

Dear Pipeline Editors,

Two hundred years ago, a rebel queen had the audacity to challenge a tyrant king. Her descendant, Rowenna Tian, is lucky to have a job as a castle maid, but she'd rather be a warrior. She's determined to find proof that her ancestor wasn't a traitor, even if only for herself.

Collin Ga'vaan, the third-born prince, is a playboy scholar who knows every shortcut in the castle. When he accidentally slams a door into Rowenna, he uses his meager healing powers to take the edge off her pain, and senses deep magic inside her.

With the help of a sorceress, Rowenna visits the Eternal Library, where a ritual yields her a sword she has carried through the paths between, along with a flood of memories from her warrior ancestor. Struggling to reconcile two parts of herself, she confesses the secret of her forged-soul to Collin. That night, the castle is attacked and the king falls. Rowenna fights at Collin's side, earning a place on his private guard. But the closer she gets to Collin, the more danger she attracts. Members of the old king's court fight against the changes Rowenna and Collin make. They think women have no business fighting poverty and preparing for war, and will hire assassins, commit treason, and risk their own lives to keep Rowenna away from the throne.

[Title] is a 108,000-word adult fantasy romance that would appeal to fans of Kristen Britain's *Green Rider* series, Rachel Caine's *The Great Library* series, and Leigh Bardugo's *King of Scars*. Both main characters in this slow-burn romance are bisexual, written from an ownvoices perspective.

I'm a poet, musician, ... [remaining paragraph redacted for author's privacy.]

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best wishes,

[Author's name and contact information redacted]

While *Soul Sword* definitely has an intriguing premise, the query is missing valuable information that will allow the reader a more in-depth image of what the story entails. Especially in the oversaturated genre of fantasy, you need your query to highlight how your story is unique – how it will stand out from all other fantasy submissions. Settle the reader in the world, introduce the main character, their desire, the obstacles that get in their way, and what is at stake if they do not succeed. I have highlighted many areas within your query that should be expanded upon, either because there is potential to provide a more detailed image for the reader, or because certain elements do not make sense without context (especially in paragraph 3). While you don't want to give too much away in the query, you still want the reader to have a thorough understanding of what they are getting into if they decide to read on.

Commented [CD1]: Don't forget to settle the reader. Where does this story take place? A magical realm? A place with realistic historical roots? Is it hot? Cold? This could be added simply in the first line.

Example: Two hundred years ago, in the forever frozen Realm of Wintershire, a rebel queen..."

Commented [CD2]: I would rewrite this sentence with more clarity. Is the rebel queen the tyrant king's wife? I'm assuming that since Rowenna is only working as a maid, that the Queen wasn't successful in challenging the king. What happened to her? The re-write could be something as simple as: "Two hundred years ago, a rebel queen had the audacity to challenge her husband, a tyrant king. Her failure resulted in execution and a black mark on the Tian name."

Commented [CD3]: Include age: "Her descendant, Rowenna Tian (17), is lucky..."

Commented [CD4]: Is this desire linked to her desire to be a warrior? Does she not qualify because of her ancestor? If so, this could be reworked to show this.

Example: "Her descendant, Rowenna Tian, is desperate to be a warrior in the King's Guard. But with the Tian name, she is lucky to have been granted a position as a castle maid. If she can find proof that her ancestor wasn't a traitor, then maybe she could fulfill her dream of fighting on the front lines, where she truly belongs."

Commented [CD5]: Include age.

Commented [CD6]: What kind of magic? You want to give the reader a sense of what kind of magic will be present in the story. Often times, the magical element of a story is what makes the story unique, so this is one area where you don't want to be vague.

Commented [CD7]: What does this mean?

Deleted: 's

Commented [CD8]: What are the two parts?

Commented [CD9]: What does this mean?

Commented [CD10]: What changes?

Commented [CD11]: Poverty is not mentioned in the rest of the query and feels out of place. While this may come into play in the pages, you do not want to throw a curve ball in the query. I recommend keeping this general in the query.

Commented [CD12]: While this is a powerful sentence, it is more effective if you put the desire in your protagonist's... [2]

Commented [CD13]: The query read much more like a YA fantasy. This could have been my misconception because... [3]

Commented [CD14]: Great comp titles. Good job!

Commented [CD15]: There is typically only one true main character in a story, so I would avoid saying "Both main..." [4]

Commented [CD16]: While all this information is great, I think your query needs to spend more time fleshing out the... [5]

If you provide more detail to certain areas and paint a vivid image of your world and story, it will help promote the uniqueness of *Soul Sword*.



