



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 Devil Knows
Author: Janet Holt-Johnstone
Genre: Fiction - Historical - Event/Era



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

5

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.

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:

5

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 Melinda Hills for Readers' Favorite

Young Susan Anderson is thrust into an incredible adventure in the Canadian wilderness by circumstances and her naïve father, the newly assigned circuit preacher for the small towns and lumber camps of the Canadian north in *The Devil Knows* by Janet Holt-Johnstone. Although the rough life of a lumber camp is no place for a young woman of genteel birth, Susan is willing to work and respect the challenges presented by being the only female for miles around. A horrific accident, however, leaves her father incapacitated and Susan is more and more at the mercy of the support and friendship of these men. John McIver, camp superintendent, is taken with Susan's charms, but realizes he must maintain his distance, especially with political turmoil and large scale theft going on clandestinely in his camp. With options for a more suitable life, Susan must decide between love and social expectations. Will circumstances always be beyond her control or will Susan finally be able to choose the life she wants to lead?

The Devil Knows, the debut novel for journalist Janet Holt-Johnstone, is everything you want in a historical novel and more. The characters are quite diverse and deeply drawn, and the action is vivid so that you feel a part of the story. With amazing insight, Holt-Johnstone captures the political turmoil of the time as well as the opposing sentiments of many settlers and the Native Americans who are being displaced from ancestral lands. Age-old issues regarding the true meaning of Christian love and forgiveness, the oppression of other people, and the power of nature add

tremendous depth to this wonderfully complex historical love story that is well worth reading. This is a wonderful story that really touches on a lot of important issues without preaching a particular viewpoint and is really quite enjoyable. Well done!