



## Book Review Mini-Critique

Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although these are general ratings we hope they will give you an insight into how others may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although your reviewer is not an expert literary critic or professional editor, they are at the very least, an avid reader of books just like yours.

**Title:** The Return of the Scoundrel  
**Subtitle:** A Sequel to Love's Dance  
**Author:** Amethyst Creek  
**Genre:** Fiction - Historical - Personage

**Appearance:** The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.

**4**

**Plot:** The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books -- those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.

**4**

**Development:** Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books -- those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.

**4**

**Formatting:** Formatting is the single most overlooked area by authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.

**5**

**Marketability:** Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.

**4**

**Overall Opinion:** The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.

**4**

**Review:**

Reviewed by K.J. Simmill for Readers' Favorite

In Amethyst Creek's *The Return of the Scoundrel*, Libby would never have found out about the teaching post if not for her brother in Leadville. Eager to begin a new life and role, she moves to the expanding city, stopping by to thank her brother on the way through. But it seems her life is set to change in more than one way as her path crosses with her brother's friend, Richard Rutledge. This smooth man navigates his way into her affections with ease, showing a flattering interest in her life and new position. While in Greeley, she catches the eye of another man, Joseph. But one of these men has their own interests at heart in befriending her, their own agenda and desires in which she is just a pawn to be used. Will she uncover the secrets that lie in wait, or will she be swept along for a ride of revenge?

*Amethyst Creek's The Return of the Scoundrel* has a very complete and holistic feel to it. Within the pages, you get a keen insight into the trade, foundations of the town and city, and the community, along with their beliefs and attitudes. I enjoyed how the accessible equipment accurately reflected the era, and how it was used to set scenes and build an atmosphere that either gave us more insight into the town or the people. It is clear a lot of research went into crafting this story and making it as realistic as possible. From the notes about mining to the production of butter, you are really given a sense of the time, resources, and way of life. There are many characters building the community, and while we learn of some, the central role is taken by a few, allowing the reader to become more familiar with their part in the story. The slow pace allows a wealth of information to be conveyed, as the plot of growth and expansion is intertwined with threads of love and affection. The manner in which this was written means it could easily be a true story rather than fiction with a foot in past events and, from the notes in the back, there are some subtle parts that were based on real events and people. Romance, manipulation, and unity make up this historical novel and will give anyone reading a quick glimpse into a time long gone by.