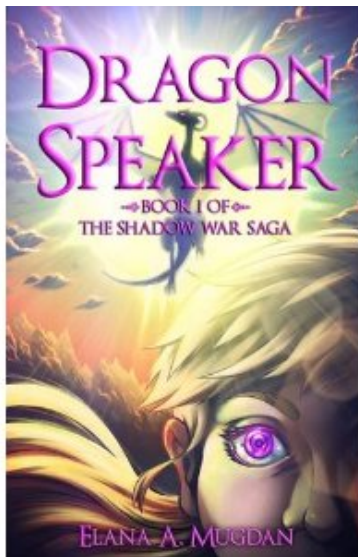




Readers' Favorite®

Book Reviews and Award Contest

Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although these are general ratings we hope they will give you an insight into how others may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although your reviewer is not an expert literary critic or professional editor, they are at the very least, an avid reader of books just like yours.

Title: Dragon Speaker
Subtitle: Book 1, The Shadow War Saga
Author: Elana A. Mugdan
Genre: Young Adult - Adventure



Appearance: The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.

4

Plot: The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books--those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.

5

Development: Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed

4

your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books--those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.

Formatting:

5

Formatting is the single most overlooked area by independent authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.

Marketability:

5

Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.

**Overall
Opinion:**

5

The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.

Review:

Reviewed by Lit Amri for Readers' Favorite

Dragon Speaker (The Shadow War Saga, Book I) by Elana A. Mugdan centers on 14-year-old Keriya Nameless, who is born without a family name and without any magic. Treated badly by the people of Aeria, she gets the opportunity to prove her worth when the goddess dragon Shivnath chooses her to be a dragon speaker – to save the world's last living dragon and face the evil Necrovar. Unfortunately for Keriya, her quest is made more difficult as everyone wants to use the dragon as a weapon in a longstanding war.

The system of magic is fascinating and apart from the dragons, shadowbeasts and demons roam the world of Dragon Speaker. Mugdan successfully gives a fresh premise for the classic dragon theme and an intricate plot, where good and evil is not so black and white. Characterization is good as Mugdan created complex characters with believable strengths and flaws in their personalities. It's easy to sympathize with Keriya's plight, but in the beginning her own naivete is her undoing.

Nevertheless, Keriya grows wiser as she struggles through obstacles in order to become a hero, proving Shivnath's choice is not wrong. Yet trust is an issue, and in the end she's not sure if she can even trust the dragon goddess and her cryptic words. I gravitated a bit more towards Roxanne Fleuridae, the self-proclaimed Hunter who could magically communicate with animals. That said, I hope she will be less harsh to those around her

in the next book. All in all, this is a solid debut for the series.