

As Alma watched his friends leave, Cassia slipped her hand into his and leaned against him. Alma looked down at her tear-stained face. “Will they return?” she asked, her voice cracking.

“Yes,” Alma said. “I don’t know when, but I believe we’ll see them again.”

The new missionaries entered the market street and disappeared past the buildings. Alma stared after them for several moments, then turned to Cassia. He took her other hand in his, oblivious of the surrounding people. “It’s time,” he said.

“Time for what?” Cassia asked, her eyes vivid.

“To bring more souls to repentance.”

“And?” she prompted.

Alma furrowed his brow. “And to teach them about the true God.”

“Yes, yes,” Cassia said. “But we also need to plan a wedding.”

Alma brought her hand to his lips and kissed it. “That, too.”

Comment [A54]: All the evaluators and my independent readers have appreciated the repentance process. I don’t think it needs to be dragged out or dramatized further. We know and we understand that Alma endured 3 days of significant remorse, and I don’t think it needs to be spelled out during all three days. And we don’t need to get into each of the king’s sons points of view and spell out the remorse a 2nd or 3rd time. The point of the repentance has been well made and I don’t want the pacing of the book to be affected. Also, as far as p. 259 confession scene goes, In Mosiah 26:35-36, it says that the repentant must confess their sins and repent, or their names would be blotted out. Also, Alma will keep beating himself up (just not in this book), he spends the rest of his life trying to make up for his transgressions.

Comment [A55]: A general comment on the novel: Repentance seems too easy in this story. Alma and the sons of Mosiah are shown to be paying for their sins, but the only reason their repentance will be believable to the reader is that the reader will already know the scriptural account. I didn’t really witness the full depth of soul-wrenching remorse and guilt that I would expect given the weight of their sins (especially from the king’s sons, which makes their desire to become missionaries seem a little strange and fake). And on p. 259, a man repents of adultery and is forgiven—it feels like a Catholic confession rather than a true repentance situation. (All that being said, I do appreciate that once the Lord forgives Alma, he doesn’t keep beating himself up.)