



### A Note To The Author

**Remember: This is *your* book. My role is simply to offer insight, guidance, and suggestions based on my experience and editorial judgment—but you remain the final authority on your story. You are never obligated to apply any note, suggestion, or comment that doesn't align with your vision, and any professional advice I give is not intended to be offensive or a personal attack on you or your writing. My only goal is to help you shape your work into the masterpiece you envision and to support your success on the path to publication. With that in mind, please see all notes, comments, and suggestions below.**

**With encouragement,**

**Amaris Wolf  
Wolf & Prose Precision Editorial**

## Beta Reading Review

Author: Aaron Meehan  
Title: Alvania- Book 1: Fire Rising  
Word Count: 92K  
Genre: YA Fantasy

## Overall Thoughts-

### - General Impressions:

The story is creative, with rich fantasy elements, intriguing lore, and a promising protagonist. The prologue and action sequences are powerful in tone and execution. The character dynamics feel inconsistent early in the story but show some improvement throughout. The pacing needs work with too many life-altering events happening in quick succession. The romantic arc for the main characters feels rushed and premature, reducing its emotional impact. And the ending lacks resolution for key plot points, leaving the reader without closure.

### - Strengths:

- 1.) Worldbuilding Potential- intricate setting and magical system (though it needs established clarity)
- 2.) Action Writing- Combat scenes are vivid and compelling
- 3.) Character Humor- Henry, Joffrey, and their banter stand out as enjoyable and consistent
- 4.) Description & Detail- Excellent descriptions of scenery, objects, and emotional moments
- 5.) Tone Appropriateness- Clean content with minimal profanity, a plus for YA readers
- 6.) Pacing improvement in later chapters- Later chapters show more balance between action, character development, and emotion
- 7.) Great Chapter Highlights- Prologue, Chapters 6, 8, 10, 17, and 19 stood out from the rest

### - Areas to Improve:

#### A.) Character Development & Relationships:

- Dialogue often feels forced or too formal/causal.
- Runild and Alyssia's relationship progresses too fast; romantic moments would be stronger with a slow burn.
- Emotional Reactions (to life-threatening battles or losses) lack realism or consistency.
- Characters seem too powerful or emotionally invincible (lack of stakes, consequences, or trauma)

#### B.) Worldbuilding Consistency:

- Magic system rules are unclear or contradictory (learned vs inherited magic)
- Social structure and norms, especially for nobility and women, need deeper exploration to match character behavior

#### C.) Plot & Structure:

- Major plot points like the dragons or reuniting Runild with his parents are unresolved

- Repetitive phrases, redundant descriptions, and info dumps reduce impact
- Some chapters/events feel out of place or poorly timed (such as romance or flashbacks)
- The climax and ending lack a “full circle” resolution, which may discourage readers from continuing

#### D.) Writing Style & Technical Feedback

- Chapter titles and transitions could be more meaningful and consistent
- I love you is overused, and unrealistic physical feats such as carrying others with broken ribs affect immersion
- Occasional grammar and formatting issues (missing quotation marks, run-on sentences, inconsistent timelines, etc)

## Chapter-by-Chapter Notes:

### Prologue

#### Summary:

The prologue captures my interest and leaves me asking many questions. Who is Silius? What part does he play in the story? Why is he so evil, and will he get away with the murder of his disciples? What is Lakehaven? And who is this king he references? I get the feeling that there is a lot of intricate background to all of these things, and I'm curious to learn it all.

#### Feedback:

Some notes to consider.

- 1.) One thing that jumped out at me right away was the slow revealing of the location/scenery. It's hard to understand the lay of the land concerning the sequence of actions when you don't realize you're standing in a forest until a few paragraphs in. This made it hard for me to get a clear visual about where this part of the story is taking place, and it makes the revelation of the forest jarring when it does become clear.
- 2.) In the prologue they have just fought a bloody battle in search of an artifact which they find, however the type of artifact is ambiguous and key details, like it being a treasure chest, are withheld for too long. I pictured a medallion at first until the word “chest” appeared in the paragraph. It's generally very startling for your imagination to be interrupted during reading when you realize you've been picturing things incorrectly.
- 3.) As a twenty-five year old who has seen the Despicable Me franchise films, the word minion immediately reminds me of those yellow pill creatures from the childrens movies. If this is for a YA audience, then they may also make this connection. You may not care and that's fine, but you should know that the word association messed with my ability to see the dark or sinister in these henchmen. A synonym may be better.
- 4.) Lastly, I noticed an extra space around a comma when Silius is looking into the mirror.

### Chapter 1

#### Summary:

Overall pretty good. I feel like the character dynamics need a little more work, some of their interactions are too formal, too casual, or not accurately in line with the main characters thoughts and feelings towards them. Try to avoid perfect characters by having them make mistakes and take longer to reconcile; this will model typical relationships and make them more relatable to the readers.

#### Feedback:

- 1.) The word later in the chapter title should be capitalized.
- 2.) Beautiful description of the scenery and well done tying in Runild's appearance with that.
- 3.) Using a description like all-too-familiar is a cop out. There are other, more descriptive ways to show he knows who is speaking without looking. Such as "her words a taunt as she closes in on me" or something like this. Also, I would switch footsteps approaching to approaching footsteps.

- 4.) Something to consider, usually people with ice magic have a personality that mimics the ice power. Ice is very cold, calm, nonchalant, and strong. Alyssia has an awfully fiery temperament for someone with ice powers.
- 5.) Is she walking up from the base of the hill? Or from behind him? It's unclear in the description of her blocking the view of the mountain.
- 6.) Someone who is the best usually does not need to verbally say it. Maybe instead she says something like "you don't stand a chance in tomorrow's final, it'll take more than primary school tricks to defeat me. The judges will see just how truly advanced I am compared to anyone else in the academy, and in my victory you'll be reduced to ashes of your own making."
- 7.) Didn't he already have his things gathered before they started talking? You mention that he grabs his things and then stands to speak to Alyssia. Unless I misunderstood, you have him gathering his things twice within a few paragraphs.
- 8.) This may be just me, but I find it strange that his best friend Henry has a seemingly normal name while the main character and rival have strange names. It's not a big deal but it caught my attention.
- 9.) Also, as a best friend, if I was suddenly attacked by my best friend I wouldn't say "simmer down" I'd say "what the heck! Are you crazy?? Chill out, it's only me!" Especially if the attack was 1.) a surprise and 2.) life threatening. I wouldn't speak so formally about it with them.
- 10.) I feel like after Runild realizes it's Henry he should feel relieved that Henry is not injured before he gets mad about Henry spying on him.
- 11.) The description of Runild's anger with Henry for spying sounds a bit girly. Try something like "his eyes burned red and his cheeks broke out in a sweat."
- 12.) You need to mention that Henry hit the deck when Runild blew fire at him, I just assumed that he dodged the blast and kept walking towards him. Also, by this point, shouldn't Runild have helped him up?
- 13.) I would say "I was trying to enjoy the peace when she interrupted it with her taunting.." Instead of "she came up here to taunt me."
- 14.) Glowstick doesn't make sense as a nickname for a fire mage. Maybe use matchstick instead?
- 15.) How close are they to the guild dining hall? The scenery at the start of the chapter made it sound like they are pretty far removed from civilization. So without any walking to now be in front of or within earshot of the dining hall is very confusing. Also, there needs to be some description of the dining hall itself as they're walking in. This includes inside and outside, 1-2 sentences for both would do.
- 16.) I think the word trousers would fit better in "don't get your pants in a twist".
- 17.) Thank you for omitting the profanity. It's refreshing to see a book without it. I know this is technically for YA but it's so common that I've come to expect it.
- 18.) Good use of Italics for personal thoughts and dreams.
- 19.) I absolutely love the descriptions of his mother.
- 20.) I feel like it's unnecessary to mention that Runild's eyes are different from his dad's, you've already mentioned Rosalia's eyes are blue so it's assumed that Runild got his mother's eyes; to say he is the spitting image of his father in every other way is enough.
- 21.) I love maps for stories, however the description of the map at this point in the story is too much information. You're sharing details about a place before they are necessary to the story. I would stop after noting the intricate details of the artistry in the map and let the descriptions of places and fun facts about them come up later; one by one as they become crucial to the story. This entire paragraph is an info dump and most readers will likely skip over it if you keep it as it is.
- 22.) ^In addition to that, he currently has the staff in his hands so focus on the description, details, and artistry of the staff itself..
- 23.) He refuses to cry because "that isn't what they taught you" but it would make more sense if he said "they wouldn't want me to cry today. Not on this day, when victory could be just through these doors." Just a thought.