

From: Writers Digest Self Publishing Competition

Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2013 1:52 PM

Subject: As promised, your judges commentary...21st Annual Writer's Digest Annual Self-Published Book Awards



21st Annual Writer's Digest Annual Self-Published Book Awards

Entry Title: It Was Out of Love

Author: James S. Marr

Judge Number: 31

Entry Category: Life Stories

Books are evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning “needs improvement” and 5 meaning “outstanding”. This scale is strictly to provide a point of reference, it is not a cumulative score and does not reflect ranking.

Structure and Organization: 5

Grammar: 5

Production Quality and Cover Design: 5

Plot (if applicable): 0

Character Development (if applicable): 0

Judges

Commentary*:

IT WAS OUT OF LOVE is one of the most beautifully designed and produced books this judge has seen. The covers, inside photos, and type design and layout are all excellent.

The story is a very complex and shocking one, which must have been challenging to organize and write. Mr. Marr is to be commended for handling the difficult chronology so well. He presents his material in

straightforward, workmanlike prose, tracing a love story that turned into a tale of bizarre deception, hurt, and eventual healing. Mr. Marr's Christian faith is a huge aspect of his life and story, and I feel he handles it well: simply telling of his faith, his actions, and his challenges, and leaving the preaching to the preachers. The Scriptural quotation sidebars are all illustrative and appropriate.

The author has a great command of the language, good mechanics, usage, spelling, and punctuation.

Some readers might be put off by the extremely detailed passages dealing with Melissa's medical issues, but on the other hand, more and more of us are facing similar challenges with loved ones.

I might find fault with a common error, the use of 'reticence' for 'reluctance' on p. 68. Other than that, the book is very clean and easy to read.

In future editions of this book, I would suggest changing the second paragraph on the back cover it's sort of like a menu at a restaurant that says, "You'll love this food!" To which everybody says, "I'll be the judge of that." Better to replace it with a good blurb or two, attributed to actual readers.

This book is best categorized as Christian inspirational, but I would hope that general readers might be drawn to it as well.

*Commentary may be quoted as: *"Judge, Writer's Digest 21st Annual Self-Published Book Awards"*