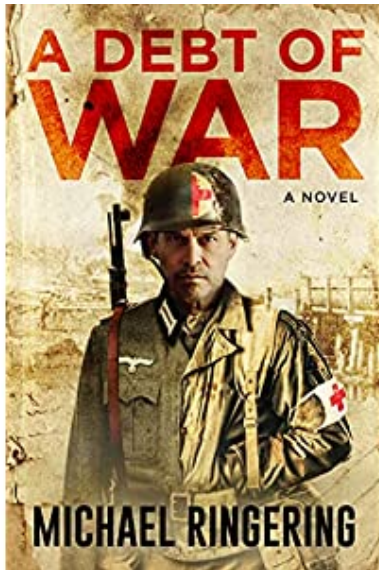




Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

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: A Debt of War
Author: Michael Ringering
Genre: Fiction - Historical - Event/Era



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.

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.

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 Grant Leishman for Readers' Favorite

A Debt of War by Michael Ringering is a World War II novel quite unlike any war book I have ever read. When Paul Bacca and his siblings attend their mother's funeral in 2009, Paul is shocked and surprised to be approached by an elderly veteran in uniform who hands him a special gift from Paul's mother, an unpublished novel about World War II written by a previously acclaimed poet. As an editor of a publishing company, Paul is well aware that this poet has never put forward a novel for consideration and is duly excited to read it but also confused about how it found its way into his late mother's possession. Sitting down to read that evening, Paul is soon transported to the battlefields of Europe in the final months of the European theater of war, where the most intriguing and surprising of friendships was to develop between a German soldier, branded a traitor, and a young farmer boy from Pennsylvania. What ensues on those bloody fields so far from home will astound Paul and excite him for the possibilities for publication of this amazing manuscript. Paul is transported to the most unlikely alliances between a group of American GIs and their unexpected German comrade. When debts of honor are earned in wartime, the extent to which soldiers will go to fulfill the obligations of those debts tests the bonds of friendship, patriotism, bravery, and, at times, even credibility.

I've read several war books of one stripe or another recently, but I can honestly say that none has touched me to the very core of my being as A Debt of War did. Author Michael Ringering has somehow taken an almost impossible scenario to behold and shaped it into a believable and powerful narrative. The story is utterly compelling, and the characters jump off the page and attach themselves to the reader's psyche. For the poor German soldier Jakob, tormented by his love for his family and yet torn apart by his father's blind fanaticism to Hitler and the Nazi rhetoric, the war was an absolute struggle for someone who could only be described as a gentle soul. The correlation in nature and beliefs between Jakob and GI O'Dell was startling and powerful.

The story is full of action, excitement, and battles, which will keep all the adrenaline junkies extremely happy. Yet, it is beautifully blended with deep and powerful emotions that will pull at any reader's heartstrings. Like Paul, while reading this story, I began to question if this was fiction or reality. The setting, the background, the equipment, everything about this story rang true, and one was almost left hoping, in some way, there was a grain of truth to this absorbing story. I doubt I've been this impressed with any author's work the first time I've read them, and I will definitely be seeking out more of his portfolio. If this story is anything to go by, he is an original-thinking author with wonderful narrative ability. I loved this book, and I can highly recommend it.