INDEPENDENT BOOK PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

39th Annual IBPA Book Awards

Book Evaluation - Design

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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. Please focus on the design elements only. There is a separate set of editorial judges for this category. 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.

Evaluate the overall design objectively, 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 IBPA is able to determine the overall winners and so entrants can work to improve future editions of their books.

Book title _____

Category number and name _____

APPROPRIATENESS FOR CATEGORY — **YES** **SOMEWHAT** **NO**

- Is the book appropriate for this category?

GENERAL/ESSENTIALS — **YES** **SOMEWHAT** **NO**

- Does the back cover include an EAN barcode and 13-digit ISBN?
- Does the spine include the title, author's name and publisher name and/or logo?
- Does the cover include the publisher name and/or logo and the shelving category?
- Does the book have a copyright page?

If you answered yes to all four questions to the left, please circle YES; 2-3=SOMEWHAT; 0-1=NO

COVER APPEARANCE — **10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1**

- 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 on the print version, so as to show up on a bookstore shelf and when the cover is made into a digital thumbnail?
- Does the choice of colors (including B&W) stimulate interest and fit the subject? Do colors translate well to both print and digital?
- Is the book's cover art and design competitive with other books in this category? (Consider this in terms of the genre as a whole, not just in terms of the other books in the category)

COVER LAYOUT — **10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1**

- Does the organization of cover elements allow instantaneous "reading?"
- Does back cover and flap (if any) design inform easily and interestingly?
- Are the 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?

INTERIOR APPEARANCE — **10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1**

- Does the beginning of each chapter have a reader-friendly layout?
- 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 they attractive and appropriate to the subject matter?
- Are the photographs or illustrations appropriate, of good quality and reproduced well?
- Is the typeface attractive, readable and appropriate to the subject matter?

INTERIOR LAYOUT — **10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1**

- 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?
- Are there obvious typographical or other distracting errors?

OVERALL REACTION — **10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1**

- Rate your overall reaction to the design of the book.

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 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 – we will be returning the information you transfer online to the publishers and authors - verbatim. Please also let them know what they are doing well and where they can improve. Here is a note from one of your fellow judges that explains nicely how to provide constructive criticism for books you may not enjoy as much as the others: "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