INDEPENDENT BOOK PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

39th Annual IBPA Book Awards

Book Evaluation - Best First Book

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PLEASE POST your scores and comments online. **A link to the online judging form will be sent to you by e-mail.** Please use these paper forms as worksheets and keep them as backup should you need to send them to IBPA. We ask that judges do not use AI to do their scoring or critiques. You are certainly welcome to use AI as a tool, just as a publisher is. You are one of three judges in this category.

Evaluate each entry <u>objectively</u>, whether or not you agree with the author's point of view or style of expression or idiom. Observations and suggestions should be provided on the back of this form and transferred online so entrants understand why they are receiving the scores they receive. Score your responses on a scale of 10 to 1 in which **10=perfect, 9=very good, 8=good, 7=significantly above average, 6=above average, 5=average, 4=below average, 3=significantly below average, 2=poor, 1=very poor.** Please consider each topic independently and offer an appropriate score and comments for that topic. It is important to offer appropriate scores on each topic so we are able to determine the overall winners and so entrants can work to improve future editions of their books.

Book title _____

Category number and name _____

Circle the appropriate number or statement at the right (note numeric definitions above).

<u>GENERAL/ESSENTIALS</u> • Does the book have a title page? • Does the book have a copyright page? • Does the spine include the title, author's name and publisher name and/or logo? • Does the back cover include an EAN barcode and 13-digit ISBN? • Is the book competitively priced with other books in this category?	**YES** *If the book meets all five criteria to the left, please circle YES; If the book meets 3-4 criteria, circle SOMEWHAT; if the book meets 0-2 criteria circle NO*			**SOMEWHAT**					**NO**	
<u>WRITING</u> • Is the content well written and in a style that is appropriate to the book's genre and topic? Is the content including facts presented, names, dates, and timelines, must be consistent and accurate?	**10**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
<u>MECHANICS/ORGANIZATION</u> • Mechanics: Rate the mechanical correctness of the copy regarding grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. (While judges can't be expected to read every word of every book, they will perform tests on several randomly selected passages) • Organization: Is the text well organized (with beginning, middle, and end) and does it flow easily to allow comprehension and interest by the intended audience?	**10**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
<u>COVER DESIGN:</u> • Is the cover design pleasing and interesting in appearance? Does the front cover copy immediately identify the benefits of the book, the subject matter, or category? • Is the text, especially the title, subtitle and author name legible. • Does the choice of colors (including B&W) stimulate interest and fit the subject? • Does the design translate well to both print and digital? • Does back cover and flap (if any) design inform easily and interestingly? • Are photographs or illustrations appropriate, of good quality and reproduced well? • Is the typeface attractive, readable and appropriate to the subject matter? • Are letter spacing, line spacing and word spacing correct and pleasing to the eye?	**10**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**

(Continued on back side of form)

Please provide a 100-500 word written critique of this book.
Observations and suggestions should be typed below and transferred online so entrants understand why they are receiving the scores they receive and so they can improve future editions of their books. Please write in complete sentences – IBPA will return the information you transfer online to the publishers VERBATIM. Please also let the publisher know what they are doing well and where they can improve. Remember, there are compassionate ways to deliver constructive criticism. Comments should encourage, and support growth, in the true spirit of teaching, even while delivering difficult observations

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR JUDGING NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 2027

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Book Evaluation - Best First Book (continued)

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INTERIOR DESIGN: **10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1**

- Consider paper quality. Does the text bleed through. Is readability a problem?
- If used, do the colors provide a sense of cohesiveness to the interior?
- Are photographs or illustrations appropriate, of good quality and reproduced well?
- Is the typeface attractive, readable and appropriate to the subject matter?
- Does the page layout (i.e., the organization of heads, subheads, indents, and breaks in copy) facilitate reading? Is it appropriate for its audience?
- Are the margins (including gutter) well spaced?
- Are letter spacing, line spacing and word spacing correct and pleasing to the eye?

MARKETABILITY/CONTENT: **10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1**

- Is there a readily available marketing channel for a book on this subject?
- Does the book have good commercial prospects in a competitive book market?
- Does the book satisfy a compelling need shared by the intended audience and cover the defined subject completely and with authority?
- Is the book likely to be a good value to someone interested in this subject, as well as interesting and useful to prospective readers?

TIE BREAKER

- Please rank just the top 10 books compared to the others in this category, with #1 being the best in the group and #10 being the 10th best.

I rank this book #_____

Only rank the top 10, with #1 being the best in the group. Note N/A above if the book is not in the top 10.

Please provide a 100-500 word written critique of this book.

Observations and suggestions should be typed below and transferred online so entrants understand why they are receiving the scores they receive and so they can improve future editions of their books. Please write in complete sentences – IBPA will return the information you transfer online to the publishers VERBATIM. Please also let the publisher know what they are doing well and where they can improve. Remember, there are compassionate ways to deliver constructive criticism. Comments should encourage, and support growth, in the true spirit of teaching, even while delivering difficult observations

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