



Akarnae

Lynette Noni

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With just one step, sixteen-year-old Alexandra Jennings's world changes—*literally*.

Dreading her first day at a new school, Alex is stunned when she walks through a doorway and finds herself stranded in Medora, a fantasy world full of impossibilities. Desperate to return home, she learns that only a man named Professor Marselle can help her... but he's missing.

While waiting for him to reappear, Alex attends Akarnae Academy, Medora's boarding school for teenagers with extraordinary gifts. She soon starts to enjoy her bizarre new world and the friends who embrace her as one of their own, but strange things are happening at Akarnae, and Alex can't ignore her fear that something unexpected... something *sinister*... is looming.

An unwilling pawn in a deadly game, Alex's shoulders bear the crushing weight of an entire race's survival. Only she can save the Medorans, but what if doing so prevents her from ever returning home?

Will Alex risk her entire world—and maybe even her *life*—to save Medora?

Akarnae Details

Date : Published February 1st 2015 by Pantera Press (first published 2015)

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Author : Lynette Noni

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From Reader Review Akarnae for online ebook

Kaysia (bookskay) says

((((Originally Read August 2nd 2015))) LOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOVED THIS BOOK SO MUCH.
FULL REVIEW: <https://youtu.be/UFwYv6Hed1k>

-

Update after rereading in 2016- still so much love for this book, I can't wait to reread it many times in the future!!

Tilly Booth says

Upon starting this book I felt a little...lost. I honestly didn't think that this book was for me and I was thinking, "How am I going to get through all 400+ pages?". It started off with the main character, Alex, on her way to a new school. Then she's thrown into this new world and it all got kind of confusing for a little bit. It all happened so quickly that I expected the rest of the book to be like this but I was surprisingly (and happily) mistaken.

Besides the original information overload that took place in the first 50 pages it got so much better. It was like a flower opening up really. The beginning (in my opinion) felt like something that the author didn't really care about. She needed a bit of backstory. So she told you about Alex's parents, moving around a lot, new school and then BAM. She was taken to another world unexpectedly. Then the flower opened it's petal and the sun shined down and it revealed just how beautiful it was.

The world of Medora is incredible. Lynette Noni described the settings, buildings and characters so well that the mental image of it all was real. I could see exactly what Akarnae was like and I was so envious because I wanted to be in that world and attending that school for people with abilities. Although there were some rough parts to the story that didn't flow too well she easily made up for it with her great range of characters, dialogue and imagination. My favourite part of this story is the Library. Without spoiling anything...it's the coolest library you're ever going to hear about!

THE CHARACTERS. Okay so I officially have a handful of members to go on my sweet-baby-characters-that-i-must-protect list. Jordan and Bear are like best friend goals. From the moment they appeared in this story I decided that I could listen to them two forever. Fletcher is just wonderful. Alex and D.C. both have some amazing character development and even secondary characters that are only there for small parts of the book like Monster or Sir Camden. You're just destined to fall in love with AT LEAST five of the characters.

I did find some parts predictable but still very enjoyable. I really can't wait for the next book in this trilogy. I'm already having character and world withdrawals. I wish I had a bubble door that could send me to Medora!

I would say this book is better for younger audiences. It definitely has a Harry Potter/Narnia/Percy Jackson feel to it and I loved it.

I give Akarnae by Lynette Noni 3.5 stars out of 5!

Thank you to Pantera Press for sending me out a review copy. I'm so grateful you introduced me into this world!

Galit Balli says

Before I will actually start the review I just wanted to say something. Do you remember the first time you read Harry Potter and you thought OMG, this how I feel about this book :) That it, just wanted to put it out there and now I can calmly go back to the review :)

Akarnae is like a great mix of Harry Potter and The Chronicles of Narnia, all written in such a delightful way. I read this book 3 times now and each time I was screaming in my head "Omg... No way... Looove it." That's why it reminded me so much of the first time I've read Harry Potter and Narnia. This book has so much fantasy and wonder in it, that I just feel in love with it. I love that in this book there's hardly any romance and this gives so much power to the story and makes the Alex (the protagonist) a much stronger character.

Lynette build a wonderful characters, but Alex is by far the best here. She is so strong, so well-balanced and even though her story begins in a bit of sadness, it still not tragic one but because the way she was brought up she can truly embrace the unusual and the surprising adventure, that she found herself in. This is a very refreshing writing style and I love it.

Like all good Fantasy Alex as well is very naturally gifted and like in the Harry Potter here as well Alex is standing out and becomes the chosen one. The one that can help the entire world. Beyond the wonderful characters there is a well written and magical world, a world that very fast become somewhat real to. I could see the world and the school so well, as if I was there with them.

In this story I fell in love with the library omg, the strong and sarcastic Alex and the way this world uses magic :)

For me the story was very fast paced reading and the only thing that tore my heart out is that I need to wait for the second book. Now that's painful. This book is such an inspiration for me, the way Lynette writes the story so well and it seems so perfect and effortless, beautiful.

"Will Alex risk her entire world—and maybe even her life—to save Medora?" Go find out!

Thank you so much for reading <3
Original review is at: Coffe n' Notes

Kristy ? The Reader Dragon says

It's not very often that I get hooked on a book from the very first page, but this book definitely had me so. So much happened in just the first ten pages, and I found myself on the edge of my seat right from the get-go.

The story follows Alexandra 'Alex' Jennings, who is thrust into a world that is not quite her own. Alex is meant to be spending her school year at the International Exchange Academy, whilst her parents are abroad

on an archeological dig. Instead, she passes through a magical doorway, and ends up in the world of Medora, and finds herself at Akarnae Academy - an educational facility for teenagers who are gifted with extraordinary powers and abilities, much like *Hogwarts* or *Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters*.

Alex's only hope of returning to her own world rests in the hands of Akarnae's headmaster, Marselle. But with him currently missing, she has no choice but to attend Akarnae until he returns. Based on her potential, she is placed in a range of classes, varying in difficulty, and so commences her education as she discovers this new and enchanting world.

Despite how difficult (and potentially life-threatening) her classes are, Alex quickly finds herself at home at Akarnae, and settles in nicely with the help of her new friends Jordan and Bear. I found it so refreshing that her relationship with the two boys blossomed and grew with ease, but without any sort of romantic involvement. The platonic relationship that the three share has got to be one of my favourite friendships that I've ever read about so far.

With these two friends, Alex goes on a number of amazing adventures, which mostly take part in The Library. For some, this might not sound all too exciting, but The Library is a sentient building from Medora's history, hiding in plain sight on Akarnae's grounds after it's "disappearance" a lifetime ago. Alex is a Chosen One - one who can access the many secrets and mysteries hiding inside The Library. With this title, though, brings many dangers, because there are some who bear ill-intent that wish to know The Library's secrets, too.

The world-building is so simple and easy to follow, despite Medora being quite a complex place in the grand-scheme of things. There's technology that makes food appear in front of you the second you order it, or magical doorways that transport you from one place to another in the blink of an eye, but everything is explained in such a way that is really easy to grasp.

Yes, the writing is not poetic, or lyrical, or anything fancy like that, but it's the kind that just flows off the page so beautifully, and is really easy to follow. For this, I think Akarnae would be the perfect choice for those who struggle with reading fantasy, but are wanting to give the genre a try anyway.

This novel is an enchanting one that is best suited for the younger teenage audience, but I'm sure that anyone who enjoys a fun Young Adult fantasy could get a real kick out of this one. I highly recommend this to fans of *Harry Potter*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and *Percy Jackson*.

Catriona (LittleBookOwl) says

Review to come soon!

Jemma (Aussie BookWorm) says

WOW! I had high expectations of this book and it did not disappoint! Every single thing was perfect; from the drop dead gorgeous cover to the development of some druel-worthy characters!

For my full review, check out my bookblog: <http://aussiebookworm.weebly.com/>

Chelsea Herondale says

I read this ages ago but apparently forgot to mark it as read!!

LOVED THIS!

Love you Lynette

Ryan Buckby says

embrace the wonder

rating this book was an easy five stars for me because this book blew my expectations out of the water and i just devoured this book and every word on the pages. This story was a mix of Harry Potter meets x-men.

Lynette has created a world that is something that i haven't read in a long time and i was immersed in a world that i could see myself in. She has created this world thats full of detail and full of wonder that makes you want to know every inch of the place. Alexandra is the main character and she is immediately thrown into this new world after she learns she has been just accepted into its school, i feel it was information overload for the first 50 pages or so i did feel that i was overwhelmed but thats what the main character was feeling and everything soon started to make sense.

The school in the story was incredible and Lynette did a good job at creating such a place where it makes you want to go learn, i myself would love to live in Medora and attend Akarnae because the school seems so cool and the library is defiantly one place i'd spend most of my time for obvious reasons but i won't spoil anything so just read the book!

I loved so many characters in the book, Jordan and Bear were both funny and friends that i would love to have. From the moment we meet them in the story they were the kind of characters that everyone would love to have in there friend circles. I loved Alex's and D.C relationship in the book because i knew that they would become friends by the end of the first book, they both grew and i'm glad that they became friends by the end of the book. All of the teachers were all good characters to i enjoyed them very much, the doctor fletcher was a character i honestly wouldn't see in the school because he seems so cool.

theres so much potential for this story and i can't wait to see where it goes in the second book because i really enjoyed this book and cannot wait to get stuck into the second one.

this book would be good for younger audiences/ young adult readers it has a Harry Potter/ Percy jackson and X-men feel to it.

It's not often i get so hooked on a story that has left me wanting more and it was funny, magical and a book i couldn't put down. definitely met all my expectations and threw them all out the window.

Jeann (Happy Indulgence) says

Actual Rating: 3.5

What a fun magical adventure! Akarnae is like a combination of Harry Potter and Xmen, where Alex stumbles into a magical school where everyone has powers. All of the magical elements in this novel were absolutely delightful, and my favourite part was the magical library filled with secrets, which only Alex could navigate safely as the chosen one. The snarky banter and her close friendship with Bear and Jordan was also really fun to read.

While Alex was fun, snarky and hilarious, every guy in the novel seemed to like her and she was a special Chosen One (although we don't learn too much about what that means here). There also isn't a very strong plot in the book, with lots of random occurrences happening in it. I lost interest during a few points because of this.

Full review to come!

April (Aprilius Maximus) says

Read this for the book club at work and I ended up skim reading the last 100 pages because I just wasn't invested enough. If I was younger, I would have LOVED it, but there was a lot of telling instead of showing and so many things that were really similar to Harry Potter. I would definitely recommend this for younger teens! Great, funny characters and a cool idea!

Kristina says

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

DNF at 24%...oops

This is the first review book I've received that I could not finish. I really, really wanted to like this book, but it just didn't happen.

My first qualm is with the writing. It is very juvenile and Alex's narration sounds more like a twelve year old's than a sixteen year old's. The portion of the book I completed in fact read much more like middle grade than young adult fiction. Don't get me wrong, middle grade fiction is great, but since this was marketed as young adult fiction I expected a more mature narrator. Additionally, the middle grade feel just didn't mesh well with a protagonist who is already sixteen at the start of her series.

The world building was problematic at best, completely nonsensical at worst. At this moment I'm learning towards completely nonsensical. Essentially, this book reads like a mash up of Harry Potter, the Chronicles of Narnia, and X-men without capturing the greatness of any of those stories. Pretty much if you take one part magical door to another world (Narnia), a boarding school for people with abilities you didn't even know existed (Harry Potter), and advanced technology plus people with special "gifts" (X-men) you get this book. While I am well aware that nothing is truly "original" anymore and that all new stories are derivations of

existing stories, the author could have at least TRIED to make this story somewhat unique instead of a mess of other author's ideas. Plus, the fact that characters are continuously telling Alex to "just go with it" in regards to the various strange things occurring in their world exemplifies that the author had no idea how to make this world work logically. Also, the fact that this world's technology far surpasses Earth's, but the students at Akarnae take subjects such as combat and equestrian skills makes no sense.

The characters were all two dimensional. Alex's nonchalance at finding herself in a different world was super unbelievable, plus I never really understood what she was feeling or what her dreams, ambitions, and fears were prior to landing in a new world. Additionally, the rest of the golden trio Harry and Ron...oops! I meant Jordan and Bear were difficult to differentiate from each other. Alex, Jordan, and Bear also experience the most unbelievable, instantaneous friendship I have ever encountered. Think of the worst example of insta-love in young adult and then adjust for friendship rather than love and you'll understand what I'm talking about.

Overall, this book had an interesting premise, but Noni's inability to make her world stand on its own two feet and the flatness of her characters made it impossible for me to enjoy this book or even to complete it.

Lucette says

Uuuuuggggghhhhhhhhhh I loved this idea but THE STORY TELLING WAS SO PAINFUL I'M SORRY

Fanna says

DNF at 36%

I won't judge the book on the story since I didn't even finish it but the plot was nothing intriguing for me. There's a doorway that led Alice into a new world which has been read and seen before (*ahem, Narnia*) but this supernatural occurrence fell absolutely flat when Alice came across as an illogical human being who didn't even understand how weird this stepping into a new world is. I think she was living in a bubble, which could've been fine if her age was resonating with her thoughts; if she was much younger than a sixteen-year-old, I would've let that fact slide but unfortunately, she wasn't.

Then there is a boarding school that's basically a castle (*ahem, Harry Potter*) and this, again, could've been fun to read if the world wasn't confusing me with the tech-y stuff that contradicted the good ol' setting or combat training. Not only this, Alice meets these two boys who, again, are not bothered much about how or why this random teenager is in their world. But the peak for me to leave this book unfinished would be the writing—maybe it's my personal preference but I need more descriptions especially if this world has so many things incorporated in it, but the writing came across as bland and a little too 'telling'. Anyway, I'm well aware that I'm in the minority here so feel free to give this a shot and see if it's something for you, because I can't recommend something I didn't even finish reading.

Disclaimer: I received a digital copy of this via Netgalley but that in no way influences my rating and/or my opinions about it. Thank you Pantera Press and Lynette Noni!

Maria V. Snyder says

I met Lynette when I was in Australia and she is by far the sweetest person I've ever met! We were on panels together and signings at SupaNova con, which is Australia's comic con. Every time she talked about her book, I was intrigued. I finally had a chance to read it.

This is a debut novel and the characters are really well drawn and likable. The main character, Alex is transported into another universe and she's stuck there at a boarding school called Akarnae until an expert in traveling through dimensions returns from a trip (basically for an entire school year). What I liked is the new world wasn't Narnia or some other medieval world, but one that has higher tech than Earth - that was different. I also like that Lynette took care of the "won't the parents be frantic their daughter is gone so long?" with the initial set up.

There were a few logic issues, but that's my writing teacher part of my brain coming out :) I would have liked more concentration on the main plot/problem of the stranger and not as much on the school and it's day to day. The ending was rushed, but that's a common complaint of mine for many books.

I'm looking forward to reading book 2!

Mollie C says

AKARNAE BOOK REVIEW!

March 4, 2015 [Leave a comment](#)
Akarnae by Lynette Noni book review!

SYNOPSIS:

Akarnae is told through the protagonist Alexander Jennings. Alex dreads her first day at her new school and is stunned when she walks through a doorway of her new school and finds herself stranded in Medora, a world full of fantasy and things Alex never would have dreamed possible. Desperate to return to home, she learns that her only hope of getting home a man named Professor Marselle, turns out to be missing.

While Alex waits for him to come back, she must attend Akarnae Academy, Medora's boarding school for teenagers with extraordinary gifts. Alex soon grows fond of her new friends and new world, but strange things are beginning to happen at Akarnae and Alex can't help but fear that something unexpected is looming close.

An unwilling pawn in a deadly game, Alex bears the responsibility of an entire race's survival. Only she can save the Medorans, but what if doing so prevents her from ever getting back home?

MY OPINION:

Wow! Lynette's writing style is truly magical and beautiful! Usually I struggle a little with fantasy but this was so well explained and so unique. The explanations of Medora and Akarnae were so detailed and I could picture it so well in my mind, made me want to visit there!

Alex was a very strong and independent character. I never got bored of her and her life and her funny comments. Alex was good about the situation she was put in and her love for adventure reminded me a little of myself. I also loved Jordan and Bear eep such loveable characters.

Overall I found Akarnae a really enjoyable book, I recommend it to those Harry Potter, Narnia and X-men lovers.

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars

Khulood says

What a fascinating story!

Stepping into different worlds - check

Discovering gifts - check

Awesome friends - check

Wonderfully stable MC - check

Intriguing plot - check, check, check

At first, my mind decided to do a Harry Potter comparison, but I was pleased when it turned out to be something more. It is a mix of everything I enjoy, and I really had a wonderful time reading it.

Alex, Jordan, and Bear's friendship and adventures were great. I didn't want to stop reading, nor did I want the book to end. Lynette Noni built a fantastic world and combined it with a kick-ass plot. She also gave every character a distinct "voice", which is something I really liked.

I recommend reading this book.. A definite must read.

Now, can we please get book #2? :D

**This arc was kindly provided by Pantera Press & Smith Publicity via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!*

❀Aimee❀ Just one more page... says

[the first person she meets is the very enemy that has been seeking her out for hundreds/thousands of years.

(hide spoiler)]

Darcy (Daydreamingofbookdragons) says

SECOND READ 26/01/18 - 5 stars

Bumped up a star because holy fuck I love this series. I am **feeling the feels**. I repeat: **feeling all the feels**. I'm still so fucking salty that I can't actually visit Medora and go to Akarnae. I'd probably skewer myself on a sword in combat class, but hey! A sword! Also, I legit plan to go and study horsey stuff (their behaviour to be specific) so I'd be living for the equestrian studies class.

Ugh. Why can't this really exist??

FIRST READ 18/06/17 - 4 stars

Here is the honest to god truth as to why I picked up and bought this series: the third book has a really pretty cover and most importantly **Dragons!!**. Yes, that's right, I plan on buying a whole five book series simply because the *third* book has dragons in it. It does have an awesome premise and a close friend who's bookish advice I trust really loved them (the first three anyway, that's all that is out at this point in time) so that helped. But mainly I'm here for eventual dragons.

And then I read the book and now I'm totally here for everything else as well. Authors' need to stop writing about awesome worlds that I can't visit and schools that I'd actually **want** to attend. One of their subjects is purely about horses!! My ~~sore after riding~~ equestrian ass is so jealous. I *could* just not read these kind of books, but I have pretty much no self control whatsoever so authors' need to take one for team and just stop writing about these freaking amazing worlds. My poor heart can't take the injustice of **only** reading about them.

In the 'About the Author' bit it says that Lynette Noni is a huge fan of Harry Potter and Narnia and it shows in this book. I mean, a magical school that the protagonist attends after stepping through a door into another world?? Practically screams both series. However, this book totally managed to stand on its own. The world felt incredibly vivid to me and I can picture all the different places clearly in my head. And guys, it's **gorgeous**.

Do you know what I've always wanted in a fantasy novel? Technology. And this freaking had it. So many fantasy books seem to be set in historical (for us, i'm sure it's modern day for the characters in the novel) times, and it's just so nice to read something different. And it's still clearly a fantasy and not sci-fi. **Love It!**

My cheeks were literally hurting from how much I was smiling while reading this. The banter. The friendship. Everything! Alex could be a little stupid sometimes but I still love her. And her and Bear and Jordan's friendship!! And that it just stayed a friendship!! it was **so nice**. A guy (or two of them) and a girl can just be friends without it having to develop into a romance or unrequited love (for the love of god don't let this happen in the later books *gets on knees and prays even though I'm not religious*). There were hints of a future romance with another character - and yes, my little romantic heart is excited - but it was nice to read a YA book without it for once. That did play into it feeling even more like Harry Potter and Narnia in the fact that it nearly read as a middle-grade book, but I think it's going to do the Harry Potter thing and have

every book be a school year passing and the protagonist get older and be maturer with it. And hey, I ain't complaining, we have seen the success of that in both Harry Potter *and* Percy Jackson.

I would have liked a little bit more work done on the characters, I feel like Bear and Jordan could be a little difficult to distinguish from one another, and it was predictable at times, but other than that I have no complaints. I thought this was an awesome book and finished it in less than 24 hours. It's even more amazing because this is Lynette Noni's debut novel, so her writing and characterisation can only go up from here! Hopefully...

I'm ending this review right here cause I can't wait any longer and have to start Raelia immediately. Do yourself a favour and check out this book. #LoveOzYA

Rachael (RachaelRexds) says

this book was so magical and awesome!! review to come :D

Kelly (Diva Booknerd) says

Akarnae was wonderfully written and delightfully surprising, not to mention an incredibly enchanting fantasy. Alex's story begins with her parents abandonment in favour of their own adventure, leaving her at a new school without helping her settle in. Where most teens would be an emotional disaster, Alex takes it all in her stride but before she's had a chance to enroll, she's thrown into a world that is not her own.

Alex has no choice but to remain at Akarnae, with the only person who has the ability to return her to her world, now missing. Based on an age old method of sorting teens by their potential, Alex now finds herself within a multitude of advanced skill classes, including combat. With her two new friends in Jordan and Bear, Alex hides the secret of who she truly is from her peers. I loved The dynamic between Alex, Jordan and Bear. Their friendship wasn't complicated by a romance but it's undeniable that both Alex and Jordan share a connection. The two worlds of Medora which is where Akarnae is based and Freya, which is our own world where Alex was born and based were both very similar, apart from Medora being the magical plane on Earth. It made the storyline incredibly easy to follow even for non fantasy readers and kept the world building simple, making Akarnae perfect for fans who also enjoy middle grade reads.

Akarnae features shades of Harry Potter, a boarding school for magically inclined teens. With strong, friendship based relationships and a chosen one based storyline where Alex's world has been turned upside down. Each student enrolled at Akarnae is there on the basis of their unique magical abilities, except Alex who has yet to discover what her ability is. My only gripe was Alex's parents and how unprepared she was for this next stage in her life, even based on her attending the supposed International Exchange Academy alone.

It was well written and incredibly enchanting, but felt as though it may be more suited for a middle grade audience, where young teens can grow with each installment. The world building although lovely, felt a little flat at times and I wasn't able to grasp a sense of what Alex was experiencing around her. The renowned school library was magnificent. I loved the Wonderland type feel of the enchanted rooms and the history behind the building.

Akarnae was a wonderfully written, a mild fantasy that is not only entertaining but engaging. Reminiscent of Harry Potter, fans of light fantasy will enjoy this series, especially the younger teen audience. Looking forward to book two and seeing where debut author Lynette Noni takes the series. Thoroughly enjoyed it.
<http://www.divabooknerd.com/2016/02/a...>
