



Liza Street's KICKASS REVIEWS CHEAT SHEET

Reviews are one of the best ways you can support authors! They provide this neat thing called “social proof,” which is basically showing other potential readers that a book is worth their time and money. If someone else has already read and liked a book, and if a *lot* of other people have read and liked it, new readers feel more confident trying it out, too.

Maybe you want to leave reviews and share your love of certain books with other readers (and warn them away from others), but you’re not sure how to do it. Every time you look at that blank review box, you feel like you’re writing a book report again and it feels awkward and uncomfortable.

Maybe you leave lots of reviews, but you’d like to mix it up a little.

So where to begin?



In this cheat sheet, you’ll find some sentence starters to help you generate new, exciting reviews. You’ll still be honest about how you felt about the book (see Rule #1), but you can fill in blanks and put different sentences together in a way that makes it a bit easier.

In the end, one-sentence reviews of why you liked or didn’t like a book are still helpful, such as, “This was a lot of fun,” or, “Too many typos made it impossible

to get through this one.” This is *fantastic* and authors appreciate you and the time it took you to share your ratings and thoughts! But if you’re looking for fresh, kickass ideas, keep reading!



Reviewing Rules

1. be honest
- 2a. avoid spoilers if possible, and if you can't avoid them,
- 2b. alert readers that you'll use spoilers

That's it! I have a personal rule of "be polite and constructive," but that's *my* rule and nobody else has to follow it. Some reviewers thrive on catty snark, and if that's you, snark away! Just be aware that many authors *do* read their reviews and some could be hurt by what you say.



Amazon Stars Guidelines

- 1 star: hated it
- 2 stars: didn't like it
- 3 stars: it was okay
- 4 stars: liked it
- 5 stars: loved it

The Beginning

If your review must include spoilers, this is where you warn other readers with something like: SPOILERS AHEAD.

Here are three ideas for how you can begin your review:

1. I _____ this book! (Fill in the blank with: adored, loved, hated, felt meh about, liked, loathed...or something else that matches how you felt about it.)
2. This book made me _____. (Fill in the blank with: want to fall asleep, jump up and down in excitement, strangle the characters, so happy, giddy, feel like I was falling in love, want to scream in frustration, laugh out loud...or something else.)
3. This is the first/second/third/etc. book of [AUTHOR]'s that I've read, and it is _____. (Fill in the blank with: just as good as all the others, not going to be the last one I read, not as good as the rest, okay but not the best, marvelous...or some other comparison that works for your experience.)

The Middle

You can use any and all of these that you wish! Put them together, mix and match, or just pick one that best works for your experience with the book.

My favorite part about this book was...

One thing I wish was different is...

The best/worst thing about the (characters, plot, romance, setting) was...

It didn't make sense to me that...

I cried/laughed when...

The End

This is where you wrap up your review with a final recommendation to other readers.

In the end, I would/would not recommend this book.

This book would be great for people who like _____.

If you love books about _____, then this would be a good one for you!

The Heading

On Amazon, you can write a heading for your review. If you leave it blank, Amazon will pick out a phrase for you, and it might be kind of weird—like a random chunk from the middle of your review. If you'd like to write your own, here are a few ideas:

This is a great book!

Lovely Writing

Would not recommend

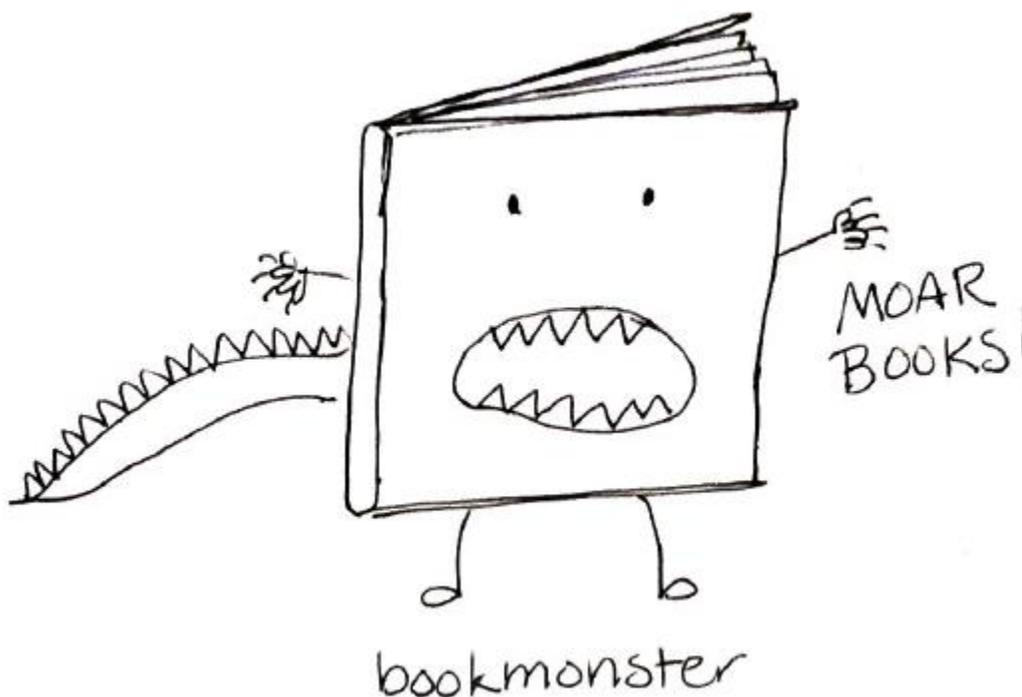
Needs an Editor

Exciting Shifter Romance

Watch out for cliffhangers

Perfect Length

Could Not Put It Down!



A Special Note on ARCs

Did an author give you an advance review copy (or advance reader copy)? Best practices say that you should mention it somewhere at the end of your review. Lately, Amazon has been taking down some reviews that use the words “in exchange for,” so here are some different phrases you can use. Pick whichever you’re comfortable with.

- I received a free copy of this book from the author.
- The author gifted me a copy of this book.

