



# 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:** Return to Lan Darr  
**Subtitle:** Heroes of Distant Planets, Book 2  
**Author:** Anderson Atlas  
**Genre:** Young Adult - Fantasy



**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

**5**

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.

**Formatting:**

**4**

Formatting is the single most overlooked area by independent 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.

**Marketability:**

**5**

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.

**Overall  
Opinion:**

**5**

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.

**Review:**

Reviewed by Jack Magnus for Readers' Favorite

Return to Lan Darr: Heroes of Distant Planets, Book 2 is a young adult fantasy novel written by Anderson Atlas. Allan Westerfield was stunned to see Asantia, his fellow adventurer on Lan Darr, burst into his room during a storm so fierce a lightning strike exploded an oak tree in his yard, causing a branch to break his window and fall into his room. The fourteen-year-old had not expected to see her again for a few more years, as she had promised they'd go on another adventure once he had turned eighteen. She came with grim news: Jibbawk had escaped his captivity and was out for revenge on Allan. When his alarm rang, Allan was surprised to find his window intact, and he realized it had all been a vivid dream. He was off to school -- and it was his fifteenth birthday. His uncle and guardian, Rubic, seemed excited as Allan ate his breakfast, and the reason would have Allan excited as well. Rubic had somehow gotten hold of an all-terrain wheelchair complete with large wheels and tracks that would allow him to climb stairs, navigate sand, and handle uneven terrain unassisted. This meant Allan could go hiking again, and they did. While he did love the outdoors, Allan had another reason for his soon-to-be weekly hikes. The Hubbu Flower's pollen had enabled him to travel to and from Lan Darr earlier that year, and he was determined to go back and see his friend.

Anderson Atlas's young adult fantasy novel, Return to Lan Darr: Heroes of Distant Planets, Book 2, can be read on its own, but I strongly recommend reading the first book in the series, Surviving the Improbable

Quest, beforehand. That first book is an example of modern fantasy at its best, and this one builds beautifully from it. The author has built not one, but a number of distant planets that can be reached through the power of the Hubbu pollen, and, so far, each of the planets the reader gets to travel to is intriguing and worthy of exploration. I loved seeing how Allan continues to expand his abilities and regain his perspective after the life-shattering car crash that orphaned the former swimming star, who had dreamed of adventure, and left him in a wheelchair. The adventures continue and now under his own power! Atlas's plot is exciting and fast-paced, and the new places and beings Allan encounters are marvelous indeed. After reading the first book in the series, I expected great things of Return to Lan Darr, and somehow Atlas exceeded my expectations on all fronts. Return to Lan Darr: Heroes of Distant Planets, Book 2 is most highly recommended.