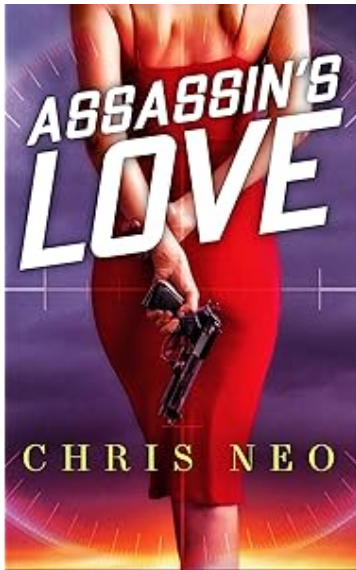




# Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

## Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with general descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although this is just a Mini-Critique, we hope it will give you an insight into how readers may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although they are not a literary professional, they are an avid reader of books just like yours.

**Title:** Assassin's Love  
**Author:** Chris Neo  
**Genre:** Romance - General



**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.

**5**

**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.

**5**

- 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 David Jaggart for Readers' Favorite

Chris Neo's *Assassin's Love* focuses on Valentino, a rich but lonely man, and his wife, Heleanne, who is plotting his demise. The story moves from a busy bazaar to the couple's private home as Heleanne conspires with a gypsy named Alexi to have Valentino murdered. They send in Rafaella, a skilled assassin, to do the deed from the inside. The primary conflict develops when Rafaella tries to poison Valentino's food, while he stays on high guard, even using his dogs as tasters. It creates a weirdly intimate but deadly environment. As the deadline from the gypsy clan and their leader, Baba, draws near, the pressure on Rafaella to carry out the hit becomes even more intense. Is it possible for a mission to fail because the assassin sees something worth saving in her target?

*Assassin's Love* is an exciting thriller with a strong romantic element. The storyline is both brisk and engaging. I loved the change in scenery from the crowded bazaar to the beach house. The whole situation is fascinating because of the external pressure of the assassins' code, which is constantly at odds with Rafaella's internal hesitation. The plot is very no-frills, which will hold your attention, especially if you're looking for a fluff-free read. I didn't expect Valentino to be as observant as he was, which kept the assassination scenes from coming across as predictable. It's a fun, dramatic story for anyone who likes the trope of a killer (or, in Rafaella's case, a hitwoman) falling for the person they are supposed to take down. Fans of a similar book, *Agnes and the Hitman* by Jennifer Crusie, will enjoy this read.