothea Swann, gives Ms. Charles the opportunity to make a few tongue-in-cheek observations about romantic fiction but also allows Theo to save the day.

Wanted, A Gentleman is beautifully written, the dialogue sparkles and Theo and Martin simply charmed me.

My only complaint is that the book ended too quickly.

SheReadsALot says

A tag team review with Chelsea

3.75-4 HEARTS (sliding scale)--

WANTED, A Gentleman of better character than he knows, who plays the Villain to the manner born. Prompt application to M.St.V. is greatly desired as a Promise remains to be kept.

Oh this was fun!

Wanted, A Gentleman is officially my first book of the year and I couldn't have chosen any better to start the new year off! Take one overworked scribbler who is a bit shifty (Theo Swann) and pair Theo with a former slave turned well to do merchant who is straightforward (Martin St. Vincent) and get a surprisingly light, and sexy opposites attract budding romance(?)

It's romantic in a sense though the story starts with a HFN feel, it's a promising start which read like an organic conclusion.

St. Vincent (I've had a great track record with historical St. Vincents) needs help locating a wayward teen who is determined to marry a liar. The girl is the only child of St. Vincent's former masters = complicated city. Theo runs a matrimonial matchmaking advertising business where the lonely and desperate write for potential matches. The two men are thrown together during desperate measures, Martin wants to help a child

he grew up with though the ties still uneasy to fathom and Theo wants the money Martin promises him....even though he can't stop his attraction to Martin.

The two start off as strangers, are thrown together in a race to catch up with the eloping pair. And you know what happens during that road trip when mutual passion and chemistry is shared between the pair?

Road side hooking up.

This isn't PWP in the least and the road trip plot and chasing the wayward teen and her crappy swain plays second fiddle to Martin and Theo's page time. Thankfully.

The story is a definite win, but some parts were better than others.

Where this book excels : The main characters are the read and butter of this story. From the moment they meet to the very last scene, Martin St. Vincent and Theodore Swann grab the reader's attention. Well known Charles is a wordsmith and exceeds with excellent dialogue between her main characters. No different in *Wanted*. Theo and Martin have great balance of funny, serious, sexual and damaged.

"This has been a delightful interlude, but if you don't fuck me right now, I am going to set fire to your house. Consider yourself warned."

"Well, if you put it that way. How do you like it?"

"In."

"I'm trying to treat you with respect and consideration. The least you could do is stop playing the harlot."

"What makes you think I'm playing?"

Well matched pair.

Another point where the story excels is the fact that Martin is a conflicted character. The story is light in tone but it by no means diminishes Martin's history. I think it gave a great grasp on being...'other' than what society deems 'the normal'. It was cool to read Charles' take on a merchant Black Briton in the Georgian era. Martin is layered. He's proud of his accomplishments (freed slave now merchant), never mistreated as a slave and grateful for that because it could have been worse. But he is still angry. (Justifiably so) Traveling north of London, the reader gets a taste of the subtle racism Martin endures, learns why he chooses to continue this 'mission' and get to learn all of facets.

All while having Martin find a possible partner. And it wasn't angst riddled.

Out of the pair, Martin wins for me *slightly* over Theo, though Theo is definitely no slouch in the great character department: witty, quick thinking and just a bit criminal. Both are damaged by their upbringing but aren't bitter at the world.

Where the book was good : The plot was simple and engaging. I've lost track of how many historical romances I've read that used a Gretna Green road trip plot device to throw opposites together. It was nice to read one with a queer main couple. It's a quick read so, there aren't everlasting declarations made (Totally wouldn't work BTW) There was a big twist at 65% that seems a little left field...how? what? who? But

overall, it works for the arc.

Where the book could have done better: It's little nitpicks but knowing I've read stellar reads from this author in the past, I know this story could have been more. Maybe a little more exposition on Theo. It's a Martin/Theo book and we get more depth on Martin. Theo is an interesting character. He leads a double (or triple) life. Once the twist is thrown in, Theo loses a little of his sparkle. I think I wouldn't have minded more page time, maybe a little more written at the stage stops on the road. The reasoning of why Martin chose to chase after 'Cressida' is given but maybe a touch more.

Altogether, the story more than gets the job done.

Would I read more of this pairing? Yes...and no. The story ends on the right hopeful note. I wouldn't say no to possible future snippets of their future but the story really drove the main point across.

Martin is living a HEA (as much as can be expected in that time period) being free and being able to help the poor Britons in need.

Theo was a delightful addition. Two lonely hearts entwined for however long they fancy.

Sometimes a budding and hopeful end is all we need.

Recommended for readers familiar with Charles work, readers of historical romance who don't mind different interpretations of a HEA.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

3.5 stars

I'm obsessed with K.J. Charles, and I think she is an exceptionally talented author. However, this one didn't grab me like her other books.

The book is very adventure-y, and while I sometimes like stories like that, I usually like more character-focused works. I like lots of slow burn and lots of sexual tension, and while we did get some tension in this enemies-to-lovers story, I didn't feel that "snap" of a connection like I crave.

The blurb was great and the characters were well conceived, but it all didn't fully come together. It had moments where I was like, "YESSSS," but I also wanted *more* the entire time.

I read a few reviews before starting the book, and I saw a lot of hype about a twist about 2/3rds of the way through the story. Anticipating and trying to guess what that twist was distracted me from the story. My best advice to readers is to not think about any twist. It isn't a crazy twist or anything bizarre, but it changed how I felt about the story, for sure. More than anything, it made me feel frustrated because it felt like an inorganic plot device rather than fitting smoothly with the story.

The story shines in the sense of time and place, which this author always does well, but even though I'd say that I liked it, I don't think I'd continue on if this was a series. Maybe with a different author, one who wasn't one of my favorites, I'd be more impressed.

Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Ami says

3.5 stars

First of all, I have to say BRAVO to Riptide Publishing, K.J. Charles, and anyone involved in making the blurb for **Wanted, A Gentleman**. Seriously, it is definitely one of the most creative blurbs I have ever seen!! I love the sub title, *Or, Virtue Over-Rated*; which kinds of giving a clue about what the story is all about, really.

The gist of the story is this: Martin St. Vincent ropes the help of Matrimonial Advertiser's scribbler Theodore Swann in order to locate the daughter of Martin's former master who is going to elope with a questionable gentleman. Then we have a rush of carriage pursuing the couple -- and of course Martin and Theo getting attracted towards one another in between.

Since it was a novella length, I thought things happened pretty fast between both men. The relationship wasn't as 'deep' as I preferred it to be. There is a huge twist around 2/3rd of the book that I didn't see coming. While in retrospect, after I finished reading, it sort of fit with the characters, I couldn't help thinking that the twist made the story felt ... well, less romantic for me.

Personally, I thought that the relationship felt like more like a business trade after that. I couldn't help that maybe they getting together was pretty much helped by the pleasure of the flesh rather than attraction of minds and virtues.

But then again, maybe like the blurb says, virtue is over-rated

Charles' writing is as delicious as ever; unfortunately **Wanted, A Gentleman** is not one of my top favorites from her. Even if it was still a quick entertaining read.

The ARC is provided by the publisher via Netgalley for an exchange of fair and honest review. No high rating is required for any ARC received.
