

Alison,

I very much enjoyed *The Battle of Onoxmon* and look forward to the sequel.

[Having had the opportunity to meet you and your daughter in person], it was interesting to be reading from an "insider's" point of view. I pictured you as the Queen and the real Sophia in the fairy cave, in danger, and being brave with the powerful dragon. I kept thinking about how your "family story" evolved into this fantasy novel.

The novel encompassed all of the classic elements of fantasy fiction: imaginative settings, mystical creatures, heroes, villains, enchanted objects, epic battles, and the struggle and triumph of good over evil. The distinguishing feature was a loving family! We are accustomed to seeing our main character in a fantasy depicted as an orphan without knowledge of family or a child struggling to find family, or a reluctant hero without anyone to love or trust. Conversely, Veronica and Sophia had the love of family that provided the confidence in self and trust in their own abilities to prevail in the face danger.

I often tell my students that they need to give the author a chance to develop the plot, introduce the characters, and paint a picture of the setting with their words. So it was helpful to have Yorgide as our guide to the "Imperium Pieces" and "The Tiers." His point of view provided insight into the setting, plot, and characters. He also provided that touch of humor and levity. The addition of a map to guide us to the many places in the novel and the glossary of terms were important additions for the young reader's understanding of the novel. They were very useful to help immerse me into the magical world of KenKarta.

I am looking forward to sharing the novel with my students. There are many elements to discuss in a Lit Circle. We have quite a few readers who will enjoy this tale of dragons and princesses for the sheer fantasy of it and another group who will revel in the evil Pallamales from the Pallatier, the battle scenes, and the descent to the "Lower Tiers" through the "gaping" Arch!.

I am always looking for novels with strong female characters in powerful roles. Veronica has the courage, strength, intellect and ability to triumph. She can harness her power and also can help Sophia believe in herself...to TRY! Books can empower the reader, enlighten the reader, as well as entertain. There are many lessons to be learned in this novel.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak further with you about the book and also find a way to connect you to some of our readers.

Sincerely,
Meg Owens
School Librarian, grades 4th-6th