

# Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast Frequently Asked Questions

Please reach out to me at [amysbookshelfreviews@gmail.com](mailto:amysbookshelfreviews@gmail.com) if you cannot find an answer to your question.

## 1. 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.

## 2. How do I submit a review request?

- Email [amysbookshelfreviews@gmail.com](mailto:amysbookshelfreviews@gmail.com) with "Review Request" in the subject line.

In the body of the email:

- Book title
- Name exactly as it appears on the cover of the book.
- Genre and subgenre
- Link to where to buy it
- Release date

Attach a digital copy of the book or let me know you uploaded it to the Google Drive.

- Requesters will receive an email in return, and it may have an Author Information form, that will need to be filled out for each author.
- If you are sending multiple authors (publishers, publicists, agents, etc), please send a different email for each author. If you are a publicist or publisher sending me one author, you can send me other authors as well. There are also offers for Legacy Friends and their authors.

## 3. 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/Reread
- 4- Stars = Good/Grand/Great
- 3- Stars = Fair/Not bad

## 4. 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+).

**5. What does Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast with the information included in the Author Information form?**

- Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Podcast also tags the reviews with the authors' social media platform account, always follows or likes the author's social media platforms, and even signs up for newsletters on the author's websites.
- Authors who use pennames, their real name is always private and confidential. Also, any email address for the author is also confidential. I don't give out personal information. If someone contacts me who wants to get in touch with an author for whatever reason, I will contact the author with the requestor's information.

**6. What does Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast Read or listen to?**

- Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Podcast reads book titles of MOST genres and accepts requests (see the full genre list of accepted and NOT accepted genres/book topics [below](#)) from any legacy author (indie or traditionally published) or author representative (publisher, agent, assistant, etc.)
- Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Podcast can only review books written in ENGLISH or audiobooks narrated in English.

**7. Does Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast do early review requests?**

- If an author wants to have a review for a release date, and ALSO wants an EARLY REVIEW, prior to its release date in order to include (if the author wishes) the review on the book cover, back cover, inside the book's acknowledgement page, the author can request that.
- The request will need to include the deadline for the review, and it should be at least TWO months prior to the release, sooner if possible. It's not part of a tier, but as a request for those who have an upcoming release.
- For each request, you may be asked to fill out an Author Information form, even if you have had a review in the past, to make sure there is the most current information on file.

**8. What types of Review Requests are there?**

- **Early review requests**  
If an author wants to have a review for a release date, and ALSO wants an EARLY REVIEW, prior to its release date in order to include (if the author wishes) the review on the book cover, back cover, inside the book's acknowledgement page, the author can request that. The request will need to include the deadline for the review, and it

should be at least THREE months prior to the release date, sooner if possible. It's not part of a tier, but as a request for those who have an upcoming release.

- **Release Date Reviews:**

A review that will be done and posted on its release date. A 2-month (not days) advanced notice. (**Example:** Request in June, earliest date for request is in August)

- **Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Podcast Request:**

Anyone who wants to be on the Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Podcast, new, legacy or other, will have their book read and reviewed, but it may not be read and reviewed by the prerecorded date. This doesn't affect the interview, as they are now considered "conversations" not interviews.

- **Express Releases Date Reviews:**

A review that will be done and posted on its release date. However, it is under the 2-month advanced notice, so a donation is required based on the number of DAYS until its release date

- **Requests that are more than one month, but less than two months require a \$40 donation.**
- **Express Preference:** 15 posting days- 29 posting days before release - \$50 (US)
- **Express Preferred:** 6 days to 14 days before release- \$75 (US)
- **Express Immediate:** 1 day to 5 posting dates before release-\$100 (US)
- **Express Instant:** Less than 24 hours release- \$150.00 (US)

NOTICE: For Book Length (number of pages), for up to every 49 pages after 300 pages, there is a \$10 additional cost.

**Example:** 301-350 pages **add \$10**, 351-400 **add \$20**.

- **Priority Access bookshelf**

The Priority Access Bookshelf is a carryover from the Priority Bookshelf. There are several reasons why someone would be on this list, one is that they purchased a lifetime priority or a special request lifetime pass, on a previous bookshelf, the author was referred to Amy's Bookshelf Reviews by one of the publishers on the list or by another author. Exceptions may be made on an author-to-author basis. It never hurts to ask. A referred author or one who wants to be included on this bookshelf must select a Tier, show in the section above. CYCLICAL MOTION: When more than one author has a title on the bookshelf, once the first title is reviewed, the other titles get moved to the bottom of the bookshelf and work their way back up. (Author's titles are always grouped together, even if they make separate requests).

- **Publisher's referrals:**

If you are an author who has been recommended by a publisher to contact Amy's Bookshelves Reviews directly, in your request, let me know the name of the publisher.

- **Legacy Author Bookshelf**

This bookshelf is for authors who have previously had at least one review posted from Amy's Bookshelf Reviews. CYCLICAL MOTION: When more than one author has a title on the bookshelf, once the first title is reviewed, the other titles get moved to the bottom of the bookshelf, and work their way back up. (Author's titles are always grouped together, even if they make separate requests).

- **Expedited Reviews**

Need a book review in a hurry? A donation is required. (posting dates do NOT include weekends or US Federal Holidays). The day count starts the day AFTER I receive the digital version of the book.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

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

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

13. What is the review process?

- Email [amysbookshelfreviews@gmail.com](mailto:amysbookshelfreviews@gmail.com) with "Review Request" in the subject line. (See Question 2)
- Once the book is received, the requestor gets a confirmation email. The author may be asked to fill out an Author Information document.
- 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.
- Repeat.

#### 14. Can anyone make a review request?

- If an author makes a review request for the first time, there is a mandatory minimum donation requirement of at least \$30 and become a guest on the Podcast.
- Legacy Authors can make a request via the email system.
- Publishers, Publicists, Agents (first time requests, or as a legacy friend) can make a request via the email system.

#### 15. What is a Review Posting Site?

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

#### 16. What is a Review Sharing Site?

- 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.

#### 17. What are Review Tiers?

The Tiers are the same for any type of review requests.

- **Standard**
  - A review that will be done and posted on its release date. A 2-month (not days) advanced notice. (**Example:** Request in June, earliest date for request is in August)
- **\$0 Review**

Review posted on:

  - (US) Amazon.com <https://www.amazon.com/>
  - Amy's Bookshelf Reviews website <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/>
  - Goodreads.com <https://www.goodreads.com/>

Reviews Shared on:

  - Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/bookshelfreviews>
  - Amy's Bookshelf Reviews X account [https://X.com/ABSR\\_amyreviews](https://X.com/ABSR_amyreviews)
- **Expedited Reviews**
  - Need a book review in a hurry? A DONATION IS REQUIRED. The day count starts the day AFTER I receive the digital version of the book. This is the only bookshelf that counts weekdays, weekends but not Federal Holidays.
    - **Expedited Preference:** 30 days - \$50 (US)

- **Expedited Preferred:** 14 posting days - \$65 (US)
- **Fast-Tracked:** 7 days \$75 (US)
- **Expedited Immediate:** 3 days -\$100 (US)
- **Expedited Instant:** Less than 1 days - \$150.00 (US)

○ **Express Release Tier**

- A review that will be done and posted on its release date. However, it is under the 2-month advanced notice, so a donation is required based on the number of DAYS until its release date
  - **Requests that are more than one month, but less than two months require a \$40 donation.**
  - **Express Preference:** 15 posting days- 29 posting days before release - \$50 (US)
  - **Express Preferred:** 6 days to 14 days before release- \$75 (US)
  - **Express Immediate:** 1 day to 5 posting dates before release-\$100 (US)
  - **Express Instant:** Less than 24 hours release- \$150.00 (US)
- NOTICE: For Book Length (number of pages), for up to every 49 pages after 300 pages, there is a \$10 additional cost.
- **Example: 301-350 pages add \$10, 351-400 add \$20.**
- Requests that are more than one month, but less than two months require a \$40 donation.

Days are in Posting Days

- 15-29 days before release - \$50 (US)
- 6 to 14 before release- \$75 (US)
- 1 to 5 before release-\$100 (US)
- Less than 24 hours release- \$150.00 (US)

**Author Plus Tier (Per purchase, not a lifetime pass) \$50**

- Reviews posted on: (Only if the book is listed on a particular site)
  - Barnes and Noble <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/>
  - Goodreads <https://www.goodreads.com/>
  - (US) Kobo <https://www.kobo.com/us/en>
  - Publisher's Website
  - (US) Amazon.com <https://www.amazon.com/>
  - Amy's Bookshelf Reviews website <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/>
  - BookBub <https://www.bookbub.com/>

- Reviews Shared on:
  - Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/bookshelfreviews>
  - Amy's Bookshelf Reviews X account [https://X.com/ABSR\\_amyreviews](https://X.com/ABSR_amyreviews)
- Author Promotions
  - Home Page Book Spotlight <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/>
  - Amy's Pick of the Month <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/>
  - Book Spotlight Blog Post on The Official Blog of Amy Shannon  
<https://essenceenterpriseus.com/amy-shannons-blog>
  - Email Campaign for the Book Title
  - Blog Post Promotion for the Book Title <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/>
- **Author Lifetime Plus \$75**
  - \$0 Review
  - Reviews posted on: (Only if the book is listed on a particular site)
    - Barnes and Noble <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/>
    - Goodreads <https://www.goodreads.com/>
    - (US) Kobo <https://www.kobo.com/us/en>
    - Publisher's Website
    - (US) Amazon.com <https://www.amazon.com/>
    - Amy's Bookshelf Reviews website <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/>
    - BookBub <https://www.bookbub.com/>
  - Reviews Shared on:
    - Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/bookshelfreviews>
    - Amy's Bookshelf Reviews X account  
[https://X.com/ABSR\\_amyreviews](https://X.com/ABSR_amyreviews)
  - Author Promotions
    - Home Page Book Spotlight <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/>
    - Amy's Pick of the Month <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/>
    - Book Spotlight Blog Post on The Official Blog of Amy Shannon  
<https://essenceenterpriseus.com/amy-shannons-blog>
    - Email Campaign for the Book Title
  - Blog Post Promotion for the Book Title <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/>
- **Author Lifetime Plus+ Pass (only available with the lifetime passes) \$125**
  - \$0 Review
  - Reviews posted on: (Only if the book is listed on a particular site)
    - Barnes and Noble <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/>
    - Goodreads <https://www.goodreads.com/>
    - (US) Kobo <https://www.kobo.com/us/en>
    - Publisher's Website
    - (US) Amazon.com <https://www.amazon.com/>
    - Amy's Bookshelf Reviews website <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/>

- BookBub <https://www.bookbub.com/>
- Reviews Shared on:
  - Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/bookshelfreviews>
  - Amy's Bookshelf Reviews X account  
[https://X.com/ABSR\\_amyreviews](https://X.com/ABSR_amyreviews)
- Author Promotions
  - Home Page Book Spotlight <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/>
  - Amy's Pick of the Month <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/>
  - Book Spotlight Blog Post on The Official Blog of Amy Shannon  
<https://essenceenterpriseus.com/amy-shannons-blog>
  - Email Campaign for the Book Title
  - Blog Post Promotion for the Book Title  
<https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/>
- Author can request a review and have it posted within 30 DAYS of the request (This is NOT for RELEASE DATE REVIEWS)
- Author's book(s) can be placed on the new Best of Hidden Gems on Amy Shannon Enterprises website (previously Essence Enterprises)  
<https://essenceenterpriseus.com/best-of-hidden-gems>
- Copy of the review from Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast will be put on the Official Blog of Amy Shannon.

#### 18. 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>

#### 19. How can I make a donation?

Go to [DONATIONS](#)

#### 20. 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.

#### 21. 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](#)

## 22. 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.

## 23. 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, Amy Shannon Enterprises (Formerly, Essence Enterprises) However, the Essence Enterprises is the "publishing" company for Amy's Books.
- For more information on other services, Amy's Blog, or her books, you can go to <https://essenceenterpriseus.com/>

## 24. 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.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast

C/o Amy Shannon

2316 Ellsworth Blvd Building 2

Malta, NY 12020 (or it may come up as Ballston Spa)

- 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.

### **25. How are donations made and accepted if I don't have PayPal?**

- Preferred Method of Payment is Zelle or Venmo, as PayPal has fees.
- PayPal accepts credit cards or uses what is in your own PayPal balance.
- However, authors had made monetary donations by mailing checks, money orders (and even some cash, which I don't recommend).
- Cash App
- I accept wine (Chardonnay) and Tim Horton's Coffee medium roast Kcups

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews & Podcast

c/o Amy Shannon

2316 Ellsworth Blvd

Building 2

Malta, NY 12020

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

### **26. 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).

### **27. 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).
- **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.**
- **The 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> are non-posting days EXCEPT for release date reviews.**
- **Posting Day Calendar**
  - Release Date or Express Release Date Reviews (booked on the calendar) (Posted on its release date)
  - Expedited Reviews Bookshelf (Posted on its review by date)
  - **Monday**
    - Children's Books Bookshelf
    - Amy's Clients' Bookshelf
    - Deluxe Bookshelf
  - **Tuesday**
    - Author Lifetime Passes (Plus and Plus+) Bookshelf
    - Priority Access Bookshelf
  - **Wednesday**
    - Legacy Author Bookshelf
    - Podcast Bookshelf
  - **Thursday**
    - True Crime Bookshelf
  - **Friday**
    - Audiobook Bookshelf
    - Anthology Bookshelf (Multiple or Single Authors)
- **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, receipt of the digital book, and payment.
- **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)

## 28. 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.

## 29. 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.

## 30. 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>

### 31. 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.