

The Pledge

By Kimberly Derting

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In the violent country of Ludania, the language you speak determines what class you are, and there are harsh punishments if you forget your place—looking a member of a higher class in the eye can result in immediate execution.

Seventeen-year-old Charlaina (Charlie for short) can understand all languages, a dangerous ability she's been hiding her whole life. Her only place of release is the drug-filled underground club scene, where people go to shake off the oppressive rules of the world they live in. There, she meets a beautiful and mysterious boy who speaks a language she's never heard, and her secret is almost exposed. Through a series of violent upheavals, it becomes clear that Charlie herself is the key to forcing out the oppressive power structure of her kingdom.

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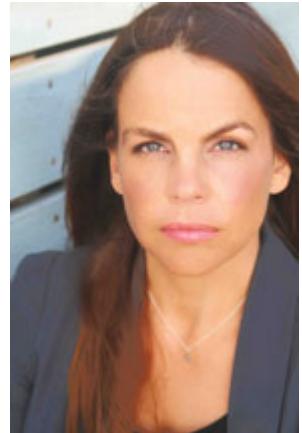
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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Exclusive: Margaret Stohl Reviews *The Pledge*



Margaret Stohl writes the bestselling *Beautiful Creatures* novels along with coauthor Kami Garcia. The latest book in the series is *Beautiful Chaos*. She is also the author of the forthcoming *Icons*, the first book in a new YA series.

Margaret Atwood once wrote, "War is what happens when language fails." As a writer, of course, I'm always particularly interested when people who love words tell stories of the power of words; I felt that way about Ally Condie's stolen remnants of poetry in *Matched*, and again in Kimberly Derting's fierce contest of language in *The Pledge*. Atwood, Condie, and Derting are circling around the same fire, here; if you liked one you'll like the others, as I did, and I suggest all three.

Powerful people can speak, more powerful people can control the story. Within the sharply, smartly drawn world of *The Pledge*, of all the many layers of regulated dialect and mediated power, only one language is essentially magic—the untaught, instinctual language of the ruling class. What happens when someone powerless can suddenly speak and understand it? What happens when that someone is a young woman with something of her own to say? What happens when she chooses to love someone she shouldn't, someone who speaks it too?

We writers talk so often about voice, but this is one of the few YA novels I've ever seen that expressly examines the power of a girl's own voice, her right to have it and use it. *The Pledge* is deeply written and deeply felt, and I look forward to the sequel. --*Margaret Stohl*

Review

"Derting's chilling dystopia envisions an America ruled by monarchy, most of its cities razed, and its citizens straitjacketed in a caste system divided by language...[and is] right on when depicting the bonds of family, friendship, and first love."--"Publishers Weekly"

"A girl reluctantly faces her destiny in this gripping dystopian fantasy. Derting ("Desires of the Dead", 2011, etc.) keeps her story consistently engaging through vivid description and brisk pacing, propelling Charlie through her adventure. She throws enough romance into the mix to satisfy but keeps the main focus on suspense. More great suspense from a prolific new writer with a vibrant imagination."--"Kirkus "Reviews

"Fast-paced and engrossing. A world of class languages is an intriguing vehicle for demonstrating the issues of insider vs. outsider that can be so typical of the teenage years. While today's teens probably will not find resistance fighters and royal blood hidden in their worlds, they will find, as Charlie does, that people are not really as they seem."--VOYA

"Though not strictly dystopian (this book is more of a unique blend of dystopian, fantasy, and fairy tale), "The Pledge" certainly has all the earmarks that fans of "The Hunger Games" will enjoy. Derting has created truly one of the most original stories I've seen hit the YA shelves in a long time -- crafting her own genre out of existing themes, and weaving together a story that will keep you up late into the night reading."--The Examiner

About the Author

Howard Melvin Fast (11 November 1914, New York City - 12 March 2003, Old Greenwich, Connecticut) was a Jewish American novelist and television writer, who wrote also under the pen names E. V. Cunningham and Walter Ericson.

No Bio

Users Review

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