



Readers' Favorite[®]

Book Reviews and Award Contest

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 Journey Through Graduate School
Subtitle: Flourish and Be Happy
Author: Linda Marcuccilli
Genre: Non-Fiction - Self Help



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.

5

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.

5

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.

5

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.

4

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.

5

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.

5

Review:

Reviewed by Jack Magnus for Readers' Favorite

The Journey Through Graduate School: Flourish and Be Happy is a nonfiction self-help book written by Linda Marcuccilli. Dr. Marcuccilli knows how daunting the idea of graduate school can be for anyone, but it's especially challenging for people who have family responsibilities or demanding jobs. While she acknowledges the difficulties, and there are lots of those, she believes that your desire to learn and earn that graduate degree can enable you to move mountains. There are so many people out there who are invested in your success in graduate school, and they can make the difference between success and failure; people like your family, mentors, grad school advisors, deans and professors.

Having completed the journey herself, Dr. Marcuccilli has written this book to give current and prospective graduate students support and guidance. She stresses the importance of keeping a Reflective Journal that should become an integral part of your everyday gear. Use it to vent your frustrations or play with creativity; plan with it; ponder the future and consider your future opportunities. She advises making a chart of one's responsibilities and life tasks, and using it to inspire more journal writing. How can you reconcile or work around those tasks to make graduate school as stress-free as possible? She includes the Graduate and Life Journey Tool, which is a reflective template for examining one's life, aspirations and goals as well as covering aspects of grad school such as work/study time, finances, household chores and family time.

The second section of The Journey Through Graduate School includes poetry and short autobiographical prose selections detailing Dr. Marcuccilli's own experiences as a grad student. Her opening story describes her relationship with her father, who was always there in her corner, inspiring her to follow her vocation and achieve her dreams. When his illness prompted her to consider putting her studies on hold, he refused to allow her to give up on her dreams. She also describes her doctoral admission interview and that final momentous event which was her doctoral defense. Dr. Marcuccilli also includes a number of recipes which she found relatively easy and quick to prepare when she was a student juggling family, home and school.

The Journey Through Graduate School is a marvelous guide for anyone currently in graduate school or considering it. I'd also suggest that spouses or adult children consider reading it to become more a part of, and more cognizant of, the challenges faced by graduate students in working for their doctoral degrees. Her ideas on journaling and the Graduate and Life Journey Tool are inspired. The Tool helps students focus on the real-life effects of their academic efforts and the practical costs associated with it. Her continued emphasis on getting feedback and help from professors, one's grad school advisor and dean is also advice to be heeded. They're there for students and can help one avoid years of aimless struggle and/or failed degrees.

I was particularly moved by Marcuccilli's stories and poems, and loved feeling part of the excitement she experienced on defending her dissertation. Her love of helping others, especially students and new nurses, shines out on every page of this useful and honest book. Her recipes are also inspired and filled with mouth-watering deliciousness. From Meat with Dumplings to Bread Pudding and Fresh Fruit Cobbler, these are easy-to-follow recipes requiring a minimal amount of nutritious whole-food ingredients. She even has a recipe to make your own fresh ricotta cheese. The Journey Through Graduate School: Flourish and Be Happy is a marvelous resource for students -- no matter where they are in their academic journey -- and it's most highly recommended.