



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 Hatch
Author: Michelle Saftich
Genre: Young Adult - Sci-Fi

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.
- 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.
- 4**
- 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 Cheryl Schopen for Readers' Favorite

The Hatch by Michelle Saftich follows the life of Britta Tate, who has psychic abilities that even she is still learning about. Her mother worked for an organization called EASA, and she disappeared when Britta was still a child. When her brother also disappears while working for the same organization, she and the rest of her family have understandable fears when she is recruited as well. After years with EASA and with the training she has accomplished, she continues to search for her brother using her abilities. But why can't she find him? And when more and more things are revealed, she not only has to save her brother, but she finds herself having to step up to save her entire planet.

In this sci-fi adventure, we are introduced to a futuristic world to which readers will surprisingly relate. There are organizations and leaders we may not always agree with, but sometimes we have to rely on them for the resources they provide. Britta is also very relatable. At heart, she is just a girl who misses her mom and wants to do everything she can to save her brother from the same fate as her mom. What I also really loved about this story is the world that was created. We are familiar with Earth, but we also get visions of traveling through space and this other planet that we can only dream of. I just really enjoyed being able to immerse myself in a fictional world that didn't seem so fictional. And the plot! I went through a rollercoaster of emotions, especially toward the end. I found myself smiling from ear to ear, and I also found myself wanting to scream with rage. And if a book can make me feel any emotion that strongly, I know it's a good one. So, I must thank Michelle Saftich for writing The Hatch and making me want more and more of it.