

Some do's and don'ts of writing book reviews

Do

State how you feel about the story overall.

Did you get emotionally involved?
(Sample: I cried at the ending. What happens to the main character is something I can easily relate to.)

Point out what you liked about the plot.

The setting. The season. Time period.
The writer's ability. Anything that moved you.
(Sample: The descriptions of the costumes during the time period came alive for me.)

Talk about your favorite character.

Do you love a certain character or were they the type you love to hate?
(Sample: The villain in this story was so real, I couldn't help hating him.)

Tell if the author writes a great tale.

Have you read this author before?
Would you read his or her works again?
(Sample: This story was fantastic from beginning to end. Really breathtaking. I'll definitely check out this author's next book.)

Be careful what you say.

Comment on the book, not the writer.
(Sample: This was an interesting book, but not what I expected from this great writer.)

Recommend the book.

Of course, a positive review is the best recommendation.
(Sample: Without reservation, I heartily recommend this book.)

Be honest.

If the book or story moves you, write an honest review.
(Sample: I read the story twice. It really fills me with hope for the characters.)

Don't

Excessively criticize.

Some criticism can't be helped. Make it constructive criticism, if you must.
(Sample of constructive criticism: The setting for this story was perfect. But I really wish more of the history of the time period could have been included.)

Write about how the book offended you.

If it did, why didn't you simply stop reading it?
(Sample of a bad review: This story went against my religious principles.)

Plan vengeance and retaliation.

If you're sorry you bought the book, resell it on Amazon, Alibris, or any other place on the Internet, even your own local used book shops.
(Sample of bad review: I hate this story. I want my money back.)

Ever make negative comments about the writer.

It's okay to say that you felt the writer didn't get their point across, or could have more thoroughly described the characters, comments like that.
(Sample of a bad review: The writer is an idiot who knows nothing about the topic.)