

Dear Literary Agent,

I am writing to you, seeking representation for my adult fantasy novel, *Birds of Paradise*. It is about 100,000 words, and is the first book in a series, *The Ash & Bloom Duology*.

Birds of Paradise follows Helia, a 22 year old phoenix shape-shifter with suppressed powers. She lives in a village called Igni that is filled with the Fira, all phoenix shifters like herself. The Fira lost their magic years ago, when their last leader sacrificed herself to save them from the humans, but in the past two decades, the power has been coming back to them slowly. Helia begrudgingly accepts her fate as a half rate magic user, until her best friend dies from Combustion. The same indisposition that took Helia's mom when she was a child.

As Helia decides she wants to fight and avoid her own impending doom, she is thrust into a world of secrets she never could have anticipated. Uncovering a hidden rebellion, she learns more about her mom from the rebels than she ever did from her grandmother, the current Hierophant and leader of the Fira. With more questions than answers, Helia is forced to face hard truths and make tough decisions to save herself and her people from their demise. While this story is mainly a fantasy plot, there will be subplots of romance, switching to a better balance of fantasy plot and romantic plot in the second novel.

Fans of series like *From Blood and Ash*, *The Plated Prisoners Series* and *The Kindred's Curse Saga* will be interested in Helia's journey of fighting oppression while discovering secrets. Fiction author Melissa Trombetta, known for her debut title, *I Thought I Knew* was very intrigued by my premise and gave glowing reviews after reading the first chapter. As a fan of contemporary literary fiction, she said it made her want to try out fantasy. The sequel, *Lilies of the Valley* closes out *The Ash & Bloom Duology* and is available upon request.

Thank you for your consideration,
Veronica Rose Sloane