



## Eona: The Last Dragoneye

*Alison Goodman*

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## **Eona: The Last Dragoneye** Alison Goodman

Eon has been revealed as Eona, the first female Dragoneye in hundreds of years. Along with fellow rebels Ryko and Lady Dela, she is on the run from High Lord Sethon's army. The renegades are on a quest for the black folio, stolen by the drug-riddled Dillon; they must also find Kygo, the young Pearl Emperor, who needs Eona's power and the black folio if he is to wrest back his throne from the self-styled "Emperor" Sethon. Through it all, Eona must come to terms with her new Dragoneye identity and power - and learn to bear the anguish of the ten dragons whose Dragoneyes were murdered. As they focus their power through her, she becomes a dangerous conduit for their plans. . . .

Eona, with its pulse-pounding drama and romance, its unforgettable fight scenes, and its surprises, is the conclusion to an epic story only Alison Goodman can create..

## **Eona: The Last Dragoneye Details**

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Author : Alison Goodman

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## From Reader Review Eona: The Last Dragoneye for online ebook

**Maggie ? (Reader in Wonderland) says**

*“Men were always quick to believe in the madness of women.”*

*Eona*, the second and last instalment of Alison Goodman's duology very much exceeded my already high expectations. The ending left me shocked and breathless, sad but with a smile on my face.. If you loved her first novel *Eon*, you must read this book as well, because it's even better!

*"You have seen Lady Eona's power and resolve," he said harshly. "Be thankful that you have also witnessed her compassion and restraint."*

Alison Goodman has one of the most amazing writing styles I have encountered, it's beautiful and descriptive, but not too flowery or tedious.

This instalment has more romance than the first book, but it wasn't at all overwhelming or romance driven story. It's very much plot driven duology. There's even a very subtle touch of love triangle, but not to fear, it's almost nonexistent, very well done and complex. This, very subtle, triangle has a lot of distrust, politics and scheming between them, which makes the storyline even more interesting. And there's also beautifully done side-romance between Lady Dela (Alias: the best character from this duology) and Ryko.

*“Watching my father plan and strategize for the resistance has taught me about trust.” She leaned forward. “Personal trust is very different from political trust, my lady. The first thrives on faith. The second requires proof, whether it be upfront or covert.” Awkwardly, she patted my hand. “His Majesty has always been a powerful man. Perhaps he has never had to distinguish between the two.”*

The world author created is simply epic. Phenomenal. Full of magic and colorful descriptions, not just the world, but the story itself is so very much alive. Every building, every created landscape, almost flew from the pages to me.

Goodman's Chinese dragons almost breathed magic, the whole magical and mythological aspect of these books was very enchanting. In fact, the best aspect of this book. I was absorbed into this beautifully dark story.

*“Too many doubts grow in the cracks of silence and separation.”*

*Eona* is story about power, greed, politics, destruction, war, sacrifices, death, magic and life itself. And so much more!

I don't know what else to say, that will make you read this beautiful duology. Maybe one more thing - Magical Chinese Dragons and beautifully done Asian inspired culture! You're already hooked! Aren't you? Then let's give it a try.;

*“History does not care about the suffering of the individual. Only the outcome of their struggles.”*

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**Cece ❁Rants, Raves &Reviews❁ says**

I was so hopeful and the beginning was such a **tease**.

*"A wise man once wrote: In war, truth is the first casualty."*

Brilliant, intriguing, foreshadowing. I was pumped, i was so ready for a dragon novel with wizards, war, emperors, and some kicking some sexist-warlord ass.

Except that no one really knew what was happening at any point or time. **Eona wasn't included on any major decisions within the war despite being the chief advisor.** So she kept finding out stuff last minute and try to take action and would end up ruining everything.

*"I know." His head tilted; a smile quickly suppressed. "Of course, you have already punched me in the throat and tried to stab me with a sword, but I know you would never hurt me."*

This character made me so sad i swear to god. **Events just happened to her.** She rarely had an active role or really try to but kept complaining that no one took her seriously. Seriously there was a grand total of TWO training scenes AND THEY WERE BOTH FULL OF TEEN ANGST I LITERALLY GAGGED ON IT.

A bunch of lame shit would happen **but then these small little moments continued to tempt and tease me this entire novel.** Small glimpses of sassy teasing, interesting side characters, and i swear to god i really wanted to like this book i swear i tried.

*"Four days with a mother I had not seen for ten years, two powerful men who hated each other, and friends who did not trust me"*

That sounds pretty damn intriguing doesn't it? Except she spends the entire time in her cabin, worried about Ido the prisoner. She then tries to "save" the boat by making out with Ido in her bed...right....

There was even a creative plot twist about the very foundation of the whole goddamn country!!!  
(view spoiler)

So then we have some half ass battle and then and then and then...!!! **The book ends.** Good luck sorting out your entire fucking empire because everything was a lie and now everyone is dead.

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## cEe beE says

What the hell happened? I LOVED the first book and I absolutely HATE the sequel.

In the first installment, Eon was a crippled girl disguised as a boy struggling with identity while navigating the treacherous world of court politics. As Eona, she becomes an insecure and highly distrustful young woman caught in a control/power struggle [masquarading as a 'love' triangle] between two powerful men, the new emperor Kygo and the manipulative Ido. Meanwhile, they are being pursued by the vast army of would-be emperor Sethon, who is a one-dimensional and stereotypical evil villain.

Eon was both a character-driven and action-driven story. With Eona, the action completely overwhelmed character development and growth. They had no deep struggles about the consequences of their actions or the morality of their choices. Bizarrely, an erotic and sexual attraction develops between Eona and Ido the man who once tried to rape her! Eona's mirror dragon represents Truth but she is anything but truthful.

The more interesting secondary characters like Ryko, Dela, Tozay, Chart and his mother faded into the background. The wonderful world-building lost its appeal for me with this sequel's poorly developed storyline where an unlikely 'hero' turned into an unlikeable and unreliable heroine.

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### Isamlq says

*I apologize in advance:* the romantic sap in me is showing in this one (or maybe it's just the sap that's showing.) Don't judge me after all my admissions, I do so freely but still cringe at what I have to say: Yes, I was sheep-like in my reading choices when I first with YA. Yes, my fan girlyness was easily roused. And YES, my love for YA all started with a certain sparkly vamp. But I have changed, my tastes, I hope, have evolved, so my love for Eona and the triangle in it could be characterized as mere a relapse. Because right now? I'm feeling very much like a fan girl over the conflict brought about by the triangle in Eona (triangles, btw, are things I normally cannot abide in YA,) and I'm also all fan girly over the possibilities or the could-have-been's over Eona's baddy.

*My head is spinning!* One, I was not expecting this! It went faster than Eon: Dragoneye Reborn (Eon #1) AND there was an emphasis on romance. Two, I enjoyed said emphasis- more than I expected. Completely honestly? I gobbled Eona up! After reading a couple of lukewarm reviews, I expected it to be another one of those not so stellar sophomore attempts, but apparently I'm of a different opinion: It was emphasis on the romance that did it. I do love a good romance. And it might even have been the triangle that came out of nowhere (for me at least.)

Please don't judge me, but the first time I read Patch in Hush hush, I was all starry eyed and drooly (In my defense, I was new to the YA world at the time, and having just read Twilight was in search of another cute depressed hottie. Patch met all those requirements.) I think it's the same me *then* that's popping out *now* because I enjoyed EONA for the very same reasons. Wait! What's the connection, you ask? Why, I do! The definition of bad ass, the older guy who I had to figure out as either very into power or very into the girl. So here's a confession from the romantic sap, (OK, just the sap,) that is Isa: I loved the idea that love would conquer all enough so that he would choose her over ambition. I'm cringing a little as I type this, but I was expecting her draw to him to have been strong enough to get him to change. I'm embarrassed to admit all that, but I was/am thrilled by how the story went off in a more romantic tangent. I'm just in one of those moods, I suppose. Normally, I'd be "Blegh! Stop with the triangles and love can conquer all trope... Stop with the he loves me, but he really doesn't but anyway there's this other guy who loves me who might not really be in love me." But right now? I'm OK with Eona, In fact, I'm more than OK with it... I loved it.

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### Janina says

Three stars, but barely.

It is hard for me to hide my disappointment after reading this second installment of the Eon Duology. After so many reviews signing its praise, my expectations had soared high and I feel let down now.

I do love Alison Goodman's writing, her skill in creating atmosphere, making **Eona** a lush and sensual reading experience. Nevertheless, especially the second half of the book was a let down character-wise. I am sad to say that I lost my respect and admiration for Eona. Full of strength and courage as Eon, her union with her dragon and the power she has gained through it have made her weak and insecure. The way she treats her loved ones, the way she meets everyone around her with mistrust and suspicion were not necessarily

unrealistic traits for someone in her situation, but they made it almost impossible for me to feel with her. The love triangle introduced did not make it any easier for me. It is one of those cases where you just know it'll end badly, and it made me think even less of the heroine. I have to admit, though, it is not necessarily only there for the sake of adding tension - it really illustrates the heroine being torn not only between two men, but also between two paths she can take - but one of the men is a total creep, and the other's intentions aren't clear either. Additionally, the relationship developed a bit too fast. All in all, I was just very surprised as the first book was romance free (for a change), but the second one was so heavy on it. Add all the trust and power issues – it was kind of painful, partly in a good way, but mostly in a frustrating way. I do like my portrayal of heroes realistic – they should always be complex characters, with strengths and faults. Here, I felt like everybody besides the main character was strong, but Eona herself failed to carry responsibility and power on her shoulders. She does redeem herself later, and chooses the path I wished she would take, but in the end, I felt like she hadn't earned the ending she got.

Still, I admire this story for its diversity, for the amazing side characters – especially Dela and Ryko – and for the atmospheric setting. I would recommend giving the books a try despite my disappointment in this second volume, they are excellently written and the cast of characters is definitely unique in the fantasy genre.

#7 Aussie YA Challenge 2011

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## **Tatiana says**

As seen on The Readventurer

If you liked Eon: Dragoneye Reborn and your eyes didn't glaze over every time you read about Eona uniting with her dragon, easing into her mind-sight, channeling her Hua and so forth, I don't see any reason for you to dislike this novel. I really don't.

I feel like every issue I had with the 1st book of this duology was successfully fixed or improved upon in this sequel.

Eona, unlike its predecessor, has no info-dumping. Instead, it is a quest-type adventure in which Eona attempts to save her home country and in the process learn to control her newly acquired immense power.

It is also a very personal story. The time is no longer spent on extensive world-building, but on Eona's exploration of her power as both a Dragoneye and a woman.

Of course, everything is messy. With great power comes great responsibility - how much violence is justified in war? what is the rightful cause to use one's power against another person's will? who can be trusted with limitless access to power? and what can power do to a person who possesses it?

The romance story line is no less complicated - romantic relationships are convoluted by mistrust, fear of deception, power imbalances, questions of morality, loyalty and honor.

Every decision Eona has to make is ambiguous and difficult and requiring serious sacrifices, just the way I like them.

But the best part of the book for me was the fact that when I started it, I was sure it would simply be about saving the *Empire of Celestial Dragons* from Sethon, but it turned out to be much more than that, sort of like in *Shadowfever* (Note: no other similarities! So don't hold this comparison against me later on, ok?)

I am thoroughly impressed by this intelligent, complex and thoughtful story. Highly recommend it, unless, of course, you can't stand fantasy, dragons and heavy world building.

*Night Owl Reviews*

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## **Emily May says**

Before you can decide whether this book is your cup of tea, the first thing you need to ask yourself is what you look for in a book, what makes something a good read for you. For me, Eona ticked every single box. It was complex, well-written and more than just your typical fantasy: it was about power, being a woman in a man's world, and what lengths it is right to go to in order to defend an empire, your loved ones, and yourself.

So, do you like books with:

### **Fantastic worldbuilding**

Sick of books that plonk a few characters into some random society with a set of oppressive rules and no explanation? Me too. That's kind of why it's hard not to love this series from the beginning, with this colourful world that has been influenced by Chinese and Japanese culture and mythology but has also taken on a life of its own. This carefully-constructed world built on power of different kinds - that of the imperial family and that of the Dragoneyes. Goodman's land is steeped in power struggles, magic and secrets. Who can you possibly trust in such a world?

### **Varied, exciting and flawed characters**

The flawed character is a particular literary love of mine. Why? Because no one is perfect. Maybe a lot of us would like to be heroes in a perfect world but this is far from a perfect world and we all have our limits, our breaking points, and most of us can be seduced at times by a dark alternative to the straight and narrow path. Eona is an excellent heroine who faces serious struggles with power and her ever-changing character (let's face it, who wouldn't be changed after what she's been through), is she Kygo's Dragoneye? His *Naiso*? His lover?

Eona is smart but the seduction of ultimate power occasionally leads her to make the wrong decisions, she is after all only a flawed human being - as we all are. But beyond Eona are other great characters too. Dela and Ryko, Kygo... and Ido. Ido was one great whopping surprise in this book, it's only a really good writer that can take you from seething hatred towards a character to pity to almost-kinda-liking him. Ido is one charismatic bastard, full of amusing quips but always looking for ways to manipulate a situation to get what he wants. Along with Eona, Ido was the other character I constantly looked out for, eager to see his progression and where he'd end up.

### **Fantasy**

There's dragons, my friend, *dragons*. I never realised how cool they were until I read this. It's so strange that just a year ago I thought I didn't like high fantasy - you know, magical realms and whatnot - and now this book is easily making it onto my favourites list. My bad experiences with *The Lord of the Rings* made me think these kind of books weren't for me. But this is such a vivid fantasy world that I couldn't help being sucked in. It's the perfect blend of magic and real-world problems stirred in with a little dragon drama to create a very exciting mix.

### **Romance**

You like a little romance in between battles for the empire? Of course you do! Especially when the romance

is complicated and both parties aren't exactly trustworthy. Eona tries to determine Kygo's motivations and whether he is being honest with her, and she in turn holds information back from him in fear of what he could do with it. It's a complicated relationship between two powerful people who are all too aware of each other's power. And what about Ido? Are his and Eona's destinies more inextricably linked than anyone could have foreseen? This book all comes back to power, that between enemies, between friends, and between lovers. Goodman shows how easily power can be abused and how just a touch of it can fuel much bigger and darker ambitions.

### **Moral battles**

I am not that well-read in the fantasy genre but I'm beginning to think that this is why I tend to prefer female writers of fantasy (and sci-fi too). I don't want to drop authors of either gender into a box, it's not so black and white as that, but I do think from experience that there's just something a bit more *human* about the stories written by women, and the lack of this is probably the reason I felt so detached from *The Lord of the Rings*. In fantasy and sci-fi it's common to take the reader far away from the world and people they are used to, but in Goodman's land far far away the moral conflicts Eona faces are something very real and easily applicable in our world. Ideas about power and war. For example, if you have the power to kill ten people to save yourself and your friends, should you? How about one hundred? One thousand?

### **A quick read**

Nope, there's no point even trying. At a whopping 600+ pages this isn't no casual read-in-an-afternoon book. But, unlike some books I've read recently, I thought every page was necessary and it never felt too long. In fact, I wanted more.

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This is a **BIG SPOILER** and is meant as a discussion with people who have finished the book. You have been warned.

(view spoiler)

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### **Mags~CVAddikt~ says**

I mean, if you thought a girl with dragons was cool ...

So ... now everybody knows Eon is Eona, and now she can kick ass!!!

And there is more Kygo ...

**THIS IS A MUST READ NOW - WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR - YOU WONT REGRET**

## READING THIS - BOOK

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### Steph Sinclair says

Simply amazing.

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### Lara says

I'm not even done reading, and I already love this book!

*Update:*

How do I even begin with this review? \*sigh\* I guess it's time to bring my feelings out and "spill the beans" but I warn you, it will be a huge, jumbled up mess of emotion.

Okay, here we go.

I loved this book. But I hated it at the same time. At some parts, I would be cheering on the characters and at others, I would be rolling all over the place, screaming at the pages because I thought what was going on was crazy.

I hate that I loved this book so much, to be honest. It kept me up at night, made me an emotional wreck and took me away from my real life (which I loved, but now hate). While reading, I was so captured in the story, that my life didn't seem to matter until I finished the book. But now, that I finished the series, I don't know what to do with myself. Silly, I know. I keep thinking about the characters, and thinking about the story and what happened. I actually just finished the book, and I feel the same feeling I felt after I read *Mockingjay*: loss and emptiness. I feel as if my *Hua* was drained out of my body and soul. Eh? Eh? Get it? Get it? No? Okay, moving on. Basically, what I am trying to say is that I got way too attached, and now, it will take me a few days to recover from this emotional wreckage. \*le sigh\* C'est la vie.

The characters. What to say? I loved all of them, and to be honest (don't kill me, please) I loved Lord Ido in this book. In Eon, not so much because he was a total asshole, but throughout this whole story (except the end, I will be getting to that later) he was a sarcastic, funny character that I enjoyed reading about. (view spoiler) I just really liked him, okay? On to the protagonist of the story, Eona. She was pretty kick ass, but humanly flawed and vulnerable at the same time. I admired that very much about her. She is kind of a hard character to like, but once you pass that hard shell of hers, you seem to love her. Well at least I did. All of the secondary characters, I really cared about. I loved Rilla from the beginning, and Chart too. (view spoiler) Kygo was a sexy beast and I just

adored him. (view spoiler)

The writing was fabulous! I loved the deep description and detail the author gave to almost everything. I loved it, and that was a huge part of what drew me in to continue reading, despite the fast paced plot and awesome characters. I just felt like I was there, and I haven't read a book in the longest time that had the ability to do that. I admire her for it.

Now, I shall spill out all of the glorious spoilers for my fellow Eona readers to see. (view spoiler)

Overall, I loved this book, even though I hated it down to the core of my being.

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### **Phrynne says**

Well if anything this book is even better than book one! 637 pages of sitting on the edge of my seat fearing what might happen next. There was even a tolerable love triangle and I had no idea which way that was going to go.

Full marks for the world building, the characters, the tension and the great story. A gold star for the dragons, twelve beautiful, glorious dragons with amazing talents. And a bonus point for the great ending which tied up all the loose ends and still managed to surprise me.

Highly recommended to anyone who enjoys fantasy especially if you like dragons:)

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### **Jennie says**

Disappointing after the sweeping epic that was Eon: Dragoneye Reborn. I would have rated it lower, but I figured I wasn't being fair. My expectations were high after Eon, which was an extremely unique entry into the bloated YA fantasy/supernatural genre -- featuring dragons, Eastern influences, and subversive gender issues.

Eona concludes the story started in Eon. Goodman's prose and plot are rushed; I felt that the events would have been better spread out over two novels to make the saga a trilogy. What started as fairly epic high-fantasy in Eon got dumbed down to very "teen" romance, some of which really grossed me out. I felt that the romance was mostly unnecessary, or so poorly developed that it should have been left out. There's a really disgusting love triangle that involves a guy who tried to rape her in the first book; which is incredibly ill-conceived. All of the book, frankly, has humungous consent issues to the point it's a stomach-churning theme. Most of her main characters behave very badly -- the "good guys" include a man who's a murderer and rapist, a girl with some serious control issues, and a boy with hilariously (and not in a good way) self-defeating pride. So it's no wonder that the "bad guys" are parodies, detailed as even more unscrupulous rapists, power-mongers, and outright demons.

It's really disappointing that such a good set-up had to scrimp on the plot for developing characters I frankly didn't give a damn about -- because they all crossed the Moral Event Horizon five times and turned around to spit on it (oh, and she kills off the only "good guys" that *do not* do terrible things). Read it only if you've already read Eon and anxious to see how it ends. Otherwise, this is a train-wreck of everything terrible about teen fiction: anti-feminist stomach churning themes, poor character development, and more nasty unhealthy sex (this includes rape, prostitution, sexism, and coerced sexual activity, not to mention really unhealthy relationships based on lies and mutual lust for power) than anyone could really stand.

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## Keertana says

After trying (and failing) to write a review for this novel for the past two months, I think it's time for me to just step back and admit that sometimes it really isn't possible to write down my thoughts for certain novels. From looking at the reviews my friends have written for this, ranging from lists to quick short sentences, it's evident that it seems to be a universal malady.

Nevertheless, *Eona* is a novel that *deserves* a review. As the sequel to *Eon*, a novel rich in its exploration of Asian culture and gender roles, I feel almost obligated to tell others why this book was such a success for me. *Eona* is different, yet inherently the same, as its predecessor. While both novels feature Eona coming to terms with who she is, *Eona* takes it all one step further. Now, as a woman, her quest is suddenly more tumultuous than ever, especially since her position is so blurred. Eona must now face the responsibility that comes with her powers, whether it be to innocent villagers whose lives are somehow sacrificed in the battle of politics or her own friend, Ryko, who she holds immense power over because of her Mirror Dragoneye abilities.

At the same time, there is a delicate balance between the game of love and the game of ambition that is being played between Kygo, Eona, and Lord Ido. Eona is attracted to both men for different reasons and for the first time, I can honestly admit to enjoying a love triangle; perhaps because the romance was never the main aspect of this novel and even more than romantic involvement, there was political involvement between the couples, which only further added to the complexity of this story. As with its predecessor, *Eona* continues to impress with the fusion of Asian culture that remains to be a large aspect of its world-building and the flashbacks to the past that Eona experiences of her ancestor all played into the tale remarkably well.

Overall, there isn't anything else I have to say about this one. It was incredible, fast-paced, swoon-worthy, and thought-provoking. All in all, Goodman is an author I desperately need more of and if you haven't already picked up this fantasy duet of hers, you definitely need to.

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## Catie says

3 1/2 stars

How do I know that I wasn't as captivated by this book as the first one? Because I was listening to the audiobook while brushing my teeth (thanks to adult orthodontia, it's now a 15 minute process), and when I was done, I calmly put down my mp3 player while one of the main characters was dying, and the ultimate endgame was just getting started. Then I went downstairs and watched three episodes of the so far pretty mediocre last season of Ugly Betty. Wilhelmina's catty antics and Grant Bowler's amazing Australian abs aside, I can't believe that I put down a book mid-climax in favor of a t.v. show.

This book finds Eona trying to learn to control her dragoneye powers. When she calls the mirror dragon, the ten deserted dragons come charging in, causing massive damage and death. Kinra, Eona's dragoneye ancestor, begins to emerge in Eona's feelings and memories. As Kinra's motivations become clearer, Eona suspects that Kinra might not be so honorable after all. Desperate to control her powers, Eona realizes that there's only one person she can turn to – Ido, the power hungry rat dragoneye. As the resistance bands together to make an attempt on the throne, Eona finds herself torn between the ambitions of two men. But, are they both merely using her for her power?

I have to wonder how much my strong dislike of the narrator ended up ruining this book for me. I don't know how many times I just zoned out, even during very exciting moments, and then had to rewind and try desperately to focus. She seems to rush through the action packed passages and then have to take huge breathy gasps to keep going, sometimes even mid-sentence. Here's my own little transcription to illustrate (from track 6):

*“GASP Through shuddering breaths, I described the events of the morning. GASP I tried to avoid telling her about the kiss GASP but the rest of the story made no sense until I had confessed that brief moment of desire LONG GASPING INHALE at the end of my stumbling recital SIGH.”*

Yes, I did use that specific scene just to torture you. No, I am not going to tell you who she was kissing.

Actually, considering that that particular sentence starts with “through shuddering breaths” maybe that's the one time where her mouth breathing is appropriate. But, she breathes like that through the *entire* book, and it drives me insane. She also makes some weird pronunciation “choices” like nape = “nap” and draught = “drought.” Plus, she says “port-nt” instead of my preferred “por-tent.” So basically, she's dead to me.

This book has quite a bit more ~~romance~~ highly combustible desire in it. There are a few parts that, taken a few steps further, could have easily gone the way of an erotic novel (Alison Goodman, if you ever decide to go this route, please let me know). There are some *very* sexy scenes in this book, but I can't buy into the love. I didn't feel it from either love interest. In fact, I never fully trusted either one of them. However, I think that this distrust is instrumental in justifying Eona's actions. When she withholds important information from nearly everyone, the only thing that kept me from getting *extremely* frustrated with her was my distrust. I wouldn't have spilled the beans to those two manipulative men either! I did get a little choked up at the end when (view spoiler) but I still couldn't buy in to the love.

This book continues with the theme of finding a balance, expanding it from the balance between male and female to include the balance between power and tyranny and duty and love. Once again, I loved every minute of Lady Dela. If my wildest dreams came true, she would be the heroine of her own series someday. Despite my earlier narrator rant, I did enjoy this book. Alison Goodman knows how to write one hell of an ending! I may have to read this in print someday to see if it's a better experience.

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## Choko says

RTC...

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## mich says

A couple of my favorite things to read about in fantasy (and UF, pnr, etc.) is:

When a bad guy -- a legit *bad* guy -- is written in a way that makes me hate him, but yet I'm also intrigued and charmed by him. It's not an easy thing to do.

AND (and this is even harder to do), when he is written as a real, viable love interest.

And yes, I KNOW this particular guy has done some really fucked up things (I mean, come on, I did say *legit* bad guy, didn't I?) but I've come up with a rationalization for all that in my head that works for me, so there.

This book had very many pages, but I totally flew through all of it. Well written, great characterization, good pacing -- I am a sucker for YA fantasy and this is a reason why. Much better than the first book!

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## W says

I liked the first book in this series, Eon, and the series ended okay, but MAN OH MAN did I want to throw this book across the room so many times! It was SO FRUSTRATING.

The bad guy from the last book who mercilessly killed and tortured her friends and tried to rape her is all of a sudden a love interest. All of a sudden he is just so HANDSOME that she can't resist him. And even though Eona has been a capable, strong character she is ready to let herself be manipulated because he's just so good looking. I would have been less frustrated if she had been tempted with the power he offered. That would have made sense, but I loathed the whole love interest idea.

Other things that bugged me:

She's a pathological liar the entire time. Even when it makes sense to tell the truth she doesn't do it.

The prince should be a little more politically capable. You would think he would be a little less trusting and a little more skilled in intrigue since that is what he was supposedly raised to do.

The first book was all about how everyone always had to respect people with a higher position. They couldn't even leave the room if the emperor was in it. But even though Eona is a Lady Dragoneye and the Niaso (the emperor's most trusted advisor) all of these people are always giving her crap. It was obnoxious. I didn't love Eona's character in this book - but the people who were supposedly her friends were jerks. And even if they weren't her friends anymore they should have at least pretended to defer to her - that's how the characters would have logically acted in the world that was presented.

So, in summary, I liked the first book and I was satisfied with how the series ended, but the level of frustration with the characters in this book almost made me kick my cat. And she shouldn't have to suffer for the misdeeds of others. Right?

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## Wendy Darling says

How often does the sequel outdo its predecessor? Not often at all. EPICALLY good, in a way that kept me up late at night.

Review to come.

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## **Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says**

"You have seen Lady Eona's power and resolve," he said harshly. "Be thankful that you have also witnessed her compassion and restraint."

I'm sure I'm not the only one who cheered after reading that.

I gave up on *Eon: Dragoneye Reborn* when I first attempted to read it because the beginning moved like molasses. I just wanted some action already, geez. Well, I got what I wanted in this book, a bit too much of it at times. *Eona* was nonstop action from the first page. This is not one of those series where you can plunge in with the second book and there will be some nice characters having a conversation about previous events and then BAM, you're all caught up within 3 pages and ready for more. Nope. The reader truly has to know what the heck went on in the first book or risk becoming hopelessly lost.

After the events in the first book, Eona is on the run with the resistance. Ryko is fatally injured, Dela is heartbroken, and Eona is feeling the sorrow of all the dragons as they mourn their dead. Lord Ido tried and failed to rebel against Lord Sethon and is now being imprisoned and tortured somewhere. The Pearl Emperor, Kygo, is on the run with his branch of the resistance, and they haven't a clue where he is. Oh, and everyone is out searching for Lord Eon, who may or may not be a woman or possibly an eunuch, and Dela, who is a man, or a woman. Yep. It's a mess and a half.

Eona is trying to decipher the mystery of the dragons with the help of Dela's translations; she knows she has had two female dragoneye ancestors, Charra, and the traitor Kinra. She is burdened with a mess of secrets that grow heavier as the book goes on. Much of the book is about concealment. Nobody really trusts anyone, and as a result, there's miscommunication and distrust even among the allies to the very end of the book.

**In contrast to the previous book, *Eona* had a lot more character involvement.** The previous book didn't really give us a glimpse of many personalities, since we were never really given a chance to get close to many of the characters. In this book, from the first, we are forced into close quarters with many characters, and as such, personalities are made clearer. A lot of characters made me pretty angry at how unreasonable they are, for example, those close to Eona, whom she healed. They know her, she did it to save them. They believe in her, otherwise they wouldn't be on her side, and yet they're upset because she has the power to compel them? I don't know about you, but if I were forced to be maimed my entire life or given to compulsion for a few moments, I'd choose the latter. Ingrates.

Ryko was so annoying to me in this book, but the relationship between him and Dela was so sweet, albeit frustrating at times. They're of the I-love-you-but-I'm-no-good-for-you school, but at least their love is straightforward, unlike the major players in this book.

Eona frustrated me at times, but then again, I'm a bloodthirsty little thing. I personally am of the "kill one to save many" school. Eona is not. She is powerful, she has destructive powers as well as healing ones, and each has its disadvantages. She is so reluctant to use her powers sometimes, and so distrusting of herself. Again, I think this is the fault of me, the reader, and not inherent of the character. Eona does need to learn to grow into herself and what she is comfortable with, after all.

I felt the mystery involving Kinra was well done, though so, so very dragged out. The clues were given in a believable manner, spaced out so that it doesn't seem like clue upon clue is forced upon us. The concept of the diary is a good one; the other book, the Black Folio and the accompanying Dillon frustrated me to no end. How hard can it be to wrestle a stupid cursed book from a 12-year old boy? Ugh. I've wrestled with my sister for a prized possession before. It's not easy, but it's definitely doable (especially with fingernails).

The love triangle is very well done. I couldn't decide who to root for, and I was torn between both men even as the book reaches its final pages. Both men, Lord Ido, and the Emperor Kygo, are such complex and flawed characters. They're both imperfect, they both love Eona in their own way, and they both seek power for different purposes, and I honestly could not tell whose heart truly loved Eona for who she is. I liked Ido a lot more in this book. He seems to be more in tune to Eona and more understanding of Eona's needs, in contrast to Kygo, who is compelled to keep his nation and people foremost in his mind, despite what his heart might be telling him. We are kept guessing throughout the novel; I've rarely been so torn between two characters. I hated Lord Ido in the first book, but my feelings for him in this book changed 180 degrees.

In summary: action-packed adventure, heroine who grows into herself, awesome love triangle, delicious bad boy, mystery that kept me guessing til the very end = EPIC BOOK.

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## Mayim de Vries says

Not only did I love Eon, also the majority of my personal Board of Reviewers were in agreement that the sequel is even better than its predecessor. **As you see, it was not the case of high expectations, it was a case of high certainty that I am in for a real treat. Alas, as they say, nobody expected Spanish Inquisition. By the 200th page, I have changed into the grand Torquemada myself.**

While I still admired the **amazing world-building** (so far I have only encountered something similar in Brian Staveley's *The Emperor's Blades*), you will agree that **even the best scenery, artful props and magnificent and Oscar-worth visual effects will not save a film with bad cast and scenario**. Eona suffers on both fronts. Plot-wise, the intrigue was exposed in the previous book, premised explained, all figures set in motion, the main lines drawn and the finishing line beckoned on the clouded horizon. Eona picks up promptly but it is just like a **badly done pizza crust: not too long, but definitely longish, sometimes too thick to bite it, in other places so thin that the topping nearly falls through**. In Eona some motifs were protracted to the boundary of pain (Kinra), some regurgitated in similar variants over and over again (Kygo), some heralded with great fanfare in order to have negligible effect on the overall story (mother), other just happen and are done with a one-liner (Chart). What is worse, **a love triangle appears and the whole captivating story transmutes into a romance-driven drama**.

Undeniably, most of these things would not have happened should Eona stayed who she was in the first instalment. Unfortunately, **Eona is this kind of heroine whose behaviour depends not on her circumstances but rather on what she wears**. The moment she is free to reveal her true identity, the ascendant Dragoneye changes into an insecure, whiny creature driven by an emotional tsunami. Oh of course, because she is wearing a skirt, so it is a must. Makes total sense.

**For me the key quote from this book is "Eona why are you creating problem where there is none?"** Half of everything that happens on the 600+ pages of this book happens because Eona behaves like a pregnant woman on steroids. Which is anything but the protagonist I came to love and admire in Eon.

Ido was by far the most interesting character in Eona, the most wholesome, credible and complex without becoming his own caricature (like Sethon). To the contrary, fans of Dela (count me in) will have reasons to

complain as she is pushed into the shadow. Similarly fans of Kygo, who suffers because of the opposite shift, into the forefront, and becomes a dictionary version of an emperor-in-waiting.

Overall, **3 solid stars with a soft cinnamon sadness of a remembered bond.**

Book 1: Eon: Dragoneye Reborn ★★★★★

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