



Readers' FavoriteSM

Book Reviews and Award Contest

Award Contest Mini-Critique



Congratulations on being chosen as a Readers' Favorite Finalist!

Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. We hope these ratings will give you an insight into how others may view the different components of your book.

Title: Whether I'll Live or Die

Author: Stacy Eaton

Genre: Fiction - Realistic

Appearance: *Cover, Construction, Chapter Headings, Illustrations, Table of Contents*

5 The appearance of a book makes a dramatic difference in the experience of the reader. Appearance includes everything from an enticing cover and intriguing table of contents, to interesting chapter headings and eye-catching illustrations. This book excelled in all of these areas.

Plot: *Concept, Characters, Originality*

5 The characters of a book should be well defined, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The theme should be consistent and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. All of these elements are exceptionally well done in this book.

Development: *Description, Dialogue, Creativity, Organization, Length, Fluidity, Coherence*

5 Besides the plot, the development of a book is the most critical. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and flow smoothly. The development of this book is very well done.

Formatting: *Editing, Proofreading, Layout*

5 Editing and proofreading is where most authors fail. An author should have more than one person proofread their book. The best plot will fail if the reader has to stumble through misspelled words, misused words, bad punctuation, and poor grammar. This book is well edited.

Marketability: *Theme, Subject Matter, Size of Target Audience*

5 Marketability refers to how well your book can be marketed and sold. The larger the target audience a book has, the greater the value it will have to publishers and retailers. Although this element is not indicative of the quality of a book, it is important to the success of a book. This book has a wide appeal and can be marketed to many types of readers.

Overall Opinion: *Overall Starred Rating*

5 This rating takes into account all previous elements and the reader's overall opinion of the book. This is an excellent, very well written book.

Review:

“Whether I Live or Die” is a novel that juxtaposes two stories; one is about a woman who cannot seem to find the strength of character in her relationships with men and life in general and the other story is that of a rookie policewoman whose job is to protect those who do not have the strength to protect themselves. Amanda's relationship with Steve becomes abusive and she turns to Mark, her friend and gym trainer, for protection. Mark takes advantage of the situation and Amanda ends up pregnant and unwanted. Her tale of physical, mental and emotional abuse continues with her husband Josh and life seems to spiral down for her. On the other hand, Nicole graduates from the police academy on top of her class. She has a healthy relationship with Todd and is a dedicated police officer who faces crime every day. With an amazing zeal, she becomes involved with a number of cases involving women. How these two different lives merge at the end is a twist that nobody will ever expect.

Stacy Eaton weaves together two stories where the main characters are two poles apart. Amanda's story is a sad tale of a woman subjected to a series of abuses. Some readers may sympathize with her and cajole her into fighting back, while others may give up on the weakness of her character, but we cannot just look from the outside without empathizing with her. This is where the author succeeds in her narrative because one cannot help but feel for Amanda in her seemingly hopeless plight. Nicole's story inspires the reader and her persistence and determination as a police officer is admirable. In dealing with cases mostly involving women abused by their partners, it is a wonder where she gets her motivation from. “Whether I Live or Die” is a novel that centers on empowering the weak and it tries to send an important message to the readers: that all of us can choose to lead a decent life free from physical, emotional and mental abuse. This is a novel that will keep you mesmerized page after page and you will not be disappointed with the surprising and unique twist at the end. Highly recommended!