



Reviewers' Instructional Guide

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Writing a Book Review

1. Purpose

The purpose is to provide the basic resources to assist you to write a review with excellence.

2. Benefit

Reviewing books is an enriching experience. The readers who learn to become a book reviewer are developing their writing skills while extending awareness of the author's book to a wider audience. It is a win-win opportunity for both reviewer and author.

3. How to start

Whether you are reading a hard cover book or an e-book, it is good to take notes. If you don't like to mark up a print book, then have a pen and paper handy as you read. What should you be marking?

- * Favourite lines, inspirational comments, verses, or descriptions.
- * Anything that makes you say, "What?" or "Wow!"
- * What you liked. Would you recommend this book? Why?
- * Before reading, consider the title and the cover. Ask yourself what they are conveying to you. When you finish the book, look at the cover again. Did it meet your expectations? Did the cover fit the theme or genre of the book?

4. Review Standard

Our review standard is to write an honest review that encourages and edifies God's ready writers. If you cannot say anything good, perhaps it is best not to write the review.

5. Using a Rating System

The rating system is designed to help you look at a book with a critical eye. We evaluate everything from cover to character development, plot, style, content, and "addictiveness" of a book.

Cover: Did the cover draw you in? Did it fit the story?

Characters: Are they well-developed?

Plot: Was it structured well?

Style: Was it, overall, a well-written book?

Content: Did the book have a good Christian message?

Addictiveness: How easy was it to put it down?

Write a Book Review — Continued

6. What not to do

- * Do not write a one- or two-line review. That is not a balanced review that is helpful and seems lazy.
- * Don't just write a plot summary. The author knows what the book is about and so do the readers because this information is available in the description of the book.
- * They want to know what **you** thought about it. What did you like? This is what the author is looking for and so are people deciding whether to buy the book.
- * Do not reveal too much information so that the reader can make their own discoveries.

7. Three Parts of a Written Review

Star Rating *****

Review Title — A review title includes a feature(s) that stand out to you.

Written Review — The length/number of paragraphs of the written review corresponds to the number of ideas the reviewer expresses on the particular book.

Creating Accounts — amazon.ca and Goodreads.com

8. Create Account — Sign Up — amazon.ca (applicable for book purchase)

- * Go to amazon.ca — Sign Up - Amazon.ca
- * Create an amazon.ca account
- * Keep a record of your **Account** details - email address and password

9. Create Account — Sign Up — goodreads.com

- * Go to goodreads.com — Sign Up goodreads.com
- * Create a goodreads.com account -
- * Keep a record of your **Account** details - email address and password

Posting a Review

10. Post Review — Sign In — amazon.ca - Individual Post

- * **Sign In** into your account with your **Account** details — email address and password
- * Retrieve the book either by author or title/Click on the applicable book
- * Beside the stars/Click on the word, **rating (Example: ***** - rating)** /To the left-hand side under the title Review this product/Select the button, **Write a customer review**

Posting a Review - Continued

- * In the customer review section/Assign the star rating of your choice/Assign a Review Title for this book/Type your review or Copy & Paste your pre-written book review/
Submit
- * Once posted/**Sign Out** of amazon.ca account

11. Post Review — Sign In — goodreads.com - Individual Post

- * **Sign In** into your account with your Account details — email address and password
- * Retrieve the book either by author or title
- * Beside the stars/Click on the word, **reviews (Example: ***** - review)**/To the upper left side, click on the button, **Write a review (Tip: The review title and the written review can be inserted in review box space. A title makes the review stand out.)**
- * In the customer review section/Assign the star rating of your choice/Assign a Review Title for this book/Type your review or Copy & Paste your pre-written book review/
Post
- * Once posted/**Sign Out** of goodreads.com

12. Cross Posting — Multiple Postings

Cross posting refers to posting a review to several sites — amazon.ca and goodreads.com to broaden awareness. Crosspost where possible.