



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: It Takes Death to Reach a Star

Author: Stu Jones, Gareth Worthington

Genre: Fiction - Science Fiction



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.

4

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 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.

4

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 Justine Reyes for Readers' Favorite

In the year 2251, the world as we know it is gone, taken by ignorance and greed. *It Takes Death to Reach a Star* by Stu Jones and Gareth Worthington is a post-apocalyptic dystopian novel about Mila Solokoff, Demitri Stasevich, and respectively the malevolent Vedmak. Mila and Demitri lead separate lives in the same city, a city in the frozen wastelands of northern Siberia called Etyom. A city where people are separated by classism and conflict. Mila belongs to the Robusts, a lower class society that is starved of the privileges which the Graciles have all to themselves, Graciles like Demitri. However, Demitri isn't like the rest of them; he's got a dirty little secret which has nothing to do with his illegal drug use. Funnily enough, the pair are thrown together to make a decision that could alter the lives of all the people in Etyom.

It can't be a coincidence that Etyom takes place in Russia, because some of the best sci-fi novels come from famous Russian authors like the Strugatsky brothers who wrote *Roadside Picnic* and Dmitry Glukhovsky who created the *Metro* books. "The world has changed, but the people in it didn't." I cannot fathom how Stu Jones and Gareth Worthington created this masterpiece. I am awestruck at how well developed their characters are and how vivid and immersive is the world they have built. It's so oddly surreal, yet all of it is brilliantly woven together in this fictional post-apocalyptic world. Fans of this genre would be well advised to pick up a copy of *It Takes Death to Reach a Star*.