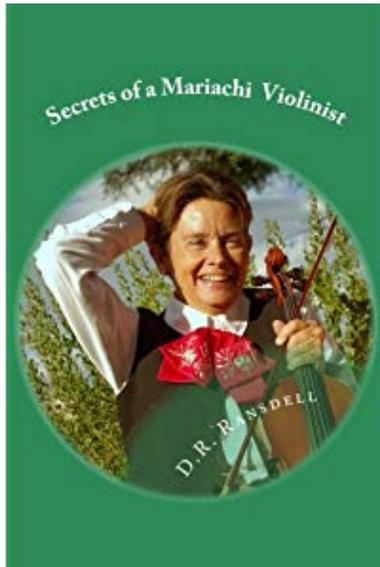




Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

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: Secrets of a Mariachi Violinist
Author: D.R. Ransdell
Genre: Non-Fiction - Memoir



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 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.

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.

4

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 Mamta Madhavan for Readers' Favorite

Secrets of a Mariachi Violinist by D.R. Ransdell is an engaging memoir that chronicles the life of a classical violinist and how she becomes a mariachi violinist. The author speaks about her direct experiences of playing in a mariachi group, about her life in Durango, Mexico, and her struggles to better herself as a violinist. Readers get to see her passion for violin and mariachi as they read her story and how she considered it to be her life. The book also educates readers about living in another country and learning its culture through the author's experiences, as she takes up a job as an English speaking teacher in Durango. The author's passion for music is tangible as the book progresses and takes readers into a world of something that is beautiful, rich, and valuable.

It is a fascinating book for all music lovers, especially those who are passionate about violin and mariachi. The author's determination to pursue her passion while living in another country is encouraging to everyone as it not only speaks about her teaching, but also about adjusting to another culture and reinventing her music. The book throws light on mariachi music and gives us a lot of information about that style of music. The personal stories, experiences, and anecdotes shared by the author are helpful in drawing readers closer to her, her music, and her life in Durango. I found the book interesting as it not only educates us about a new style of music, but also shows how to adjust and adapt to a new culture in a good way.