



Claimed by the Enemy

Shauna Roberts

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Crown Princess Nindalla knows the terrifying power of Sargon of Akkad's army: Ten years ago, it destroyed her home city and killed her parents. Now the nightmare is happening again. The Akkadians conquer her new home, Susa; make her a widow; and strip her of her rank. Nindalla vows to protect her children from her enemies by any means necessary, including marrying whoever can shield them best. With plots swirling around her, can she trust her instincts to tell friends from foes?

Farm boy Ur-sag-enki was forced to become a soldier in the Akkadian army ten years ago after it destroyed his home and left him with nothing. When the Akkadians conquer Susa, he is awarded its governorship. He looks forward to settling down to the normal family life he craves. First, though, he must keep control of Susa despite enemies who exploit his inexperience, and he must gain legitimacy by persuading beautiful former princess Nindalla to marry him. But can he win her heart when it was his hand that struck down her husband?

Claimed by the Enemy Details

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From Reader Review Claimed by the Enemy for online ebook

Charles says

"I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review". However, I've read most of what Shauna Roberts has written and would have purchased the book anyway to read it. "Claimed by the Enemy" is historical fiction set in ancient Sumeria. The title and cover image suggests a romance kind of theme and there is a core romance in the story. However, the story is really a study of characters who are thrown into an almost intolerable situation and yet rise above it. Other reviews have given more detail of the plot so I won't repeat that here. The key elements for me were, 1) the courage and likability of the main characters, who were certainly not perfect but were easy to root for, and 2) the wonderfully detailed descriptions of an ancient society, which is a big reason why I read historical fiction. A bonus for me was the "playfulness" that emerged in the characters as the story developed. Sometimes in movies people speak of whether the main characters have "chemistry" or not. Well, there was certainly chemistry between Nindalla and Ur-sag-enki.

Barron says

Overall 4 Stars

Performance 4 Stars

Story 4 Stars

"Another fine story set in ancient Mesopotamia"

Unlike the other book by Shauna Roberts that I reviewed, this one is little different. In this story the male MC, who's name I cannot spell just like the female MC, has been infatuated with the female MC since he first saw her as a little boy. Sad part is that she didn't even know he existed until he killed her husband in a battle that takes place outside the pages of this book. Now that she does know about him, she is certainly not in love with him and keeps trying to put off his proposals of marriage for as long as she can.

She is a princess of Sumer. He is the newly appointed governor of the territory that his army has just conquered. He has just delivered her third child, the son of her now deceased husband. How will he ever convince her to marry him. He vows to never give up and wait as long as it takes. In the meantime, he has vowed to watch over her and her children and let no one harm them.

I don't think it is a spoiler to say she eventually falls in love with him and agrees to marry him, since it is afterall a love story. But WOW what she puts him through before she ever gets to that point. You have got to listen to this story. Shauna Roberts does a fine job of weaving a tale of love and betrayal set in era that she know quite a lot about since she has a Phd and has taught courses in ancient Mesopotamia at the college level.

You can't help but care about the two MCs and want for both of them to get exactly what they want.

Hollie Jackson is a wonderful narrator and has a beautiful voice. Her voices for the male characters are as believable as those of the female ones, and they are varied enough that the listener has no trouble telling who is speaking.

If you like a good romance novel that is not too sappy, then *Claimed by the Enemy* is the right book for you.

I would love to say more but I have no idea how to spell the names of the people and places. This is one of those books where having the ebook or paperback edition would come in handy.

I received this book from the author via Goodread Audiobooks group in exchange for an honest review.

R.N. Crane says

What an extraordinary book. The author has studied the history of Mesopotamia and weaved it into the story. The reader is catapulted into a time warp many years BC by the author's use of character names, city locations and local customs. In the beginning, a twelve year old farm boy is mesmerized by a princess passing by in a parade. He vows to marry her some day.

Fifteen years later, the princess is in a birthing hut about to have a child. Yelling and screaming fill the air outside the hut. Women helpers leave the birthing hut and do not return. The princess' city is being attacked. A soldier, one of the attackers, enters the hut and helps her with the birth. He soon realizes that the woman he is helping is the princess he saw in the parade many years ago. The story follows the soldier and the princess as they fight off thieves, liars, and vicious people who try to steal everything. However, somehow they manage to triumph over all the evil around them.

Susan says

Set in ancient Mesopotamia, King Sargon's army has been conquering and laying claim to cities in his area for decades. For Princess Nindalla of Susa, this is the second time in her young life that Sargon's Akkadians have conquered her home. Ur-sag-enki was once a farm boy. But the Akkadians changed all that when they destroyed his home and brought ruin to his family. Now, he is a soldier in the Akkadian army. He believes his destiny is tied to Nindalla's but plots and violence keep driving them apart.

First, this is an awesome book. Second, I know the cover doesn't convey all the awesomeness contained in this novel, so just push it to the side. There is indeed a romantic love story twined throughout this tale, but there is ever so much more going on. The world is richly conveyed to the reader in a thousand little ways – a few Sumerian words are sprinkled here and there, the way folks dress, swearing by and praying to the deities of the time, liberal consumption of beer, and love pouring forth from the liver (instead of the heart).

The characters have quite a bit of depth, having a history, but also growing throughout this story. The women are portrayed realistically for the time and culture, but they are not boring or simply decorative pieces moved here and there. Princess Nindalla especially is critical for the plot, not because she is the love interest of Ur-sag-enki, but because she has political power and a brain. I really enjoyed this character. She's a mother of 3, so no shy blushing maiden here. Also, this ties her to the city, and she has to consider her children in each and every decision she makes for their lives may be greatly affected.

Ur-sag-enki wasn't your average beau. He is a Sumerian of a conquered land living and working as a soldier in the enemy's army. He has his reasons (ones that aren't revealed til the end of the book) but his status

brings him many enemies both within the Akkadian army and within the newly conquered Susa. Once, as a farm boy, he saw Nindalla from afar and knew then and there that she was his destiny. While that is a nice romantic touch, it fed into his motivations later on. Personally, I think his character would have made many of the same decisions concerning Nindalla even if he hadn't fallen in love with her on first sight. But if you are a romantic, that will make you sigh and go all gooey hearted.

The plot was excellent. So much palace intrigue! So much army back stabbing! Both Ur-sag-enki and Nindalla have to navigate these treacherous waters, all the while not knowing if they can trust each other.

And there was beer. Now Mesopotamian beer isn't like Coors or even a good porter. It was a nutritional part of the daily diet. Everyone (men, women, kids, elderly, pregnant ladies) consumed this beverage. It was great to see that the author didn't shy away from showing this aspect of Mesopotamian life despite social norms of today concerning alcohol.

OK, so the cover. I'm not so hot on it. I assume the young man on the cover is meant to be Ur-sag-enki. However, he doesn't have any scars, he doesn't look like he's been through hell and back, he's not tanned or dark skinned as I pictured the character. While the cover is easy on the eyes it just doesn't convey the awesomeness contained in this story. And that is my only quibble about the book.

The Narration: Hollie Jackson was really good with the voices. Her Princess Nindalla was excellent. She also was great at pronouncing the Sumerian words and the ancient Mesopotamian deities. My only criticism is that several times throughout the book there were double overs of a line or two. If it happens just once or twice in a book, I don't mention it. However, with this book it happened a 4-6 times. Other than that, her performance was great.

Holly Smyth says

I received this book in exchange for an honest review. I found it well-written, and entertaining. It held my interest throughout. When noting the names and places listing at the front of the book, I felt like I was embarking on an unusual journey, similar to sci-fi or fantasy worlds. But this was definitely not the case. This information was quite helpful in order to understand the historical setting of the book. It became apparent that the author had done extensive homework in researching the time period. It was refreshing to read of a romance that was not your usual historical version. I only wish that the story had been longer. I hope that a sequel will be forthcoming!

Sophia says

One of the reasons that I read Historical Fiction or Historical Romance is to be transported to a new place and time, to learn about a long ago culture, to see universal themes that I can relate to even now, but of course I love a rousing good romance, intrigue and adventure too. This story was all that and I only reluctantly clicked to the acknowledgements page at the end because I really could have stayed with this story even longer because of how much I liked it. The historical setting is 2700 years BCE Mesopotamia which was the biggest draw, but the story description of a woman determined to survive the early days of the conquest that brings her adopted people and city into the cruel, brutal reign of the Akkadian Empire was tantalizing too. She is given to one of the enemy and she must do what she can to survive even if it means

taking him as a husband and ruler.

Princess Nindalla is Sumerian by birth, but was betrothed to a prince of Susa when she was young. She had to watch from a distance as the Akkadian army rolled through her homelands, raping and pillaging as they went before torturing and slaughtering her own family. Now here they are at the doorstep of her adopted homeland. Her husband and the king with their smaller army wage war even while she goes through the travails of giving birth to a hoped for son. Her husband prefers his concubine, but Nindalla isn't cruelly treated so she wishes to do her duty and please him in this way. Little does she know that loss and change are come for her once again. The kind Sumerian soldier that is the only one there to help her deliver her child is also the very same man who will claim the city and her under his governorship. She is repulsed at the idea that one of her own people would serve the brutal killers that wiped out their home. She can never give herself to such a traitor or can she if it means protection for her children.

Ur-sag-Enki's life began as a simple common farm boy who dreamed of a destiny intertwined with that of the young beautiful Princess Nindalla. How was he to guess that years later fate would bring them together in the most unlikely way? As a captain in the Akkadian army, his general has surprised him with the governorship of Susa with the condition that he have things in hand including the fiery Princess Nindalla. Ur-sag-Enki sees his chance to leave the machine of the army to start over. He will build up this city and lead it well and he will have the happy, peaceful family that he always wanted with Nindalla. That is as soon as he gets past her anger over his seeming traitorous association and the fact that it was his knife that ended her late husband's life. Put that with the struggle to understand a new culture, learn its language, win the trust of its suspicious people and see through the machinations and intrigues of those who would seize power for themselves in a turbulent transition.

Alright, I found this book impressive. It was an amazing story that had me engaged from cover to cover. The historical setting was painted with such color and depth. It was foreign to me and yet it was described in such a way that I saw it well in my imagination. There was enough use of antiquated names, objects, ways of thinking and doing that I was convinced that I was reading about that time period. That being said, this was not heavy going and didn't detract from the story. It only added to it.

There is a lot of political intrigue going on as well as shifting of powerful pieces. There are several characters that are deftly drawn in this story. Very few are just walk-ons or background parts. Ur-sag-Enki was an interesting choice for hero. He is a commoner who started life as a farmer's child, was inducted into a hard warring and conquering army of the Akkadians and now he is faced with civil governing responsibilities. Through it all, he is really a gentle soul that just wants to do his duty by his new adopted people, live at peace, love the woman he has dreamed of since he was a boy and raise a family. He doesn't understand plotting and greed nor does he have an ounce of cruelty or artifice in him so he comes across as naive and weak though anyone who would disregard him as so would be wrong. He's a survivor after all he has endured and he is strong in a quiet way. He is a beta hero in point of fact. Nindalla is Ur-sag-Enki's opposite. She is royal by birth and behavior. She is strong and understands power and politics just fine. She is one who underestimates the man who wishes to claim her. She can help Ur-sag-Enki govern Susa, but can't decide if he means all that he promises. She is not just a princess, but a mother too so her children are her priority. She is drawn to Ur-sag-Enki on an emotional level, but she has to make decisions coolly and calmly with her head. He is not necessarily her best bet for her and her children's survival.

As an aside, I liked how the author included the glossary and notes to make things easier and provide enrichment to the book.

In summation, this was fantastic and I would definitely read more of this author's work. I would recommend this to historical fiction fans of Mesopotamian History and Historical Romance fans who enjoy an enemies to lovers intrigue set in ancient times.

Mrcarapaligmail.com says

I am a very busy novelist/educator/dancer, so if I am going to read fiction that doesn't directly pertain to research, IT HAS TO BE GOOD. From the perspective of a fan of historical fiction, this novel fits the bill.

Ms. Roberts does her homework and knows how to integrate it seamlessly into her novels. No clunky exposition or overly-wordy descriptions here. In fact, I would rate her with Ray Bradbury and Emily Bronte as a master of setting as character. Her characters are believable and real. Nindalla is neither a superwoman nor perfect, like too many heroines nowadays, and Ur-Sag-Enki is so hopelessly clueless that at certain points in the story you just want to hug him and tell him it's gonna be all right.

As an aside--and this is NOT a criticism of the author's work at all--Ur-Sag-Enki is pictured on the cover as shirtless, yet the author makes a point that he always wears a tunic. It's a personal and class-based choice for him that's important to his character. Now, I like a nice, hunky dude with an exposed chest like the next lass, but in the spirit of accuracy in which the novel is written, it did bother me. (I'm sure these things have to do with publisher and gathering readers, so this is a very small complaint, and only because a)I'm anal about these kinds of things, and b)The novel is so obviously well-researched, and it's equally as obvious that historical accuracy is one of the author's great strengths.)

This is an enjoyable weekend read AND a valuable lesson in Mesopotamian history. Brava!

Monica N says

Claimed by the Enemy

This is not the type of book that I normally read so I was surprised that I actually got into it. There is an incredible amount of detail in these pages. So much so that it seemed that I was standing there watching each character as the story played out. If you are into ancient Egypt and romance, I think you would like this book. I know I did.

Disclaimer: I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

Rosalind M says

Rich with historical details that bring life to a part of the historical world very few of us think about, *Claimed*

by the Enemy is a realistic portrayal of a woman whose devotion to duty and propriety are tested when the lives of her children are endangered, and a farm boy turned rough-hewn soldier who has loved her from afar since boyhood. Ur-sag-enki's earnestness turns the tale from the nightmarish aftermath of conquest into the relatable story of a man seeking to prove himself to the woman of his dreams (and to stay alive long enough to do so).

Pamijo Perkins says

Having read paranormal romance in the past few years, it was just a little hard getting into the story. Not the authors fault, but my own. Once I commit to something, I don't give up easily.

I'm glad I didn't quit. I found myself caught up in such an ancient era. Shauna explains everything in such detail. I loved it. I felt Shauna really done her homework on this one. She makes the characters so real and puts you in a position to be right there with them.

I'd recommend this to my friends!

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

Deb says

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

If this book was missing anything, I can't tell you what it was. There is political intrigue, murder plans, dreams come true, and lives are shattered, there are princesses, babies, families lost, new families found, friends in surprising places, enemies where you least expect them, there's an overwhelming love of a mother and the dedication and devotion of a new ruler. Each page seems to have something new to keep the reader hooked and reading to the end. Not exactly what I have come to expect in a romance, but a very good read none the less.

Wendy says

I enjoyed this historical romance set in an ancient Mesopotamia location. While the author included a list and explanation of terms, character names, and deities, I found that her writing was of a quality that the list was unnecessary. Still, it was a thoughtful touch in this well written, entertaining story about a princess and a farm boy turned soldier who falls in love with her.

Carmen Torres says

Review of claimed by the enemy

I loved their story and thought it captured my attention immediately. Well written and kept me in suspense thru their adversity and finally their love. Congrats great book would highly recommend

Laurie Bolanos says

Loved the intensity of the storyline and the historical accuracy. Shauna Roberts has pulled off an extraordinary tale!

Petula says

★★★★★

This book is set over 4,000 years in the past.

As a young boy Ur-sag-enki travelled with his family into the city, to watch a Royal procession. He was awestruck at the splendour of it all, but when he saw the young Princess Nindalla he declared that one day he would marry her. Everyone around him laughed and said a poor farmer's son could never marry a Royal Princess.

Years and many tragedies later Ur-sag-enki is delighted and amazed when his army General awards him the title of Governor of the city they have just conquered. The general tells him he must marry the widow of the man he has just executed to keep control of the city.

I really enjoyed going back so far in history. The dangers of everyday life for all make me thankful we don't live like that anymore. Politics played a part even then. Even the rulers could never be sure who to trust. Slavery was a very real danger for conquered citizens. Being strong in every way was vital. A very interesting journey with all the adventure you could want.
