

AUTHOR FEEDBACK

Title: *****

Author: *****

Cover 1/10

The readers felt that the cover was totally 'wrong' for a mystery/adventure book and this is why. Firstly, the women readers were totally turned-off by the cover as they thought it was probably light porn (or, perhaps, not so light ☺). Consequently, they did not wish to read the book and would be embarrassed to read it in public. The men also thought the book was probably lightly pornographical but this did not put them off reading the book ☺. However, they would not have a book with this cover sitting next to the bed because:

A. The wife would be upset

B: They did not want the children seeing the picture.

The two younger male readers who read the book discovered, despite the sexy cover, that it wasn't a 'sexy' book at all; so, why, they wondered, would it have this cover!?

The result, then, is that all 17 readers (despite most of the male readers thinking the girl on the front was pretty hot) would not purchase or even open a mystery/adventure with this cover (unless they were hoping for a pornographic read - but then they'd also be disappointed).

(Note from Ed – I had a look at this book on Amazon and noted how poorly it was selling and the lack of reviews. From the readers' comments, the problem might be the cover)

Editing 9/10

A few tiny errors were discovered e.g. p10 'Further' NOT 'Farther', but, generally, the book was very well edited. Sentence structure was clean and tight and hardly any punctuation or spelling errors were discovered. The editor (and author) also did a good job of ensuring the novel was well-paced, vital for a book of this nature.

Theme 6/10

Most of the female readers knew this book was not for them after the first paragraph of Chapter 2: '...nothing wrong with the woman; she had it all: a rich daddy, large breasts...' Then, when they got to p14 and the way he spoke to Deloris, that was, as they say, the end of that. One female reader wrote: *'I enjoy thrillers and a good mystery and I understand the hero is often rough and tough, but Bill Reyner has no charm whatsoever. He's a dinosaur and if I wanted to enjoy dinosaurs I would open a bag of popcorn and watch Jurassic Park.'*

The male readers worked hard to enjoy the book. (Note from Ed – although I would describe the Reading Group members as rather high-brow, many of them do enjoy a good thriller) But they found the characters too predictable and shallow. The hero of the story is a man's man but his stereotypical attitude to say, rare books in Ch 5: 'a bloody book is a bloody book' just annoyed the readers. Many of them compared him to Dirk Pitt from Clive Cussler but, as one reader wrote on the feedback: *'Pitt was a rogue but he was a classy, educated rogue who enjoyed art be it often in the form of classic cars. But Bill is just a lump of aggressive beef. Why, then, would I want to read about him?'*

Chapter 1, exciting start but a little rushed. Also, very similar to Clive Cussler's method of starting his Dirk Pitt novels. One male reader wrote *'I love Dirk Pitt novels and the way they begin; this author attempted to copy Cussler's method but he rushed it. Imagine how the men on the sub must have felt, ship wrecked, freezing cold, hardly any food, lost in a vast ocean. Unfortunately, I had to imagine it as the author did not bother to describe any of it. I want to know how these men felt; the feeling of total and utter misery; of knowing they were probably going to perish. Now that would have been interesting to read.'*

When Neff is badly injured at the end of the novel, the readers felt the author worked hard to describe how Reyner felt particularly on p212 when he's talking with the doctor.

Style 7/10

Generally, the readers felt the author was competent in his writing. He focused mostly on speech to tell the story and he did this well. However, the strong accent of Newf was, often, very difficult to follow.

The author also used a wonderful array of excellent similes in the story e.g. p180 'Bouncing ideas of Newf is akin to throwing eggs at a wall...'

STATS

Of the 17 readers:

9 of them (all women) strongly disliked the cover and the Bill Reyner character.

6 felt the speech was very well done.

3 had problems following Newf when he spoke.

10 liked the twist at the end when Newf was injured. They felt it was a rare chance for the author to show that his hero was 'human'.

2 felt it was too similar in structure to Clive Cussler's Dirk Pitt books, and, as the hero of The Mermaid is so much less developed, it did not compare well.

To Sum Up 23/40

It seems this book is definitely a book for the 'lads'; but do lads read these days? Every lad I see seems to just play on his iphone. It seems, perhaps, the reader for this book is similar to the character, Billy Reyner, but how often would a character like Reyner pick up a book? Indeed, look at his attitude to books when he discovers he inherited a bookshop. It seems to me, although the author can write (and write well) his central character is so shallow, so brutish, so much of a dinosaur, the readers do not find him interesting. If you look, for example, at The De Vinci Code with its short chapters, paragraphs etc, it has been written for the 'masses' but, still, the hero of the book is a highly-intelligent professor.

The comments on the cover were very interesting. It seems, having such a sexy image on the front narrows your readership to such an extent, there's nobody left who wants to read it. It puts women off, it puts off any man with a wife and it misinforms anybody looking for a 'hot, sexy' read. It might be worth changing it.

For what it's worth, I'd suggest changing the central character (not his name or his role in the story) but his attitudes and opinions; basically, drag him into this century so that readers can relate to and sympathise with him.

Anyway, probably best I don't write a review on Amazon and Goodreads for you. I don't want to hurt your book.

I hope this is of help to you with your writing.

Cheers,

Edward

Catchy Quote

'An exciting, well-paced thriller.' The Wishing Shelf Awards