



## The Sword of Demelza

*J.E. Rogers*

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## **The Sword of Demelza** J.E. Rogers

Cynric, King of Demelza, is haunted by his past. In an effort to escape it, he wields a powerful sword, commanding his dragon lizards and a malevolent thylacine, to wreak havoc throughout the realm. Villages are burning and innocent creatures are dying.

Erik and Emma, two young marsupials, and Devon, an orphaned red fox, are on their own personal quests; two to save a life, one to destroy another. When their paths cross, these natural enemies forge an unusual friendship. Soon they hear of the devastation caused by the evil king and they realize that their personal objectives must be put aside. Even though that decision will affect their own lives, and the lives of the ones they love, they are determined to help their fellow creatures. They put themselves at risk by joining a motley crew of animals, whose main objective is to end the reign of King Cynric.

A final battle will take place in the shadow of Fortress Demelza as the king's forces clash with this rag tag band of creatures from the countryside. The fate of Sunderland and its inhabitants is at stake.

From the Author: The Sword of Demelza is a middle grade fantasy where endangered animal heroes roam the pages, and the Australian landscape comes alive! A glossary at the end of the book provides information about the unusual flora and fauna found within the story, and only on the continent of Australia. Wonderful Illustrations throughout the book will help bring the creatures to life. A sneak peek of The Gift of Sunderland, the second book in the Australian Fantasy Adventures, is included.

Filled with profound lessons of loyalty, friendship, tolerance and dedication to a cause, J.E. Rogers delivers a fantasy filled with excitement and unforgettable characters. It is truly an exciting journey, populated by fascinating beings. A must read for every child, young and old!

## **The Sword of Demelza Details**

Date : Published by Acadia Publishing Group, LLC (first published April 5th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : J.E. Rogers

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Genre : Fantasy

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## From Reader Review The Sword of Demelza for online ebook

### Chuck Miceli says

Stories like Peter Pan and songs like Toyland painfully remind us that once we traverse into the realm of adulthood, we can never again return to our childhood world. Fortunately for the rest of us, writers like Jeanne E. Rogers refuse to believe that. They insist upon inhabiting the world of children and writing stories that young readers can relate to. Some, like Rogers, even take it a step further by instilling human-like qualities into the animals that inhabit the story. The Sword of Demelza, Roger's middle-grade fantasy novel, is great on so many levels. First is her imagination at creating her Australian animal cast of characters and the medieval-style world in which they interact. It is one filled with relationships, quests, and epic battles. Then there is Atherfold's and Hubert's wonderful artwork that gives the book an almost heirloom quality. Most impressive to me is Rogers choosing most of the animals in the book from the endangered species list. This gives her young readers an appreciation for the real-world peril these creatures face. She even includes a glossary that relates information on each of the books character groups to their actual animal counterparts. Rogers carries her message beyond the book by highlighting the stories of various endangered animals in her frequent blog postings. When we adults give this book to young readers we can feel satisfied that we are not only providing them with entertainment, but also with a value set to go along with it. And who knows, maybe as we start reading it ourselves, we just might begin to feel a little bit younger too.

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### Booksniffer Tours says

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### The Loopy Librarian says

Animals of Australia, Rejoice! The Sword of Demelza is obviously written by an author who adores you, and she does a good job of presenting you to young readers. The illustrations of the animal characters in their armor are regal and inspiring. The beginning is exciting and frightening. The scenes are vividly described although sometimes repetitive (i.e. the sky and clouds were 'angry' quite a bit). The author does a great job building suspense and tension, and the overall story is very adventurous and interesting. I wasn't always a fan of the dialogue and the comma is way overused, but neither takes much away from the story. Rogers teaches about the flora and fauna of Australia by showing not by telling, and she does so with vocabulary and plot that is just right for her target audience of middle-grade readers. She even includes web references and a glossary. I recommend this book for young readers who love animals, adventure, and fantasy.

Favorite words:

malevolent  
emanating  
projectiles

portcullis

Quotes (No page numbers as I was reading this on an old Kindle):

“Size and age is meaningless. It is the strength within your heart that matters.”

“A common purpose can be a driving force in bringing a diverse group like this together. Recognizing that we all must work as one to accomplish our common goal is key.”

“The sun had rushed from the heavens, as though it feared the events to come...”

In accordance with FTC guidelines, please note that I received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Diane Robinson says**

A wonderful and brilliant fantasy story that incorporates the characters of the wildlife of Australia, which makes it unique to the genre. An entertaining and educational read that children and adults will thoroughly enjoy. The Sword of Demelza is a well written young adult fantasy with delightful illustrations. A pure joy to read!

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### **Joe Bonadonna says**

This book is driven by its characters, with the perfect balance of plot to keep the reader entranced by and invested in the overall story. Unlike so many novels, where formula and tired old clichés drive the story, The Sword of Demelza is something new and fun—partly because the setting, a fully-realized, alternate version of Australia, is so masterfully handled by J. E. Rogers. But it isn’t just the setting that draws you into this novel, like so many deeply woven fantasy stories, although the author has certainly done her homework — this wonderful novel is filled with great detail and research. What makes The Sword of Demelza work so well are the characters that are so lovingly written, and from which children, teens, and adults of every age can learn something from, as well as learn something about. You see, these are not humans we are reading about, but the unique animals that populate the Outback, animals that are graced with human characteristics, emotions, motives, and traits that make each one come alive in the mind’s eye. While reading this, I was reminded of such novels I enjoyed, like Watership Down, the Redwall novels, The Wind in the Willows, and the works of Roald Dahl, as well as those classic, old-school-animated Walt Disney films, like The Jungle Book, The Adventures of Ichabod and Mister Toad, Robin Hood, and my own personal favorite, The Rescuers.

The Sword of Demelza is firmly rooted in the realm of Heroic Fantasy, for the characters strive against forces greater than themselves; they are not anti-heroes, but are unselfish, caring, ordinary “people” who rise to the occasion, who are brave in the face of fear and danger, and are willing to make the sacrifices to save friends, family and their lands. Heroic characters such as the siblings, Erik and Emma, the two young marsupials (called kowaris) that set out to pick berries one fine day, and Devon, a sad, red fox that takes to the road of vengeance against evil Australian water dragons. There is Hector, a gang-gang cockatoo, who saves Erik and Emma from a large Brown Snake while they are out picking berries; and then there are the puggles (baby echidnas), Ackley and Amber, whose mother was bitten by that very same Brown Snake.

They join with, and are looked after by Erik and Emma when Aldon, Keeper of the Forest, sends them out into the forest on a quest to find the items needed to make a potion to save her.

This novel is sublime, and Rogers captures and harnesses the balance of description, dialogue and action. She knows how to keep a plot moving from the first page to the very last in this epic Australian adventure that will surely be considered a classic. It has already scored numerous awards and chalked up many great reviews. Much has already been written about the plot and characters of *The Sword of Demelza*. There are detailed descriptions of what this book is about and who the characters are in the many reviews below. That being said, all I can add is that you really need to read this heroic fantasy adventure in order to truly comprehend the depth of setting, story and character that the author so well brings to life. Words best brought to my mind in regards to this story are: engaging, surprising, epic, adventuresome and enthralling. I would suggest that you do yourself a favor and find yourself lost inside of a great adventure!

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### **Fizza says**

An entertaining as well as informative read for children. It's about the wild life of Australia. Although the book is meant for children, I enjoyed it just as much as any child will.

As we embark on an adventure with Erik and Emma, two kowaris, many unexpected things happen. They are both on a quest to save their mother. She has been bitten by a brown snake and now they need certain ingredients to make a potion which will revive her. Aldon (the keeper of the forest) and Oswin (the owl) are guiding them.

On the other side of the forest a young fox (Devon) is on a mission to hunt down the cruel thylacine and kill him for murdering his parents and destroying his home. Devon was separated from his father when he was just a kit. His father Cynric (the king of Demelza) thought him to be dead and haunted by his memories, had become cruel. He is scared for life and now no one is safe from his wrath.

There are other villains as well who play their role in this amazing adventure. Dragon lizards were the cruelest. They burn down villages and kill without mercy.

The paths of Devon and the two siblings coincide and another adventure, they haven't foreseen, begins.... It is an amazingly well written book. All the animal-characters are beautifully described and they will lead you to enter another dimension where dragon lizards attack villages, spiders have mums and small animals fight to save their world.

It was a five star read without a doubt. I also want to thank the author for free copy. I enjoyed it immensely and also learned about a lot of animals, I hadn't known before.

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### **Lee Dunning says**

Yes, I know, this is a young person's book. I picked it up anyway - two reasons. First, the cover grabbed me, I love the fairytale-like art (and there is more throughout the book). Two, it's about Australian animals, and includes info in the back that teaches a bit about them. Even with those two reasons in its favor, I wasn't sure I would like the book - I feared it would be just too young for an adult to enjoy.

No worries, as they say. The action started in the first chapter and didn't let up until the very end. Even then,

there is enough of a hint that some of the villains survived that they could show up in a sequel. Good stuff.

Lots and lots of animals fill the pages. All kinds of fun characters with unique personalities carry the story along. I have several favorites, but perhaps Hector, the leader of the gang-gang cockatoos amused me the most. The sugar gliders were so cute, though... It's a hard call.

It's a much longer book than what I would have had available to me when I was in middle school (I'm thinking things like Charlotte's Web), but I think nowadays that wall has been effectively destroyed. There's enough action and enough fun throughout the book to keep kids going. It teaches some good lessons along the way too, like working together to achieve a goal, and loyalty to friends and family.

If I could make one change it would be to add one or two female characters who fight alongside all the males in the story. Emmy and Slade are just too young to wade into battle, but it would have been nice if there was a female critter who was more than motherly or kindly supportive.

Overall, I think this is a book that parents, schools and libraries should consider acquiring. It makes learning about endangered animals painless and provides tons of adventure.

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### **Anne (Angel Anne Reviews) Nelson says**

Firstly I'd like to thank author J.E. Rogers for the opportunity to read this truly amazing, wonderful novel "The Sword of Demelza".

The Sword of Demelza is a middle grade fantasy where the reader will find an array of endangered animal heroes pop right out of the pages, as they journey the Australian landscape as they come alive!

I absolutely loved the wonderful illustrations that are throughout the book, bringing all the creatures to life. Just amazing!!!

As you read through The Sword of Demelza, you will find many lessons of friendship, loyalty, tolerance and dedication to a cause.

J.E. Rogers has written an fantastic fantasy filled story that is filled with excitement and unforgettable characters. What a truly fun and exciting journey, that is filled with fascinating beings.

I do recommend "The Sword of Demelza" as a must read for every child, young and old!

If you want a fun ride, that is full of a great adventure...then look no further than right here in this book. Author J.E. Rogers takes you as the reader on a learning/educational journey, and I didn't even realize it until I reached the end where you find a glossary of the animals. I can tell you that I now know that there are some pretty weird/funny animals. eekkkk

I'm actually reading it for the second time to my grandson, and I can tell you that he sure has a lot of questions about the characters as we're reading it!!! This is where the glossary sure came in handy. :-)

I absolutely loved all the pictures that were included for us when a new creature was introduced... they really brought us into a eye popping character right in front of us, bringing them to life.

I truly enjoyed this book, and I know many others will as well...

Don't forget there is a glossary at the end of the book provides information about the unusual flora and fauna found within the story, and only on the continent of Australia. (words of the author)

I will be one grandma that will be adding "The Gift of Sunderland", the second book in the Australian Fantasy Adventures to my list to look out for!!!

Recommend: All ages

Rating: 4/5 angel stars

Angel Anne Reviews

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### **Brenda says**

Devon, a red fox, had known sadness in his short life. But witnessing a further tragedy caused by evil dragon lizards meant he needed to avenge his losses. A powerful king and the owner of the sword ruled the Fortress Demelza and the surrounding countryside. His orders to his minions were to destroy the villages by fire, in turn killing many of the peaceful creatures who lived there.

Erik and Emma, siblings and young marcupials called kowaris were full of fun and life. Hunting berries for their mother one day, they were frightened by a large brown snake. Their lives were saved however by the intervention of a gang-gang cockatoo called Hector. Baby puggles, Ackley and Amber were very scared but trusted Erik and Emma to look after them. So when that very same snake came into their home that afternoon and bit their mum, they were distraught. Enter the keeper of the forest, Aldon, who gave them instructions on items to collect from the forest which would make a potion to save their mum...

As Devon focused on his quest, Erik and Emma were following theirs. When they suddenly came across one another, after encountering more dangers and scary creatures than they realized lived in the forest, the three of them joined forces. They had a countryside to defend, to protect against the evil which was invading it...would they succeed? Would the cruel and vindictive king be dethroned? Could they take the sword from his possession?

J.E. Rogers is a US author, but has always had a fascination with Australia and the animals which inhabit the country. This story is set in Australia, the animals are all Australian. The diagrams of the animals throughout the book is great, enhancing the enjoyment of story. The unique style of her work and the beauty of her writing is very special. The book is designed for middle-grade in the US which, after reading it, I would say is approximately 10 years of age and upward in Australia. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and highly recommend it.

I would also like to thank the author for my copy to read and review.

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### **Gayle Pace says**

REVIEW

This book is made of its characters, a balance that keeps the reader turning the pages and becoming interested in the story overall. This book doesn't have the normal boring cliches that put the story together. THE SWORD OF DEMELZA is different, new and fun. The setting is part of that, a different version of Australia. It's a lesson about all the endangered species of animals. Simply wonderful for any reader. The author has definitely done a large amount of research and has done her homework well. The book is filled with detail and lots of research. What, to me made the book so interesting was that the characters were written with love and anyone who reads this book, from children to adults, can learn and gain from this book. The unusual animals from the Outback, animals that have so many human characteristics that they come alive right before your eyes. THE SWORD OF DEMELZA is a Heroic Fantasy. The characters go against those greater and stronger than themselves. They are just ordinary people who take on the occasion, no matter what it may be. They face with bravery in times of fear and danger. They make such sacrifices to save friends, family and their home land. The plot never slows. The author keeps the plot moving at a pace, not too fast and yet fast enough to keep the readers attention. As noted above, the book has gained many awards and many wonderful reviews. I don't want to give anything else away, so everyone needs to read this wonderful heroic fantasy adventure to see how the author brings it all to life. Pick up a copy and follow this wonderful adventure into another land that is engaging, surprising, intriguing and so much more.

I was given a complimentary copy of THE SWORD OF DEMELZA by J.E. Rogers for my view of the book. No other compensation took place.

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### **Demelza Carlton says**

My name is Demelza and I'm not missing a sword. Believe me, I checked.

The title of the book caught me...then the setting...and the compelling story was just the icing on the cake. Pretty decadent icing, though.

This one took me longer to read than most books – and it's because every time a new creature or setting popped up, I'd go, "Oooh, I've been there!" or "Ooh, I've seen that," and, quite frequently, "I have a cool photo of that!" The exceptions were gang-gang cockatoos and kowaris. We don't get them over on the west coast. If anything, after reading this book, I want to track some down, though.

I do have to say that a storm at the Pinnacles Desert, as Jeanne describes, is quite a spectacle.

This is one story you'll want to read several times, if only to appreciate the level of detail in each character and its part in the tale. From numbats to cockatoos to owls to puggles and everything in between...plus dragon lizards and even a thylacine – my personal favourite, though the character himself is a villain.

Jeanne uses a perfect balance of description, dialogue and action to keep the plot moving strongly from the first battle to the very last in what is truly an epic Aussie adventure. I doubt anywhere else in the world has an army of marauding cockatoos quite like Australia and Jeanne captures the bird perfectly. I was quite disappointed to find I'd reached the end of the book, as I'd learned to love the characters so well I felt they deserved more story than the book contained. I was delighted to hear that there will be a sequel and I'll definitely be looking out for it – as will my daughter.

I received a free copy from the author for my daughter to read, as this is a children's book, but I didn't feel I could write a review until I'd read it through for myself. As the book was on my daughter's ereader and not

mine, it took some time before I was "allowed" to borrow her reader to finish reading the book.

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### **Krissys says**

Received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

A delightful read for children and adults alike. Great for young children and families that enjoy reading to their kids and youth that love adventure.

Great illustrations give readers a picture of the characters taking them along the journey from chapter to chapter. The Sword of Demelza reminds me a lot of Disney's Robin Hood with the group of friends that band together against a tyrant king.

J.E. does a wonderful job including several subtle topics and positive lessons for young readers to learn through the story.

A delightfully creative book for young fantasy lovers to enjoy from beginning to end, The Sword of Demelza is charming and heartwarming.

The characters are so thought out that the author even includes a glossary for the readers for the more creatively created beings populating the pages.

I will be passing the book along to a close friend that is a grade school teacher that is looking forward to passing the book along to her students. :)

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### **Vickianne Caswell says**

The Sword of Demelza is a very suspenseful book written by J.E. Rogers. The book is about a few things, starting off with the prologue where you learn a bit about Devon, a fox who lives at the Acadia Abbey with the monks there.

The book introduces you to many other characters all of whom play an important role in the story. Each of these begin with their own quest and eventually meet each other. They soon learn that they must work together and help each other out. I found each of the characters to be pretty smart and courageous. I think they teach the reader about working together and that there are hard choices in life which we must all try to do our best to choose the right one. There are many morals in this book and that is wonderful! I really liked the story!

Erika-Elizabeth Caswell, age 10

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### **Dianne says**

Join in the journey of two young kowaries as they go in search of a special flower that will save their mother's life. What is a kowari, you ask? Well, its also known as the brush-tailed marsupial rat and is one of the many fascinating and different animals who live in Australia. **The Sword of Demelza** by author Jeanne E. Rogers is a fanciful, yet educational tale for middle grade readers that entertains while \*secretly\* teaches of creatures native to another land, the importance of family, friendship, commitment, loyalty and courage as Erik and Emma, siblings, and Devon, a fox on a mission of revenge, make an unlikely trio in an adventure

far beyond their dreams.

When a powerful and magical sword falls into the hands of an evil king, terror and destruction befalls the land, these three join forces to return peace to their homes. Along the way, they meet many of Australia's wildlife, make new friends and gain a greater understand for the world around them. Every creature has its place and its own story to tell, as they become real in your mind. Let's not forget the adventure this trio has in this wonderfully descriptive tale that will transport the reader into another land, with all of its beauty, as each page fuels the imagination at a pace that will hold a child's interest and encourage them to read on! Books like **The Sword of Demelza** create lifelong readers out of children with its ability to draw the reader in and hold them tight while these amazing creatures "talk" to them!

I received a review copy from J. E. Rogers in exchange for my honest review and I highly recommend this book for younger readers.

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Available to Purchase from: Amazon

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### **Lorinda Taylor says**

The Sword of Demelza is a dressed animal story – anthropomorphized animals – comparable to The Wind in the Willows, but where Kenneth Grahame's tale presents familiar British animals like badgers, moles, and toads, The Sword of Demelza utilizes Australian animals, giving it an appealing uniqueness.

It's a heroic fantasy that incorporates magic as a motivating force, especially good versus evil powers who help the characters to reach their potential. The occasional moral points are never intrusive but emerge organically from the plotline. The constructed culture does leave some gaps. For example, the animals are literate, but we never see their schools. Technologically they are pretty much agrarian, but they manufacture cloth; Byrnie's sash is made of (difficult to make) velvet, but utilizing what fiber? And they have leather goods (made from the hides of what animals?) And even though some of the denizens of that world are known carnivores (foxes, quolls, and goannas), they all seem to eat more or less the same vegetarian diet, except for villains like the thylacine. (Of course, one might also complain about where Toad in Wind in the Willows got a toad-sized motor-car!)

I found the choice of a fox for the hero a little odd since foxes are an introduced species in Australia and are responsible along with feral cats and cane toads for killing off many native animals. I was certainly happy there were no cane toads in the book, but I missed dingoes, platypuses, Tasmanian devils, kangaroos, and kookaburras. Also, while magnetic termite mounds make an appearance, I was disappointed that the termites themselves didn't have a role to play! Those who are familiar with my own books will know why!

This book has delightful illustrations – my favorites are Stokley the Warrior Echidna, Durward the Goanna, and who could not love Byrnie and Lazlo the taciturn Wombat on the cover? Those drawings are priceless!

I found some small punctuation and editing errors (I'm compulsive about that sort of thing), but not enough to prevent enjoyment of the book. The book would have also benefited from a List of Characters, since

characters who appear early in the book may have been forgotten by the time they show up again. It was an easy read and thoroughly enjoyable, and I would recommend it for children of all ages. I plan to read the sequel, hoping to find the answers to certain things that were not fully explained in *The Sword of Demelza*.

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