



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: The Girl in the Sea
Subtitle: A Retelling of The Little Mermaid
Author: K. B. Hoyle
Genre: Fiction - Tall Tale



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.

4

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 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.

5

Formatting: 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.

5

Marketability: 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.

5

Overall Opinion: 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.

5

Review: Reviewed by Ray Simmons for Readers' Favorite

The Girl in the Sea by K.B. Hoyle is a retelling of The Little Mermaid without the songs and exaggerated drama that mark a Disney production. I must confess that I'm a big fan of Disney animated movies. They are something I could watch with the kids without having to explain a lot of embarrassing things that adults tend to do. They have a happy ending, and while I know the importance of teaching kids that sometimes things don't work out happily, I still want my kids, and the kids I teach, to be optimistic. This is a great version of this now classic tale. The Mermaid, Orpheia, is an interesting girl, and Prince Hugo is about as good a young man as you can find in any genre.

K.B. Hoyle is gutsy to tackle a retelling first done by the great Hans Christian Andersen, and then redone by the powerful magic of Disney. She pulls it off beautifully. I think this new generation of young readers will come to prefer this version. K.B. Hoyle has a natural gift for writing and telling a story, and that talent comes through clearly in The Girl in the Sea. The personalities of all the characters are very distinct. This is important because Orpheia has a lot of sisters and most of them are very talkative. The undersea world is portrayed in a way that contrasts it with the life and attitudes of the surface world, and I found that interesting and thought provoking. A great story.