



Rogue's Possession

Jeffe Kennedy

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A human trapped in the world of Faerie, in possession of magic I could not control, I made a bargain for my life: to let the dangerously sensual fae noble known as Rogue sire my firstborn. And one does not break an oath with a fae. But no matter how greatly I desire him, I will not succumb. Not until I know what will happen to the child.

Though unable—or unwilling—to reveal the fate of human-fae offspring himself, Rogue accompanies me on my quest for answers. Along the way he agrees to teach me to harness my power, in exchange for a single kiss each day and sleeping by my side each night. Just as I am about to yield to temptation, I find myself in a deadly game of cat and mouse with an insane goddess. Now my search for the truth will lead me to the darkest of all Faerie secrets.

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E_bookpushers says

Joint Review originally posted here: [http://thebookpushers.com/2013/10/10/...](http://thebookpushers.com/2013/10/10/)

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A human trapped in the world of Faerie, in possession of magic I could not control, I made a bargain for my life: to let the dangerously sensual fae noble known as Rogue sire my firstborn. And one does not break an oath with a fae. But no matter how greatly I desire him, I will not succumb. Not until I know what will happen to the child.

Though unable-or unwilling-to reveal the fate of human-fae offspring himself, Rogue accompanies me on my quest for answers. Along the way he agrees to teach me to harness my power, in exchange for a single kiss each day and sleeping by my side each night. Just as I am about to yield to temptation, I find myself in a deadly game of cat and mouse with an insane goddess. Now my search for the truth will lead me to the darkest of all Faerie secrets.

This blurb came from the author's website.

E: So a while ago I read and absolutely loved the first Covenant of Thrones book, reviewed here with Has Rogue's Pawn. I enjoyed it so much that I started pestering poor Kennedy about the sequel. Time passed and she notified us that she would be writing more in this series so I was really excited and then she made me wait. Happily Rogue's Possession is now out and I have to say that once again Kennedy blew me away. I stayed up into the wee hours of a workday morning because I was so hooked. I am recommending that you read the first installment before you start this one because they are very closely entwined.

Has: I also had a very sleepless night finishing this book because the world that Jeffe Kennedy created was so rich and full of seductive and imaginative details that I just didn't want the book to end. But I so totally agree about reading or rereading in my case the first book, Rogue's Pawn because this installment really felt like the middle of the story and it was a true follow-up in the trilogy. And this is a series which has rich and vivid characters and an intricate plot, and I loved that the dreamy but dark overtones from the first book continues to be strong in Rogue's Possession.

E: Gwynn has been struggling with the rules of the world she stumbled into, sometimes winning and sometimes losing. Agreements and interpretation of agreements are all subject to how much power you have, allegiances, and how well you are able to think around the obvious linear answer. Gwynn is at a severe disadvantage because of agreements made in the first book and her lack of knowledge about exactly what her magic can do. She serves Lord Falcon as his battle mage doing what he says while attempting to minimize loss of human life and therefore loss of herself. She also has an agreement with Lord Rogue that she will allow him to sire her firstborn child. He is very eager to make this happen in the fullest extent possible but she negotiated several years before she is required to comply. This also means Rogue has a vested interest in keeping her alive and in as good health as possible. As she starts more intimate magic lessons with Rogue she starts to question why he is so insistent on fathering a child with her only to discover that he can't tell her. But he is willing to bend/workaround/play with the rules as much as possible to help her discover the answer.

Has: This is one of the reasons why I really adore this series, because Gwynn is an intelligent and engaging character and actually used her wits to get out of difficult situations. And like in the first book, her logic and scientific reasoning is a touchstone in a crazy world, where the fae do not play by logical rules, but I do love how flustered or puzzled they become when Gwynn manages to turn the tables on them. I have to say my favourite scenes are when she has to outsmart the fae, who are pretty wily and tricky to interact with, and it was fun to see all the negotiation and sidestepping questions to get information. But I think the best ones are when she deals with Rogue and the way they flirt with each other by exchanging favours but within the boundaries they set for each other. The tension between them which I thought was hot and sizzling in the first book, was an inferno for this one!

E: I enjoyed the transition from discovering an entirely new world to one of discovering more about its inhabitants, what drives them, and exactly how even the little things Gwynn does have a ripple effect that grows as time passes. Gwynn also came more into her own with both negotiation and finesse in her magic skills. However, nothing, especially in this world, is gained without paying a price and Gwynn continued to learn that lesson. She was forced to face one of her deepest fears, move beyond her experience to take control of the situation, and allow others the right to exercise their own free will. I was really impressed at how much Gwynn grew over the course of this installment from a bewildered person who was basically a puppet with power to someone who was willing to bend the world rules to achieve what she wanted. I also enjoyed her interactions with Rogue even more this time. The initial power imbalance was starting to level out and Rogue's perception of Gwynn had changed from looking at an obligation who was making things harder to a desirable individual who could become a partner.

Has: Yes! I loved that her character grew so much from the scared and confused woman to a woman who is embracing her magic and using her wits and not taking prisoners. I definitely agree with you that she was more of an equal footing with Rogue, in fact I felt that he was catching up with her a lot of the times especially in the first half of the book. I also liked the hint of things to come with her abilities coming to the fore and that it provided an interesting contrast with Rogue and his own hidden abilities. I really loved the synchronicity of that especially on how it interlinks with their power dynamics. I also definitely agree and loved that Gwynn faced up to one of her major fears in this book, and again highlighted how much growth and changed she underwent, but at the same time she didn't lose her sense of humanity and empathy.

I also adored the new characters that were introduced such as Athena who joins Gwynn's ragtag crew of friends and servants. It was interesting to see the follow-on effects from when Gwynn initially changed Athena to her becoming more self aware and developing a more serious and kick ass personality that lived up to her namesake. And Walter the Wizard, who like Gwynn found himself in the land of the fae and is a sorcerer, and was part of several of the most humorous scenes in the book which had me chuckling away. They both added colour and humour to the cast of established characters who were alive and so very vibrant that they leaped off the pages for me. I have also fallen more in love with Gwynn's pet familiar, Darling. He really shined in this book and was part of one of the best combat scenes and who added his own twist in a lot of levels in the David and Goliath myth – when you read this scene you would agree with what he asks of Gwynn later on!

E: I loved the variety of challenges that Kennedy threw in Gwynn's path and I have strong hopes that the next book will allow the aspects of Rogue's character that I caught glimpses of in this story to come to more prominence. Kennedy created and continued to expand a very visual lush different world. She kept the action, tension, and romantic elements nicely entwined as the story progressed. Kennedy also included a couple surprising twists towards the end, well they surprised me even though looking back I could see the trail of crumbs. This was another great installment that was well worth waiting for. Now I can't wait for the next one!

I give Rogue's Possession an A.

Has: Rogue's Possession for me was a fantastic followup to the first book, and unlike other trilogies – this didn't fall into the pitfalls of middle book syndrome but actually answered some questions and pushed the plot further as well as developing the characterization. I am also left on tenterhooks to see how things are played out because the ending brought many things into play, which I can't wait to see what happens next. But overall, this installment was really highlights that this is one of the most imaginative, seductive and darkly sensual fantasy romances I've ever read. There is a real emphasis on the characters and the plot as well as the world-building which is explored in much more depth but retains the surreal and dreamy tone with great touches of humour as well as darkness. While the romance, which has a real sexual frisson is more cerebral but leaves me wanting for the next book and I suppose the best things in life are worth waiting for! But overall I loved how this book ended which was beyond perfect and I can't wait to see what happens next with the eccentric and colourful characters that Jeffe Kennedy has created. This is definitely one of the most unique series I've read!

I also give Rogue's Possession an A!

Laura says

The best part about this series is the writing and the supporting characters.

I had a lot of fun with this up until about halfway through. Then something weird happened. I don't want to give it away, but it was almost one of those "I have absolutely no memory of last night, how did I get here" type scenarios. But rather than being fun, it left me with a weird ick feeling and I didn't like it. The question gets answered at the end but I think it lessened my enjoyment of the more lighthearted events that took place between that time and the end of the book.

Another thing I really didn't like was the treatment of one of the dragonfly girls. There was a scenario between she and the hero of the story and I'm ashamed to admit I am unclear at this point as to whether it happened in the first book or the second, but it was sexual in nature. The girl gets punished for it. Not for the deed itself, but because when dragonfly girl asked if Gwynn minded, Gwynn said no, but Gwynn didn't mean it. She was jealous or whatever and she didn't mean it when she said she didn't care at all and the dragonfly girl went and did the deed anyway. At least I think she did. It's not really clear because Gwynn refuses to look and all we are left with are sound effects. I was hopeful that nothing actually happened and was kind of confused up until the point that the girl was snatched away by the fairy queen for being a betraying bargain breaker. Clearly if it hadn't happened, there would be no betrayal. The reason it was considered a betrayal was because the girl had agreed to serve Gwynn and Gwynn didn't mean it when she said she didn't care. What bothered me specifically was just the way the girl was tossed away like she was trash and didn't matter at all and that was that. It's even stated that the dragonfly girls possess really low intelligence. I think the hero was the one to be mad at.

This was actually a very small part and the deed might have actually taken place in the first book. I probably should have reviewed each one after I read it instead of reading all of them first and then trying to remember in which book it was that each event took place. Either way, I found it irritating.

Still, there are lots of side characters who have smaller story arcs and I found them interesting and for me, it

made the other parts that bothered me easier to forgive.

Carrie says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

This book was a really great read, even having not read the first book in the series. Set in a fantasy world, not unlike the fairy world from the Dark Swan books, the world that the author describes really grabbed me. I'm not typically a fan of fantasy books (usually tending to read more contemporary paranormal romance), but this story had a good blend of a contemporary main character thrown into a paranormal rich world.

The human in this story finds herself as a very powerful sorceress, trapped into agreements with Falcon (a war obsessed tyrant) and Rogue (a sexy and domineering sorcerer). While trying to negotiate herself out of her obligations, she is forced to constantly fight her growing attraction and affection for Rogue. His game appears to be rather complex, but ultimately he needs to get her pregnant (which obviously involves lots of sexy time... none of which I would have minded). The clever dialogue and adventure really hooked me. As I said, fantasy is not really my thing, but this book really sold me on it.

The way this book ends left me a little conflicted. I am happy with where their relationship ended up, but so very unsettled with how it got there. This book definitely has a dark twist to it that somewhat overshadows the "happy" ending. I'd be eager to see what the author has in store for book 3!

Jeannie Zelos says

Rogue's Possession (Covenant of Thorns) Jeffe Kennedy

Well, I'd recently read and loved the first book so wanted to see what's in store next for Gwynn. She's now in the service of Lord Falcon, as pet sorceress for his war games – except they are real battles where people die.. Such is life in the land of the Fae, death is just part of the entertainment of the Lords and Ladies. Gwynn now has the cat Darling as her familiar. Like all cats choose their owners, Darling wanted adventure and chose to be with Gwynn. He's a terrific character and I love his mental pictures of battle armour and Gigantor Darling! He too can speak to Gwynn and she learns more about him in this book, and about just how bad things can get if a certain someone is not happy...no wonder everyone treads on eggshells while speaking of that person.

Rogue won't tell her what will happen to the child nor why he wants one, and so as she's learned the hard way about how to make a bargain, she's come up with a way to fit in with his terms but prevent him from having sex unless she agrees. There are Very Strong penalties for breaking a bargain and its something none of the Fae do. Of course Rogue is trying hard to seduce her, and she's already attracted to him so she needs to stand firm. Her bargain of one kiss per day, five minuets long at a time he chooses, and sleeping with her but touching with only one hand is trying for them both! .

There is some great magic in this book, both fun things like the magical lighted pillows, the self emptying chamber pot, the always full drinks trolley and more serious things that affect battle play and lives. Rogue manages to arrange for Gwynn to go on a quest, and some of the characters from book one accompany her, Lady Blackbird and her daughter Starling, the wonderful Darling of course, and she also ends up with many

more people in her entourage, some fairies, a sort of Bailiff - a brownie called Larch, and a few other people. She's learning a lot as she travels but somehow the more she learns the greater the dangers seem to get, and all the while the seductive Rogue is at her side trying to weaken her resolve. She needs to know more about this world if she is to stay safe, but in her quest for answers she needs to avoid drawing the attention of the insane fae/goddess she calls Titania who everyone fears intensely. Break a vow or bargain and its Titania that sets the punishment, and she sees humans and Fae alike as just disposable playthings. . The more she learns about cruelties she's caused in the past the more determined Gwynn is to escape her clutches. Priced at just £1.59 for 280 pages its another riveting read and I want book three Now :)

Stars: five of course!

Michelle says

I accidentally started the *Covenant of Thorns* series with book two and even though I feel that I was able to understand the storyline and the characters it would have been much more enjoyable if I had started with book one. Gwynn is a human trapped in the world of Faeries, she may have learned how to control magic but she still needs help. Fae Rogue is more than willing to help her learn but he has a price of his own, her first born. Because I didn't read the first book I did have some confusion but I felt that Jeffe Kennedy did a very good job of providing a narrative that helped me understand what was going on. And where I ended the story makes me very excited to pick up more. Good read!

Amy R says

Jeffe Kennedy's newest release, *Rogue's Possession* is a captivating story that engaged me from the first page. It is the second book in Jeffe's *Covenant of Thorns* series, and I do think you need to read *Rogue's Pawn* first to understand all that is going on in *Rogue's Possession*.

Rogue's Possession has the same wonderful imagery that was given to us in *Rogue's Pawn*. Jeffe does a fantastic job with her descriptions and when you add in the heroine, Gwynn's, opinions as a human you can really "see" the Fae realm. The pacing of the story is spot on and I had a tough time putting it down because there are no lulls in the story. There was always something going on to interest me, even if it was just the thoughts of Gwynn alone. Gwynn is a stubborn woman who will stop at nothing to find out the secrets that are being kept. She is trying desperately to find out what will happen to her first born that she has promised to Rogue.

Jeffe does an amazing job with world building. I never thought I would be interested in a fantasy story but after she hooked me *Rogue's Pawn* I was desperate to read the next one and counting down the days to when I could get my hands on a copy. I really like the first person point of view in this series. Gwynn is a human first and her thoughts and emotions can come out snarky which is hilarious. Now add in the non humans (like Rogue) that don't always have a clue what she is talking about and you have some very entertaining scenes.

The romance between Rogue and Gwynn is frustrating. Frustrating in that I want it to move faster than the story or the characters are willing to go. There is some undeniable chemistry there, but there are too many

bigger issues going on for either of them to take things to the next level. Even though I wanted more now, it is well written and very fitting for the characters and the story.

Rogue's Possession tells a very emotional and challenging adventure for Gwynn and Rogue. Titania, the leader of the Fae will stop at nothing to get what she wants, even if she has to add in a little mind control to move the pieces in her game. Parts of the story are heart wrenching and I couldn't help but shed a tear for the characters. The ending to Rogue's Possession, however, was perfect and I was able to finish out the story in a happy place. There is still much to be told of Rogue and Gwynn's story and I am so excited for the next one to come out. I highly recommend Rogue's Possession to anyone interested in an enchanting fantasy with a romance that will run the gamut on your emotions and leave you thinking about the book long after you finish it.

Grace Troxel says

This review originally appeared on my blog, Books Without Any Pictures:
<http://bookswithoutanypictures.com/20...>

Rogue's Possession, the second installation in Jeffe Kennedy's fantasy romance series Covenant of Thorns, picks up the tantalizing story of a human trapped in the land of the fae. In the previous book, Gwynn (formerly Jennifer) was able to negotiate a deal that kept her from being killed on the spot by angry fae, and it involves having her firstborn child with the handsome but dangerous Rogue. Gwynn realizes that something's up with the fae wanting firstborn children, but Rogue is physically prevented from talking about their fate because of a spell that Titania, the queen bitch of the fae, has upon him. Rogue's Possession is the story of Gwynn's quest to figure out what really happens to the firstborn children before it's too late.

One of the things that I love about this series is that Gwynn was a scientist back in our own world. The land of the fae is a topsy-turvy Wonderland that reminds me of something out of a Lewis Carroll story. Things don't make sense or operate according to laws of nature that we're used to. But Gwynn is still analytical and tries to figure out what rules constrain the fae, what drives them, and how she can not only survive but thrive in their world. Each chapter begins with one of Gwynn's observations about the fae, and we can see her understanding begin to shift and deepen as the story progresses.

While I do greatly enjoy the magic and the interactions between the characters, I wish there was more of a focus on consent. On the one hand, this is obviously a fantasy story, and the mythological fae are not benevolent creatures. And, as I mentioned in my review of Rogue's Pawn, she really ought to have known better when making her initial bargain, because this is very basic faery lore. On the other hand, I wish that Gwynn had more of a choice. Now, by this point in the series, I've come to respect and trust Rogue, or at least, as much as one can trust a fae. He values Gwynn's consent, and he wants her to come to him willingly. But there are others who treat everyone else as lesser beings whose agency doesn't matter. The fact that Gwynn cares about other people's feelings sets her apart from the rest of the fae, and makes her life more challenging.

My favorite part of Rogue's Possession though wasn't the story between Rogue and Gwynn, but rather of two secondary characters, Starling and Athena. Starling's half human half fae, and as such, she doesn't really fit into either world. As the book progresses, she starts to learn to value herself even if nobody else sees her as an equal. And then there's Athena, the punk-rocker dragonfly girl. Dragonfly girls are one of the lesser orders of fae, and they're pretty much silly and brainless. But due to a spell, Athena becomes self-aware, and

like Starling, she makes a place for herself in the world, adopting a punk attitude and becoming a general badass. Seeing each of those characters come into their element was heartening, and I can't wait to see how they evolve as the series continues.

I love Jeffe Kennedy's stories, and Rogue's Possession is no exception. Smart heroines, sexy male leads, and plenty of magic are sure to delight.

Paris says

Actual Rating: 3.5 Stars

I was really not impressed with the first book in this series. I thought it would end up being a while before I got to book two, but I ended up needing it for a reading challenge, so I jumped in. Rogue's Possession was a ton of fun to read. I love Gwynn and Rogue together. They play off of each other so well that it adds a lot to the story. It adds a lot that was missing in the first book since they weren't together as much.

Gwynn grows a lot in this book as well, which is fantastic to watch. She's strong and sassy and demands to be in control of her life. She goes on a quest where she's the kick butt heroine and it was so much fun to read. I loved watching her come into her own. In the first book, I wasn't all that impressed with Jennifer when she was in her world nor Gwynn when she crossed over into Fairy. But who she becomes in this book was exactly what I hoped she could become, although there are a few more steps I hope she takes in book three.

The secondary characters in this book were a lot more fun than the first one as well. I really like Starling and Darling. And a new friend that Gwynn picks up along the way adds an even more interesting dynamic. I am actually really eager to read book three now and will likely start that next.

Arc provided by the publisher via Netgalley for an honest review

Karen Voitik says

>Subject - book review - Rogue's Possession

> Review

>I received this book from the author and from Paranormal Romance and Authors that Rock.

>This is book two in the Covenant of Thorns series. The story ends not so much in a cliff hanger, but more unresolved.

> The story continues with Gwynn still fighting silly battles for the fae. A lot of verbal slight of hand occurs. Everything a fae says is literal, as are any promises or pacts. There are quite a few scenes of interesting debate, discussing terms and so forth in order to move on in the story. Rogue completes such a verbal sparring and frees Gwynn from her years of war fighting, in order to travel on a quest to find out what

happened to the first born children who disappear. During the journey, he is slowly seducing Gwynn, with the goal of getting her pregnant.

>This story was so much more fun to read than book 1. There were new fun characters and magical items and places Gwynn and Rogue visit. Each character brings a personality and uniqueness to the story. The strange duel with the sorcerer, Walter, was full of comic relief. The reader understands, finally, that Rogue had to sacrifice quite a bit in order to keep Gwynn as safe as possible during her torture. He did not just leave her as I first thought.

>The romance blossomed in this second book. Gwynn is desperate to find Rogue and he is able to show his love, in his own way. The reader understands, a bit, why he was so contrained. I hope the third book delves into what exactly is fueling Titania. This book sucked me in a bit more.

> This book is for an adult (18+) audience, due to descriptive sex scenes.

Nicky Peacock says

I loved this book! Fae are one of the few paranormal creatures I truly love reading about and when it's a bad book about them, I'm appalled – but when it's great – like Rogue's Pawn, it's truly magical.

The whole feel of a modern woman being flung into a Fae land was wonderful escapism and really reminded me of the CS Lewis books, obviously these ones are not suitable for kids though! The main character was strong and actually portrays a real modern gal as she should be, which can be rare in these types of romances.

From a writer's perspective the author had the right amount of time spent on each part. One in particular to mention is the 'training' that the protagonist is given by two nasty, depraved Faes. It could have easily descended into an Anne Rice's Sleeping Beauty S&M tale – or dare I say Fifty Shades, but it didn't, it gave the reader enough to go on without being deliberately salacious.

I haven't made my mind up about Rogue yet. I'm still reading the second book, Rogue's Possession. He's written beautifully as an alpha male, but I still don't trust him – which just goes to show how much effort Jeffe went to in creating him as a character.

The front covers of both books are lovely and, to be honest, I couldn't fault any part of it. I thoroughly enjoyed Rogue's Pawn and am greedily awaiting a third book.

5 out 5 stars – if I could give it more, I would!

a_tiffyfit says

Picking up right where we left off with Rogue's Pawn, Gwynn is delving deeper, not just looking for a way out of her bargain, but worried over the whys and wherefors about her deal with Rogue. Her nicknames continue to amuse, even when she's facing dreadful danger and she's making more friends (and more

enemies) as her talents and powers develop, as she tries to skate the fine line between breaking and keeping bargains.

What is a magical tale without a quest? Gwynn learns more and more about firstborns, remembering stories of changelings, has a run in with the Queen Bi---, Titania, herself, and is now on a quest to help determine what happened to Blackbird and Fergus's baby, Brody, and what it means for Gwynn and her firstborn, which will be Rogue's if she fulfills her bargain with him.

And she should because oathbreaking in Faerie can have dire consequences...

There is so much detail in these novels, delicious, lush detail of this world Jeffe Kennedy has created for us. Well-written, well-paced, and in a world built to dine on, I devoured the pages. Another Kindle Bruiser book. I stabbed and swiped, eagerly gobbling up page after page in my own quest to find out "WHAT NEXT?!"

I love Gwynn's gumption, innovations, and morals. I loved reading the relationship build between her and Rogue, her and Starling, her and her friends as she developed them. I'd recommend this and the first book to anyone who loves paranormal, fantasy, and tales revolving around the Fae!

Rhenna Morgan says

So, there are times when you want a book where you can "check your brain at the door" and just enjoy a fairly simple plot. Something set in current times with our current world so you don't have to work too hard. Then there are times you want to be challenged. To enjoy something very different. When you're in the latter mood, pick up this book. (Complete with Rogue's Pawn before it.)

The world Jeffe's created in this series is so unique and original you'll find yourself asking, "Why can't all books be this fresh?" I love the chemistry between Rogue and Gwen. My only complaint was that I wanted them together constantly. It was damned hard not to skim between the times the two weren't together because the together scenes were so YUMMY.

L.E.Olteano says

Originally posted at Butterfly-o-Meter Books on October 1st 2013:

Fluttering Thoughts:

Worldbuilding: Absolutely amazing high fantasy world of Faerie (fae, wizards, sorceresses, fairies, brownies, dragons)

Characters: Gwynn is a tough cookie and a definite survivor. After what she went through in the first book, Rogue's Pawn, she's a powerful and respected sorceress and mainly kicks ass. She's also vulnerable and fighting with herself to not give in to Rogue's merciless seduction tactics. I loved Gwynn in Rogue's Pawn and I adored her in Rogue's Possession. Though she's caught in a whirlwind of fantasy and magic, she does her best to stick to her principles especially when it would be easier for her to let them go. She's a role model

in fact, and some of the other female characters around her (whom I might deem sidekicks, maybe) look up to her and try to follow her example.

Rogue was, as usual, irresistible. I don't know how Gwynn manages to resist his insidious tactics, lol, but she has very good reason (which makes her character all the stronger). Though you could cast him in a sort-of-villain role as the story progresses, the fae noble does reach the reader's heart with his seemingly infinite tenderness and care for Gwynn. I had faith in him from the very start, and he didn't disappoint me in the end. Their chemistry is absolutely explosive, though the actual one on one doesn't really happen (well, you'll find out by the end of the story this one detail I am not giving away so not to ruin your reading experience), what happens between them is this endless courting dance, tender, intense, heartbreaking since it seems to be a doomed love/attraction. Epic, epic relationship-building, and I feel like I should add a special category for it aside the Worldbuilding to my romance reviews, because Jeffe Kennedy makes art out of it for sure.

Plot: The romantic arc entwines with an active action arc and delivers an eventful, fast paced read that kept me on the edge of my seat and biting my nails and occasionally squealing/squirming/cursing (Titania was mentioned, lol).

Writing: Awesome first person narrative with an air of epic fantasy-ness about it that totally fits the worldbuilding and atmosphere of the novel, but keeps the playful awesome voice that I've come to call the 'Jeffe Effect' xD

Curb Appeal: Epic cover, epic blurb, epic author – total impulsive buy material.

All in all, I highly recommend this read if you like good worldbuilding, fantasy worlds and masterful atmosphere building and storytelling. You need to read the first novel in the series first, and you'll most likely love it, and I am definitely reading the next one(s) – who am I kidding, I geekily fangirl over everything Jeffe writes, ain't like I'd miss out on reading anything she writes, really.

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

The world of Jeffe Kennedy's Covenant of Thorns is absolutely built on the premise that one should be careful what one wishes for, because one will almost certainly get exactly that. However, magic wishes (and the fae who inhabit the world she has built) are incredibly slippery; one gets precisely what one wished, the letter of the wish, and not the spirit.

Magic wishes are dangerous currency, and all too frequently turn on the one wishing them. A lesson that Gwynn believes she has learned at a high price during the first book in this series, Rogue's Pawn . However, Gwynn has crossed to the fae lands from our own world, and sometimes she is too stubborn to accept that the fae do not operate by the kind of logic that she is used to.

Sometimes the fae are too used to being all-powerful to accept that Gwynn does not operate by the rules that they are used to.

Even though every interchange for every conceivable situation (and some that Gwynn finds inconceivable) is handled through bargaining and negotiation, Gwynn continues to find ways to maintain an increasingly tenuous hold on herself as still mostly-human. A task that gets more difficult every day.

Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Gwynn must use her power to protect herself and those she has come to care for from the Queen who has ruled uncontested for eternity.

But Gwynn has to maneuver through a landscape where the other players withhold knowledge from her at every turn. She is flying blind by the seat of her pants.

Rogue, the fae who brought her to Faerie, keeps vital knowledge from her in order to protect her, until his protection is taken away. Then Gwynn takes on a quest of discovery to determine what bargains Rogue has made on her behalf, what he has broken, and what he has kept.

Because bargains are the coin of this realm. And he may have committed one or both of them to something that will kill or enslave Gwynn if he cannot be found. And because in spite of all the secrets he has kept, and in spite of all the times he has left her in ignorance, once he disappears Gwynn realizes that he truly was bound by negotiations made with others that he could not control.

And that in spite of her best intentions, she cares more than she expected. She might even love him. But she'll never know what secrets he is keeping from her if she doesn't rescue him. Even if it kills her.

Escape Rating B+: What makes this series work for me, at least so far, is following Gwynn's perspective. Not just because she is an extreme case of the fish-out-of-water type, but because she handles it so intelligently. She not only doesn't understand but she adapts to each situation. I like being in her head.

However, because the reader's perspective is so closely tied to Gwynn's, her darkness is our darkness; we only know what she knows. I think I'm identifying with her a little too much, because the way that everyone around her is keeping her deliberately uninformed is driving me mad. It keeps me turning pages, but I'm astounded that she hasn't made a lot more things explode. Also that so few of the fae who surround her and supposedly want her best interests at heart do not see her agency. They see her magic potential but not her intelligence, or something.

Rogue's "courtship" of Gwynn is fascinating, because the reader is never quite sure what his game is, and neither is Gwynn. It is very sensual and extremely hot and sometimes sweet as well, but he always has a purpose and it isn't true love. Gwynn's right about that. Which doesn't preclude them needing each other for something deeply important including and beyond great sex. Eventually.

The fae culture of bargaining, negotiation and oaths has layers within layers. Gwynn is still learning, and watching her navigate is one of the tough but compelling parts of her journey.

Even though I'm certain that Rogue's Possession is the second book in a trilogy, it absolutely does not suffer from "middle-book syndrome". It comes to a satisfying conclusion, and ends the story in a reasonably good place. It just has some loose ends that I can't wait to see tied up. Possibly with green ribbon. (Read and you'll understand)

Carien says

So good!
