Hi Jason,

Your story excerpt, “Luira,” is a story about a young princess and an Anperil who are destined to become one to save the kingdom from the clutches of Terem Tyre and his master.

**What’s working**

The concerns you had when you wrote your synopsis for the story were completely unwarranted. As I read the story, I could easily understand what was happening, even with the otherworldly names and terms. The story's pacing, especially in the first chapter, is lightning-quick, but you get all of the critical information out in the open before you move on, and I never once felt lost. The information you provide is not dense and overwhelming, so as I was reading, I understood what was going on as it happened quickly enough to visit each plot point without being confused. I know doing that is hard when writing fantasy stories, so I applaud you for doing it so well.

A lot of time and effort has been put into the prose and the setting and backstory, and it’s evident. The two chapters provided were tiny glimpses into a much larger world that I can tell you intend to make into a sprawling epic.

Kyira, right out of the gate, is sympathetic and a character the reader can get behind. Being a child, her innocence drives home the feeling of protection that the reader immediately gets, and she’s completely confused by why the citizenry hates her father. By giving the reader a hook to relate to this character at the beginning, you sucker them in for the long ride.

**What needs working on**

I know that the story is long, to begin with, but I felt there needed to be more information and specific descriptions of the setting around the characters and the characters themselves. The only descriptions I can remember of the characters are that Kyira and her mother have vivid red hair, and that’s all. Description of the character doesn’t have to be just descriptions of their appearance; it can also be a description of their actions, body language, and how they move. I want to get to know these characters, and while the dialogue is individual for each character, I don’t feel like I know much about them. All I know about the characters are that the king is a king, the queen is the queen, and Kyira is next to the throne. You want to give Kyira’s characterization special attention because keeping the audience’s attachment to her based solely on her being young won’t go very far; tell the audience about how she views the world, explain how she got her powers, tell us what they do, tell us how she feels when she uses them—tell us more.

For setting description, I want to see this world inside my head. This is a fantasy world—I want to see trees, greenery, rivers, mountains. What makes this setting different from our natural world, besides magic and Anperils? Transport me to this world using just your words. I want to go there.

You did a stellar job with this story and only need a few things to make it pop.

All the best,

Payton Ison