Stars and Words: Reviewing Book Reviews

By Gregg Bridgeman

A class about book reviews targeted to Authors.

This supplemental document contains additional resources and links.

Exclusively Christian Resource

<u>Bookcrash</u> for reviewers and <u>Bookcrash</u> for Publishers/Authors. Requires a membership in CIPA. https://www.bookcrash.com/about/

Free Book Review Sites

<u>Christian Book Reviews (Goodreads Group)</u> This group is created to help Christian authors get more reviews on their books. https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/193829-christian-book-reviews

<u>The Online Bookclub</u> OnlineBookClub.org is a free site for readers that has been around for over 10 years and claims over a million members. https://onlinebookclub.org/

The Book Hookup: Very selective but very powerful, they focus on Paranormal, Urban Fantasy, Dark Fantasy, Romance, Historical, YA, and New Adult. https://thebookhookup.com/review-policy/

<u>The Kindle Book Review</u>: Offers a list of reviews to contact individually based on preferred genres.

https://www.thekindlebookreview.net/book-reviews/

<u>Reedsy Discovery</u>: Full offering of different opportunities to review just about any type of book https://reedsy.com/discovery

<u>Book Smugglers</u>: highly read book blog that likes to focus on Horror, Urban Fantasy, SciFi, and YA.

https://www.thebooksmugglers.com/about/review-policy

<u>SF Book</u>: Started in 1996, SF books offers a list of Scifi Book reviewers you can contact individually https://sfbook.com/contact-us.htm

<u>Fantasy Book Critics</u>: Lists a bunch of legit book review sites, as well as their own in the Fantasy realm http://fantasybookcritic.blogspot.com/p/contact-us.html

<u>Top Sci Fi Books</u>: This website lists the best scifi and fantasy books based on certain subgenres. They have a sweet spot for self-published authors. https://topscifibooks.com/

<u>Crime Scene Reviews</u>: Reviews Crime and Mystery novels https://www.crimescenereviews.com/about-the-reviewer/review-policy/

<u>Crime Fiction Lover</u>: Send your Press Release (***) and a bit hard to get into. https://crimefictionlover.com/about/

Book Page: Must send an ARC 3 months prior to publication date https://bookpage.com/content/submission-guidelines

Book List Online: a book-review magazine that has been published by the American Library Association for more than 100 years, and is widely viewed as offering the most reliable reviews to help libraries decide what to buy and to help library patrons and students decide what to read, view, or listen to. https://www.booklistonline.com/get-reviewed

Book Page: discovery tool for readers, highlighting the best new books across all genres. BookPage is editorially independent; only books we highly recommend are featured. https://bookpage.com/

<u>Midwest Book Review</u>: Established in 1976, the Midwest Book Review is an organization committed to promoting literacy, library usage, and small press publishing. http://www.midwestbookreview.com/

Book Reporter: Self-explanatory. https://www.bookreporter.com/

School Library Journal: Self-explanatory. https://www.slj.com/

<u>Fore Word Reviews</u>: Since 1998, Foreword Reviews mission has been to help booksellers and librarians discover great books from indie presses. https://www.forewordreviews.com/

<u>The Horn Book</u>: Bertha Mahony Miller founded The Horn Book in 1924 to herald the best in young adult and children's literature. https://www.hbook.com/#_

Kirkus Reviews: Self-explanatory. https://www.kirkusreviews.com/

<u>City Book Review</u>: (https://citybookreview.com/) geared towards helping avid readers find their next favorite book and to authors or publicists looking to get their book reviewed. Managing company for:

San Francisco Book Review:

https://sanfranciscobookreview.com/

Manhattan Book Review: https://manhattanbookreview.com/

<u>Seattle Book Review</u>: https://seattlebookreview.com/

<u>Kids Book Buzz</u> (all books reviewed by children) https://kidsbookbuzz.com/

<u>Tulsa Book Review</u> (Licensed by the Tulsa City-County Library system) https://tulsabookreview.com/

Affaire de Coeur is a bi-monthly literary magazine that has been around for 34 years. Based in the San Francisco Bay area, it reviews works from a variety of genres, including historical, contemporary, paranormal, erotica, young adults, non-fiction novels and more. Accepted reviews might be featured in the next available print issue based upon the book release date. Keep in mind, though, that availability is limited. Submission guidelines:

http://affairedecoeur.com/contact.html

The <u>American Book Review</u> is a bimonthly publication that has been around for more than 30 years. It reviews disregarded works of poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction from small presses. It gives strong emphasis to literary and cultural pieces. And although it critiques non-fiction pieces, it **does not** review *self-help* and *how-to* books. Submission guidelines:

http://americanbookreview.org/FAQ.asp

The <u>Barnes & Noble Review</u> is an online magazine that evaluates works of fiction and non-fiction and gives voice to a wide range of essays, interviews, and other topics. Submission guidelines: http://www.barnesandnoble.com/review/

The <u>Booklife by Publishers Weekly</u> is the section of Publishers Weekly dedicated to self-published authors. Submission is competitive because it evaluates submissions for traditional and self-published books following the same standards. Submission guidelines: https://booklife.com/about-us/review-submission-guidelines.html

<u>Compulsive Reader</u>: Mainly focuses on literary fiction and poetry, they also review music CDs and other interesting things. The Compulsive Reader has been around the block since 2001 and counts on an extensive portfolio of prolific reviewers. For the most part, it emphasizes works of poetry and literary fiction but also features indepth reviews on a variety of book genres and music. Submission guidelines: http://www.compulsivereader.com/submissions/

A quarterly print committed to champion high-quality literature, <u>Rain Taxi Review of Books</u> reviews work neglected by mainstream media, including fiction, poetry, nonfiction (except self-help, business), art, graphic novels, and on occasion, children, young adult, and audio books. Submission guidelines:

http://www.raintaxi.com/submitadvertise/rain-taxi-submission-guidelines/

With more than 1,000 reviewers, Readers' Favorite Book Review and Award Contest reviews published and unpublished books, ebooks, and other manuscripts in more than 100 genres. Once you submit your book, it is upload to a database where reviewers can choose what they want to read. There is no guarantee that all books will be picked for review, but for the author that needs a guarantee, it offers a service called "expedited review," for a fee. Authors also have a chance to participate in the book giveaway program and other neat and exclusive features from the site.

Readers' Favorite doesn't give reviews below 4 and 5 stars. If reviewers read a book they feel it is not worth an outstanding rate, they write a constructive note to the author. The idea is to help authors improve their craft, instead of bringing down the book. Submission guidelines: https://readersfavorite.com/book-reviews.htm

<u>The Los Angeles Review of Books</u> is a non-profit organization, with a mission to recreate a new concept of book reviews for the digital era. It welcomes any long-form of authoritative, captivating writing and accepts works of poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. Submission guidelines: https://lareviewofbooks.org/about/contact/

The New York Review of Books is an independent literary magazine that has been around since 1963. Highly regarded for bringing a critical and substantial perspective of the arts, the journal counts on a diversified roster of writers and reviews book in multiple genres. Submission guidelines: http://www.nybooks.com/contact/

Celebrating art and authenticity, <u>The Rumpus</u> showcase reviews of the most diverse genres as well as essays, interviews, music, film, and comics. It also champions the work of unknown authors or those overlooked by the mainstream media. Submission guidelines: http://therumpus.net/about/#contact

Harness the Collective Influence of Book Bloggers

Reaching out to book bloggers and writing services is an excellent way to get your book reviewed. Keep in mind that they receive a lot of requests and might have limitations with time. Follow their requirements precisely and be patient with response time.

<u>The Book Blogger List</u>: a database of book bloggers organized by genre of interest. https://bookbloggerlist.com/

YA Book Blog Directory: a listing of young adult book review blogs. http://yabookblogdirectory.blogspot.ca/

<u>Kate Tilton's Book Bloggers</u>: a smaller listing of book bloggers that provide reviews. https://katetilton.com/kate-tiltons-book-bloggers/

<u>The Indie View</u>: huge listing of Indie reviewers. http://www.theindieview.com/indie-reviewers/

<u>Crime Scene Reviews</u>: This site focuses mostly on mysteries, thrillers, crime novels, espionage, and contemporary and international fiction. Submission guidelines: http://crimescenereviews.com/about-review-policy/

<u>XterraWeb Books & More</u>: It accepts most genres except comic books, graphic novels, and textbooks. Submission guidelines: http://editing.xterraweb.com/book-reviews

Paperback submissions

Some reviewers prefer paperback submissions to eBook ones. Some of these review publications and websites include:

Barnes and Noble Review https://www.barnesandnoble.com/review/

Booklist Online https://www.booklistonline.com/

BookPage https://bookpage.com/

Foreword Reviews. https://www.forewordreviews.com/

Paid Sites

Zavesti: \$79 (plus the cost of purchasing your book) in 4 to 6 weeks for a 300+ word review. Your review also includes a great bundle of book promotion services such promotion on social media, featured on front page Spotlight Category, option for Author Interview, and crossposting to amazon, Goodreads and LibraryThing.

https://www.zavesti.com/zavesti-book-review-policy/

<u>Kirkus</u>: The starting price is \$425 for a 250+ word review with a 7 to 9 weeks delivery. https://www.kirkusreviews.com/indie-reviews/

Self-Publishing Review: An online magazine that features coverage of the indie book world as well as editing services. It offers a number of options for paid reviews. \$79 gets you a 70+ word review. \$219 gets you 'Classic Tier' review which includes 500+ word review, star rating, social media promotion and pre-approval of your review (so that you can choose not to have negative reviews published). http://www.selfpublishingreview.com/get-reviewed/

<u>BlueInk Review</u>: \$395 for standard review to be completed in 7 to 9 weeks. http://www.blueinkreview.com/purchase

Clarion:. \$499

https://publishers.forewordreviews.com/reviews/#service-clarion-review

<u>Enas Reviews</u> offers a more affordable option for your review needs. For a maintenance and listing fee of \$29, you will receive a thorough critique of 400-500 words written by professional writers. The site currently accepts all genres. Submission guidelines: http://enasreviews.com/get-book-reviews/

<u>YourNewBooks.com</u> is a book marketing website (a network site of Choosy Bookworm), providing a range of tools for authors. Among the services, it offers a popular reading and review program that abides by Amazon review standards. The books are reviewed by readers/subscribers of YourNewBooks.com.

Once you sign up, you choose between standard (\$149) and premium services (\$299)—the packages include advertisement space on YourNewBooks.com's site and newsletter—and submit your ebook file. Depending on the package you choose, your book is submitted to a certain number of "interested readers," who will leave their honest opinion about the material. The program is so popular that some of the features are fully booked for months. It is worth checking out because some genres are more popular than others, so your book might have a better shot of getting a fast turnaround. Also, it accepts both published and pre-released books. Submission guidelines: https://www.yournewbooks.com/book-reviews-with-the-read-and-review-program/

ReadingDeals.com is another popular book-promotions site, and it is operated by Book Marketing Tools. It offers a book-review service starting at \$79 (Classic) and goes up to \$129 (Featured). Both packages include promotion add-ons through social media and/or special placement. The books are reviewed by members of its Review Club, and reviews comply with Amazon and FCC guidelines. Submission guidelines: https://readingdeals.com/reviews

<u>Salem Web Network</u> (BibleStudyTools.com , Jesus.org, Christianity.com, Crosswalk.com) "Salem Web Network's mission is to connect with Christians through emerging technologies. Whether it's on the web or mobile computing, a dedication to our users, ministries and the Gospel is at the heart of everything we do." (Very expensive) https://www.salemwebnetwork.com/mediakit/

<u>Christian Book Reviews:</u> Charges \$75 to \$175 for reviews depending on wordcount. If a book receives less than 4 stars no official review is given. Instead, the reviewer will write constructive criticism to let the author know what problems they had with the book and offer any suggestions they may have to improve it.

https://reviewchristianbooks.com/christian-authors/

Other Resources (including paid sites)

<u>NinjaInfluencers</u>: A comprehensive directory of Book Reviewers ~ YouTubers & Bloggers https://www.ninjainfluencers.com/

How To Get More Book Reviews 2019

https://medium.com/@brittnichenelle/how-to-get-more-book-reviews-2019-f30c179458b7

Top 25 Sites for Finding Reviewers

https://curiosityneverkilledthewriter.com/top-25-sites-for-finding-reviewers-fbad93801320

19 Legitimate Ways to Get Book Reviews (15 are free)

https://www.reviewsbythebanks.com/19-legitimate-ways-to-get-book-reviews-15-are-free/

How to Get Book Reviews in 5 Simple Steps

https://blog.reedsy.com/how-to-get-book-reviews/

Book Marketing: 10 Ways To Get Reviews For Your Book

https://www.thecreativepenn.com/2018/08/29/book-marketing-10-ways-to-get-reviews-for-your-book/

How to Get Book Reviews on Amazon: Our Method for Free Book Reviews https://self-publishingschool.com/amazon-reviews/

<u>How to Get (Honest) Book Reviews (An #AuthorToolBoxBlogHop Post)</u> https://christianediting.co.nz/honest-reviews/

https://rpmministries.org/2012/01/12-top-christian-book-reviewers/https://rpmministries.org/2012/01/12-top-christian-book-reviewers/

Create a Legal Book Review Contest

https://kindlepreneur.com/how-to-get-book-reviews-with-no-blog-no-list-and-no-begging/