*Book Title* by [author name] (or) “Book Title” by [author name]

(^if your blogging software does not permit italicized titles)

[Opening notes: Default font to Times New Roman, 12 point font. The review should always be double-spaced with a ragged right margin just as this template is structured. Introduction to the book review goes here. Whether you introduce how you came to review the book or have an opinion to share on the cover is up to you. You must, however, state the author’s full name and the book title. You must also state a brief, opinion-free description of the book and briefly state its thesis. If you are reviewing a volume in a series that isn’t the first book, make sure you caution the reader for unavoidable spoilers. Keep this introduction brief. This paragraph if solely for introducing the reader to this book without having to read it themselves.]

*“[An italicized summary of the book, customarily found on the book’s backmatter goes here. It also needs to be in quotations. Time and time again, publishers have requested I add the backmatter summary of the book. Sometimes the summary is sent to me directly by the publisher, other times I’m told to copy-paste the back matter from any of their online listings.]”*

[The body of your review should utilize no more than three quotes from the book. You can settle with one or two, but there’s no need to go past three. Doing so could risk spoilers in the review and this template is tailored to writing a spoiler-free book review. No matter how long the body of your review, make sure you remain precise and to the point. If you do quote the book, summarize what you quote in your own words. Readers of book reviews like to see what a reviewer is taking away from the content they’ve read, especially when giving your point of view.]

[You can make however many points you want to in a review, just make sure each topic has its own paragraph. Example: if you’re discussing the protagonist, that topic gets its own paragraph. If you’re discussing the author’s knack for description, that topic also gets its own paragraph. If you’re discussing the books strengths or weaknesses, either topic is entitled to its own paragraph.]

[If you loved the book, say so. If you were frustrated by the book, say so. Both positive and negative feedback are vital for any author to receive. Don’t be afraid to criticize the author regardless of which why your feedback leans. Any writer worth the craft got to the point of publishing their work through feedback and constructive criticism.]

[Your conclusion should always be treated as your final thoughts on the book. If you used quotes, summarize why you used them and restate your interpretation. The most important part of your review is stated here: would you recommend the book to anyone else? Whatever your answer, follow it up with an explanation of at least two to three sentences. If possible, offer a star rating that accurately represents your review. If such a feature is not available, writing in a star rating at the end of your review goes a long way.]

Questions to consider when planning your book review (Stand-Alone Novel):

**What is the book’s plot?** If you are having trouble stating this in three sentences or less, you have your first talking point for your review.

**Were you gripped by the story?** If you found yourself flying through the story, you’ll want to state why in your review. If you were struggling to pass page ten, you’ll want to state why.

**What aspects of the author’s writing did you enjoy?** Did you enjoy the description? Were the characters making you chuckle? Etc.

**What, if anything, could the author improve?** Did you spot a hiccup in the narrative? Did you find a character unnecessary to the story? Did you dislike how much time the characters spent in the swamp?

**Would you recommend this book to anyone?** The million-dollar question. This is a question you *must* know the answer to before you begin writing the review.

Questions to consider when planning your book review (Volume Series Novel):

**Is the plot consistent?** Did the next volume in the series effectively reintroduce the world? Is the plot on track from where you left the series last?

**Are the characters familiar?** If they are not, you have another talking point. If they are, discuss how.

**Are the new ideas introduced in this volume exciting?** All stories continue, how’s the continuation affecting you as the reader? Do you like the new characters? The new obstacles? The new direction the plot is heading towards?

**How is this volume comparing to the previous one?** Do you see the author improving in their craft? Do you feel this volume is effectively adding to the series? Does this volume have more to offer than the last one?

**Is this volume strong as a story of its own?** An exceedingly important question. Series or no, each volume should stand as its own contained story. Is that what you’re taking away from this volume? Or is it depending too much on the plot points of its predecessor?