

WRITING BOOK REVIEWS - A ROUGH GUIDE

Much of what follows depends on the length of the review and the style that the magazine/publication requests.

When reading a book for review essentials are:

✓ *A notebook to note down anything that you particularly want to remember when you come to write the review or quotes that you may use.*

✓ *Sticky notes to mark pages to which you might want to return.*

- ❖ Give an essence of the book not the whole plot
- ❖ Discuss as many of the following as space allows:
 - characterisation - were the characters well drawn, did you find them vivid, endearing, irritating or abhorrent
 - style: genre: language - does it flow or does it appear stilted; did the language suit the book
 - the writing style - is the book atmospheric?
 - imagery: the intensity of the story: is it a good read: would you actively seek out the author's other work?
- ❖ You might also add whether you thought it was a book for reading on a beach or passing time on a flight or if it was a substantial read.
- ❖ If there is a stonking great quote keep a note of it and at least it proves that you read the book!
- ❖ Always finish by saying whether you liked it or hated it.

❖ Some magazines like you to give a star rating.