


READER REPORT

Author	XXXXXXXXXX
Title	XXXXXXXXXX
Genre	Adult Romance
Initial Review	<p>Hi XXXXXXXX</p> <p>Thanks for sharing your opening chapter with me. Such a fun voice and concept here! Excellent job setting the tone in your opening pages. Strong voice, intriguing characters, and amusing hook. Wonderful elements for a romance.</p> <p>The biggest note I have here is to slow down the setup. Give readers a chance to get to know these characters a little more before we jump into the kiss. We'd like to learn a little more about Eleanor (or at least Prince Lucas) before everything changes. Not full backstory, but just a little more personality. I have a few suggestions for this under Plot/Structure. I'll also address the setup for where the kiss takes place a little more.</p> <p>You do an excellent job of working to deliver the "promise of the premise" you setup in your query right away. Now, we just need to tease the audience a little, so it feels "earned". Otherwise, this works as an excellent sample that will have readers wanting more!</p> <p>Check out the rest of my notes on how we can make this narrative even stronger.</p> <p>~Kim V.</p>
Format	<p>Pretty strong format. Standard for most submissions is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Double-spaced• Times New Roman• 12-point font



- 1-inch margins
- Left alignment, not justified
- First line indented for each new paragraph
- Include Last Name, Title, and Page Number in all caps in upper-right hand header (ex. 

Here's an [article on how to](#) format your manuscript for submission.

Opening Line

"To begin with, it should be noted that the city of Antioch was a notoriously affectionate society. Yet its people were not."

Excellent first line! It sets up an interest in the readers' mind on this new world and increases curiosity regarding why Antioch is how it is, and why it matters in this story. I found myself extremely engaged by this setup and not in the least bored. Well done!

Plot / Structure

- There were 3 main sections in these opening pages: **The Setup, Introducing Prince Lucas, and The Kiss.**
- **Setup:** As I mentioned above, very entertaining setup of the type of place Antioch is and what its people are like. I laughed at the reference to the fact that Eleanor was from out of town. Wonderful voice, entertaining details. Excellent.
 - The only thing I'd suggest here is cutting a few lines (or even a paragraph) with some of the details on how kissing works in Antioch. Often, we simply don't need as many specifics as we think to get the point across. Anywhere you see a lengthy list, there's always a potential place to trim to save on word count.
- **Introducing Prince Lucas:** As I'll mention in **Characterization** below, Prince Lucas was fairly vivid and, with the exception of his physical characteristics, he was easy to envision. He came across with strong mannerisms and voice.
 - I would suggest slowing down the setup in this scene to make it clear who's narrating and provide a little more context. Who is Archer? What has his relationship with Prince Lucas been like? What are the dynamics of the royal family? Do they all live and travel together? Perhaps have someone refer to your narrator by name so it's clear who's speaking. I'd also take a moment to clarify why there was a switch in church destinations.
- **The Kiss:** Yes, the most exciting part of the chapter. The catalyst that changes everything! I have to say it does feel like it occurred a little too quickly. But good news, most agents request the first 10 pages, so if you want to add a little more detail and setup, you should be in safe territory.
- I'd recommend slowing down the setup of the church scene. What's going on when the royals arrive? How does everyone react to their entrance? You mentioned this being televised in your summary. Why is everything being televised and what's Eleanor doing before Prince Lucas walks up and lays one on her? 😊 Adding these details can bring depth to your scene and immerse your reader for an even more enjoyable experience.

Characterization

- **Archer** - Narrator, Royal Biographer: Archer has a wonderful voice (as I've mentioned several times already). He works really well as a narrator, especially if he's narrating the entire story.
 - I'd take the time to describe him and his connections to Prince Lucas a little more in the setup, just to ground the reader a bit.
 - Be careful to avoid [head-hopping](#) with this narrator. Ensure that anything he describes in terms of "knowing" what's on Prince Lucas or Eleanor's mind is clearly explained in terms of how he would know.
- **Prince Lucas James Joana Antony** – Prince, Second-in-Line to the royal throne: Definitely the most vivid in terms of dialogue and mannerisms. Anthony makes it clear that Prince Lucas is hurting, and I'm intrigued by this hidden wound.
 - I would suggest sprinkling in a few details to give us a clearer visual of what Prince Lucas looks like and hint at a few more dynamics between Prince Lucas and his family (as well as Archer) to setup the story.
- **Eleanor Aaron Jones** – Choir Conductor: Though intriguing, we don't get to see much of Eleanor. She's a mystery at the moment (at least from Archer's perspective) I can understand your reasoning for doing this in the setup. Consider showing a little more visual of Eleanor before, or just after, Prince Lucas kisses her. Consider showing what she's doing as the royals arrive.



Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue is well-placed and used sparingly throughout the narrative. • I think this works well for the pacing of the introduction, however, don't be afraid to sprinkle in a little more to build setup and dynamics before the royals leave for the church.
Pacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the most part, your pacing is rather quick in these opening pages which I don't completely mind. But this is an opportunity to show agents what you can do. Take full advantage of the 10 pages requested! • There were a few details, as I previously mentioned, where trimming could be made. I think watching for lengthy lists could help in cutting down word count significantly. That way you can focus on giving more attention to setup and detail where necessary. • I've had this same issue in the past. Here's a vid with tips on how to avoid overwriting.
Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As I've mentioned several times now, 😊 you have an excellent voice here. It grabs your attention from Line 1. • So far, however, I'm not sure this narrative reads as literary. It's actually quite humorous in tone and would work well for fans of commercial fiction. • Again, if this same voice is applied in your query, I believe you will interest many agents.
Tone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As stated above, your writing has a unique humor to it that I think will work well for commercial audiences. Great job!
Craft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-written with strong grammar. • The voice and tone are consistent, and you have a good variety of sentence structure. • I'd advise taking a little more time to hint at setting description (as you did in the church scene) and character description as well. • Find a view vivid, sensory details to sprinkle throughout your narrative to help readers "see" the picture you're painting. • Be sure to proofread or have someone look over your pages for typos before submission.
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great conclusion of the setup for this story. • As I note, I wasn't too clear on the POV until reaching the end. This is something that can be addressed when revised for a little more setup. • I would definitely want to read the next chapter!
Final Thoughts	<p>Strong Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong hook • Intriguing characters—Prince Lucas is vivid and strong • Excellent voice • Humorous tone <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise setup to paint a clearer picture of the narrator and relationship dynamics • Trim some details to reduce word count • Add some setup to the church scene to provide more context of what's happening (and what Eleanor is like before the kiss) • Add some setting and character description <p>Overall, a great read that I'd love to sink my teeth into one day! Good luck on your publishing journey!</p> <p>~Kim V.</p>

