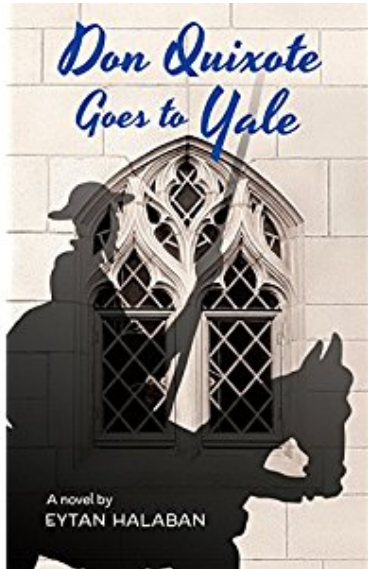


Book Review Mini-Critique



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: Don Quixote Goes to Yale

Author: Eytan Halaban

Genre: Fiction - Literary



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.

4

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.

4

- 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 Grant Leishman for Readers' Favorite

A truth hidden within a fiction, within a fiction, is what we are presented with by Eytan Halaban's *Don Quixote Goes to Yale*. Michael is an undergraduate at Yale, just about to graduate, who becomes fixated, nay obsessed, with the story of Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes. Prompted by his professor's words, Michael goes in search of the hidden truth within Cervantes' work of fiction - the treasure of Ricote. Michael's girlfriend, Liz, a no-nonsense economics student, thinks he is insane and threatens to disown him if he continues with this obsession, but she is in love with him. When Michael heads to Spain during Spring Break to seek the treasure, Liz reluctantly follows behind him, still trying to change his mind and encourage him to enjoy an all-expenses paid vacation with her. A collection of ne'er-do-wells, also looking for the clue that will reveal the hidden treasure, are lurking in the background, ready to pounce. Michael is not alone, though. Fortunately, he has his imaginary friend, Boomie, a reflection of himself, to help him, plus of course Cervantes and his book, *Don Quixote*.

I loved the premise of this story and must congratulate Eytan Halaban for his cleverness in constructing this idea. The story itself was a wonderful immersion into the times of Cervantes and Don Quixote. What I particularly liked about this tale was the way the author was able to weave the original Don Quixote text into his story. The fifteenth century text and the fades into and out of that time, by Michael, just added to the uniqueness and cleverness of this tale. *Don Quixote Goes to Yale* is a triumph, in my opinion. The author has woven together a modern story wrapped around the famous and classic tale of Don Quixote and his tilting at windmills. It was certainly easy to equate the modern-day Michael with the bumbling and perhaps slightly mad Don Quixote of Cervantes' imagination. Michael's journey to Spain was, it seems, a veritable tilting at windmills... or was it? An excellent book and one I'm sure all aficionados of classical literature will enjoy and lap up.