

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 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 and author contributors *Best Reads and Review Journal* on how to write reviews at <https://essencecenterpriseus.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?

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 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 favor certain authors?

No, whether an author has sent one or twenty books to Amy's Bookshelf Reviews, 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 more than once.

What is Amy's Bookshelf Reviews Privacy information?

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

What is the review process?

1. Request Fill out the form (short form or long form) on the Requests and Rules page [HERE](#)

2. Once the request is received, Amy's Bookshelf Reviews will send an email, with a text attachment to be filled out, and the requestor receives instructions on how to submit their book in digital, and/or print, and how to make a donation, and what author promotions are available.
3. Once the book is received, the requestor gets a confirmation email.
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 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' 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' 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 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 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 at <https://amysbookshelfreviews.com/author-promotions>

Does Amy's Bookshelf Reviews 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.

Who owns Amy's Bookshelf Reviews?

Amy Shannon is the sole owner of Amy's Bookshelf Reviews, 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?

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, you can send them to the following address.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

c/o Amy Shannon

3401 Ellsworth Blvd

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.

Amy's Bookshelf Reviews

c/o Amy Shannon

3401 Ellsworth Blvd

Malta, NY 12020

(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, 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?

Office Hours: Amy's Bookshelf Reviews posts reviews on posting days between the hours of 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM Eastern Time Zone. Amy's Bookshelf Reviews will not be posting reviews (unless there is a release date) in the last week of the month, even if it is only one day.

Posting Dates: Monday through Friday, UNLESS it is a scheduled release date

The list of Holidays that are NOT posting days are as follows, Releases on these dates will be posted the day AFTER the holiday.

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)

