



Readers' Favorite®

Book Reviews and Award Contest

Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although these are general ratings we hope they will give you an insight into how others may view the different components of your book. These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although your reviewer is not an expert literary critic or professional editor, they are at the very least, an avid reader of books just like yours.

Title: Who's Afraid of Red

Subtitle: A Story Cycle in Three Parts

Author: Alessandra Gelmi

Genre: Fiction - Cultural

Appearance: The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.

5

Plot: The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books--those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.

5

Development: Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is

5

also a key factor, especially for informative books--those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.

Formatting:

4

Formatting is the single most overlooked area by independent authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.

Marketability:

4

Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.

Overall Opinion:

5

The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.

Review:

Reviewed by Kristie Ingerto for Readers' Favorite

Who's Afraid of Red: A Story Cycle in Three Parts by Alessandra Gelmi is a philosophical read that will leave the reader pondering life and love. Right away in the start of the book, the reader meets Leon and Sylvia and becomes engrossed in their relationship and their individual searches for meaning in life. Leon was a theology student and then he spent time in Rwanda as a reporter covering the genocides; however, he has been unable to find meaning in life and move on. Sylvia is an art professor and looking for love in life, a love that is fulfilling and true. Although Leon and Sylvia are on separate paths seeking answers, finding closure and fulfillment, their connection with each other remains even when others, including Leon's daughter, become involved in their lives as well.

Alessandra Gelmi has written a very thought-provoking and philosophical read. The main characters in the book, Leon and Sylvia, are both seeking fulfillment in their lives in more ways than one and feel lost on their journeys through life. This was a very interesting book as I felt I was able to live through these characters and try to sort through their thoughts and feelings. At times, I felt as if I was reading a journal as the writing is in that style – one's personal thoughts and feelings, nothing being held back or censored. I also liked how the story is divided into three sections as it highlighted defining moments and time periods in the characters' lives. This is a book that will stick with you and leave you thinking about the characters and one's own life long after you finish reading.