

AUTHOR FEEDBACK

Author: *****

Title: *****

COVER: 9/10

In general, the readers liked the cover. Simple with a strong, powerful image. Very modern-looking and fitting the genre well. A few of the readers wanted to see the face of the characters. One reader put in her feedback, *'I love this cover. It's dark and foreboding. When I saw it I knew it was going to be an adventure story.'*

CONTENT 8/10

The readers very much enjoyed the story. They liked the suspense and all the unexpected twists and turns. They liked the feeling of foreboding: 'Where is everybody?' And they liked the strong bond between the characters and watching them as they try to unravel the mystery of what happened. One reader (girl, aged 14) put in her feedback, *'I liked this story very much and I liked trying to unravel the mystery of what happened to everybody when they went on the camping trip. It's such a shame the grammar is so bad and the speech so childish.'*

EDITING 3/10

The readers discovered a large number of punctuation and grammatical problems with the text. They also felt the odd sentence could do with tightening up and perhaps rewriting. Below, I have picked out a few from the feedback of the first and second chapter:

Chapter One

1. The very first sentence needs punctuation. *It was a Saturday night a normal wonderful evening.* SHOULD READ *It was a Saturday night. A normal, wonderful evening.* OR *It was a Saturday night; a normal, wonderful evening.*
2. The sentence: *Actually you could hardly call this a cabin it was really a full house, just a small version from his city home.* This needs re-writing. For example, *Actually, you could hardly call it a cabin. Yes, it was small, but it had all the amenities of his city home: silk sheets, cottons towels...*

3. *Julian and his parents came to this cabin most weekends all his life.* '...all his life' needs to be worked into the sentence and not stuck on the end.
4. The very first chapter is basically an info. dump; way too much 'tell' and no 'show'. Basically the author is describing the characters but much of what she 'tells' the reader, she could have 'shown' by the way they acted later in the story.
5. On p10: "...we saw last night." "What did you..." Why open and close the speech marks if the character's still talking?
6. P.12 *Garden shed and green house attached* SHOULD PROBABLY READ *Garden shed with a green house attached*
7. *The generator started immediately without so much as a sputter, and as the lights in the shed came on Julian's smile and Kelten's brow in furrowed concentration lit up.* THIS NEEDS RE-WRITING. Perhaps, *The generator started without so much as a splutter and, as the lights flickered back on, Julian turned to Kelten and smiled.*

Chapter Two

8. *When the boys entered the backdoor* SHOULD READ *When the boys entered through the backdoor* OR *When the boys entered the house. You can't enter a door, you can only enter through it.*
9. "...you know, technology." "It doesn't hurt..." SHOULD READ "...you know, technology. It doesn't hurt..."
10. *Laying still long enough, the dark of sleep finally draped his mind, restless as it was.* This needs re-structuring.

STYLE 4/10

Our young readers (and teachers) felt there were many good aspects to the author's style. They liked the way the author kept the story moving and they liked much of the speech. However, with so many punctuation and grammatical errors, it was difficult to enjoy the story. One reader (English teacher) put in his feedback, *'I think this author can tell a story but, sadly, she needs to go back to school and learn or re-learn grammar and punctuation. That, or she needs a very good editor. The other problem is she has not mastered the 'show, don't tell' aspect of writing. Finally, there is an underdeveloped quality to the writing that kills the story. For example, in the first chapter in what I think was the first bit of dialogue, the two characters kept laughing. He laughs then she laughs then he laughs. It's the sort of level of writing I'd expect from a Year 10 student (aged 15) and not a published author.'*

TO SUM UP 24/40

Hi, thanks for entering your book in the awards. From the feedback, it seems the readers enjoyed the story but felt your writing style was a little 'underdeveloped' and that the story needed a good editing, particularly for grammar and punctuation.

I will NOT post the comments on Amazon.co.uk or Goodreads unless you request me to. If I did, I would TRY to focus on the positive parts of the feedback along with a 3 star rating. Let me know.

I hope this feedback is helpful to you. All the best with your writing.

Edward

STATS

Of the 16 readers:

16 thought the cover was very good.

16 finished the story.

3 would read another book by this author.

7 felt the best part of the book was the plot.

16 (including two teachers) felt the book needed editing and, in parts, totally re-writing,

CATCHY QUOTE

'An exciting mystery.' The Wishing Shelf Awards