

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast Frequently Asked Questions

Please reach out to me at amysbookshelfreviews@gmail.com if you cannot find an answer to your question.

What is a book review?

A book review is the opinion of the reader who actually read the book. Some websites where books are sold or listed have a rating system. The rating system is usually one star, two stars, three stars, four stars, and five stars. A five+-star rating is the highest rating, while a one-star rating is the lowest. A review also gives information to the author.

Who should give book reviews?

Anyone who reads a book should write a review. If they bought the book from a website, they should leave a review on the website for that book. If the reader bought the book at a local store or a garage sale or even a secondhand shop, they should leave a review. If the book is listed on Amazon, it does not need to be purchased by a reader in order for a review to be written. The review doesn't have to be long, just a sentence or two on the reader's opinion of the book.

Why do reviews matter?

Reviews matter because they let the author know what people think about their work. Also, authors, publicists, publishers, or agents can use positive reviews to promote the author's work. Reviews also may help a reader decide whether they want to read this author's book. Many times before buying a product, a customer will read reviews of that product before buying. It is the same concept for book reviews as well.

How does one write a review?

The most important thing before writing a review for a book title, is that a person actually reads the book. If someone buys a book off a website, usually they can post a review for that book on the website. There are sites that are just like libraries of books, such as Goodreads, where people don't buy a book, but they can find one they want to read, click on where to buy it, and once it's read, write a review. Readers who read a book, should share what they think about the book, by posting it on a website, or a personal blog. A reader does not have to be a professional reviewer to write a review.

If you want more details, you can download the free book that was written by Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast and author contributors *Best Reads and Review Journal* on how to write reviews at <https://essenceenterpriseus.com/essence-online-store/ols/categories/free-books>

Who should not write reviews?

Authors, should not write a review for their own book or give it rating stars. If a person has not read the book, and they decide to write a review because they didn't like the title, the genre, book cover, or whatever, that person should not write a review. If a reader doesn't like a particular genre and they find a genre they don't like, and that person is not going to read a book, then that person shouldn't write a review. If a reader reads a book in a genre that they don't like, but they read the book, and end up not liking it anyways that person should not write a review.

What is the rating system for Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast?

5+ Stars = A powerful, magnetic read (a review beyond words).

5- Stars = Excellent/Magnificent/

4- Stars = Good/Grand

3- Stars = Fair/Not bad

What does Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast look for in a book when writing a review to determine the rating?

Character development, plot development, a stereotype or "cookie cutter" plot, unique storytelling, unique writing style, interesting characters, writing that matches the genre, as well as other things about the story or book that is enjoyable or confusing. Amy is a speed reader, and takes notes as she reads. The stories that make her slow down and enjoy each word and scene, are the ones that get the higher stars (5 or 5+).

Does Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast favor certain authors?

No, whether an author has sent one or twenty books to Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast, there is no expectation of a rating until the book has been read completely. Amy doesn't read the book's description or other reviews for the book, until after she has read and reviewed the book.

Who are Legacy Authors?

Legacy Authors are those authors who have had one review already posted and is requesting another one. Legacy authors get rewarded as Legacy authors, with a badge, and then depending on the number of reviews "Extra Legacy Author Badges." Amy considers all authors as "my authors" which is a term of respect and endearment for each author that she reads for.

Who are Legacy Friends?

An author's representative, publisher, editor, agent, publicist, etc who have sent authors to Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast more than once.

What is Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast Privacy information?

The Privacy and Confidentiality page is [HERE](#).

What is the review process?

1. Email amysbookshelfreviews@gmail.com with “Review Request” in the subject line. In the body of the email, Book title, Genre and subgenre, Link to where to buy it, release date, and penname if you’re using one. Attach a digital copy of the book or let me know you uploaded it to the Google Drive.

2. 3. Once the book is received, the requestor gets a confirmation email. The author may be asked to fill out an Author Information document.

4. After the book is read, and it comes time for the review to be posted, the requestor will get an email about where the reviews were posted, information about Amy’s Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast promotions and offers, information, if they received a special badge, and a copy of the review. The copy of the review is meant so the author can use it for their own promotion, if they wish to, and the email gives explicit permissions.

5. Repeat.

What are the specific rules for requesting a review?

Go to <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/requests-and-rules> and make sure each time you request a review, read the information on the page, as some things may have changed since your last request.

What are Review Posting Sites?

A review posting site, is where a review is posted directly to the site, such as Amazon, Barnes and Noble, BookBub, Kobo, and Goodreads.

What are Review Sharing Sites?

A review sharing site is where the review, once posted on Amy’s Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast’ blog, can be shared on social media, such as Facebook and X.

How do I track the title of my book when it is in the process?

Go to <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/amys-library> and to the shelf your book’s title is on. Every book that is in process is on one of the bookshelves, unless it is a release date or blog tour date review. Those titles go on the Release Date Calendar that is synced with Amy’s Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast’ Google Calendar at <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/release-date-reviews>

How can I make a donation?

Go to [DONATIONS](#)

Why should I donate?

To make a donation, go to [DONATIONS](#). You don’t need to donate, however, making a donation no matter how small or large, let’s Amy know that her time is valuable. Amy’s Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast is a non-income-based business, where her costs to run this website, come out of her own pocket. Sometimes, she buys an author’s book even if the donation account does not have any money in it.

Does Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast charge for reviews?

Written reviews, no. Reviews are free. If the author wants some promotion with video reviews, those have a fee. There are now review tiers, but there is a Standard, which does not require any donation. The review tiers are for reviews and promotions, and posting on specific sites where the book is listed. Any promotions available to the authors are listed [HERE](#)

Does Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast support any causes?

Yes, promoting literacy in both adults and children, and the American Library Association's Unite Against Banned Books. See the [ADVOCACY](#) page for more details. Amy's Business [Essence Enterprises' website](#) details other projects, such as her advocacy for disabled persons. Amy is an advocate for those who face food insecurity, and has released a free cookbook to help people cook with what they have.

Who owns Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast?

Amy Shannon is the sole owner of Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast, however, it is run under her own company, Essence Enterprises. For more information on other services, Amy's Blog, or her books, you can go to <https://essenceenterpriseus.com/>

How can I send an autographed or signed book to Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast?

Amy Shannon loves to receive the gift of reading from authors, especially signed print copies in the mail. If you have a book or books to send Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast, you can send them to the following address. **DO NOT SEND ANY BOOKS UNTIL AFTER JULY 24, 2026 AS I HAVE ADDED MY NEW ADDRESS, AND WON'T BE RECEIVING MAIL UNTIL AFTER THAT.**

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c/o Amy Shannon

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Malta, NY 12020

When you send the package, will you let me know which delivery service you are using. USPS (Postal Service) will be delivered to my mailbox. FedEx and UPS will be delivered to my mailroom, on a shelf, so I need to know what to look for and when.

A note, if you're sending a book, you might want to consider using the [USPS Flat Rate Envelopes](#). I use the large ones, and they are only \$8.90, as long as your book fits in the envelope.

(Inside the envelope, make sure you identify yourself, in case you have a pen name you use, and please sign it). To see the honored gifts, go [HERE](#).

Shipping Recommendations

The shipping company you use, FEDEX, UPS or USPS is up to you. The recommendation for the shipping container is the following (I recommend these because I have received items where the shipping package was damaged).

One or two books (depending on the width) in a shipping envelope that can stand up to the weight of the book(s). A cardboard or manilla envelope padded or unpadded is suitable if the books will fit in it. Use tape to not just secure the label (If not handwriting the address), but also the opening (seal of the envelope).

If you are using brown paper to wrap the books, make sure that the paper is secure and has more than one layer of paper, and then taped all around it.

For multiple books, send in a mailing box. You can recycle an old box or use a mailer. The USPS does media mail (cheapest way to send a book or any type of media, and you can purchase that at the post office).

Boxes are recommended for multiple books. Also, if the box is slightly bigger than the contents, use something such as crumpled paper, bubble wrap, etc. to secure that the books don't move around too much. Movement can cause damage to the pages, or binding of the book.

If you have any questions before sending a book(s), feel free to ask.

How are donations made and accepted if I don't have PayPal?

PayPal accepts credit cards. However, authors had made monetary donations by mailing checks, money orders (and even some cash). Not all donations have to be monetary. There are also other ways, such as Cash App, Venmo, and Zelle. **(ADDRESS VALID AFTER JULY 23 2026)**

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(Inside the envelope, make sure you identify yourself, in case you have a pen name you use).

If I send my book to Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast, does it really go on a real bookshelf?

The simple answer is yes. Your books go on my bookshelf that I have direct access to at any time (it's in my room). My own books are on a shelf in my closet, or on a pile in the corner of my desk (ones just released or about to be released).

What are the office hours and posting dates for Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast?

Office Hours and Posting Days

- **Monday - Friday 8AM-12PM EST.**
- This includes posting reviews and reading books. It also includes work I am doing for my clients. (publishing, editing, formatting, etc).
- **Weekends**
- Saturday and Sunday review posting are only used for Release Date Reviews (or Express Releases).
- Saturdays (and sometimes Sunday) reading email and responding to important ones. Any request made on a weekend, will be answered the following business day.
- **Expedited reviews**
- Expedited reviews days count as business days, starting the first business day after the request and payment.
- **Posting Days**
- Monday- Friday (Bookshelves have different posting days, see the individual bookshelves for their day of the week posting).
- The last day of the month will not have any reviews posted (no matter the day of the week), as I have to prepare for the beginning of the next month.
- **Federal Holidays**
- Reviews will not be posted on Federal Holidays (observed). If there is a release on one of those dates, it will be posted the day AFTER.
- New Years Eve (December 31)
- New Year's Day (January 1)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Presidents Day
- Easter Day
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth Independence Day (June 19)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Labor Day
- Remembrance Day (September 11)
- Indigenous Person's Day
- Veterans Day (November 11)
- Thanksgiving Eve
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Eve (December 24)

- Christmas Day (December 25)