



# Readers' Favorite<sup>®</sup>

## 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:** Treasures From Afar  
**Author:** Troy D. Wymer  
**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.

**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.
- 4**
- 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.
- 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.
- 4**

**Review:**

Reviewed by Liz Konkel for Readers' Favorite

While attending a historic art festival, Shane discovers a missing document hidden behind a piece of art. He's handed a chance to find treasure, but it's an adventure that could get him killed. As he runs from the Galactic Government, he hides in an abandoned hotel where he meets Ariel. Together the two embark on an adventure that will change their lives. While Ariel seeks a fresh start, Shane is determined to rescue his girlfriend, Shanda. His search for treasure brings them to an unexpected alien ally and together they make a startling discovery. Shane is pulled into the middle of a war as a new emperor takes the throne and merges the empire with the Universal Expanse Church.

In *Treasures From Afar*, author Troy D. Wymer plays with multiple meanings on the idea of treasure as Shane discovers that treasure comes in various forms. A surprising twist on the treasure everyone is seeking reflects the overall plot dealing with religion and government. It's unexpected, but also fits perfectly into the world Wymer has created. The most important treasure comes in the form of the relationship he has with Shanda. On the surface the story feels like a treasure hunting adventure, but Wymer digs deeper into this gritty world by tackling a controlling government and freedom of religion, while also exploring a sweet romance. Through various perspectives different aspects of this world are explored, giving a well-rounded view of the war against the empire and church as these characters are pulled into the middle.

Wymer tackles the idea of freedom through the control of the empire which forces specific beliefs onto the people, while also exploring second chances for many of the characters. Ariel is living off the Galactic Government's radar, but what she truly wants is a fresh start and finally gets her chance when she meets Shane. He's the first one to really be nice to her and forms a genuine friendship with her. He gives her a real opportunity to find a new life for herself. Shane has a personal journey as he's been separated from Shanda for about a year so he wants nothing more than to get her back. Their romance adds a sweet undertone to the story as they have someone that grounds them through everything they experience. *Treasures From Afar* is an action adventure mixing treasure hunting fun with a science fiction setting.