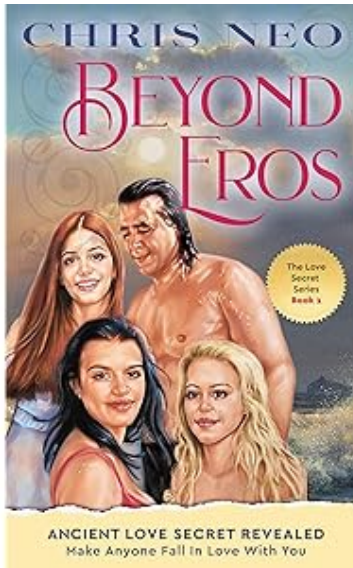




# Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

## 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:** Beyond Eros  
**Subtitle:** The Love Secret Book 1  
**Author:** Chris Neo  
**Genre:** Romance - Contemporary



**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.

**5**

**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 Jamie Michele for Readers' Favorite

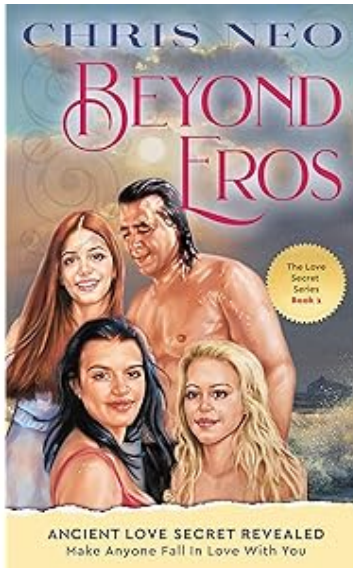
In Chris Neo's *Beyond Eros*, Aris, a business owner with a strained marriage to Gina, leaves home to pursue a rumored "love secret," believed to influence human attachment, a decision that pulls him into a search with no clear boundary. Accompanied by John and Uri, he follows a trail tied to earlier generations, where knowledge is scattered across distant regions, and every step demands direct contact to confirm what little remains. As he moves from one lead to the next, his actions begin to draw attention, and Varo Chase, a powerful executive, locks onto his movements, watching closely while working to bring him under her control. Encounters with criminal groups and military forces close in around Aris and his companions, placing them in immediate danger and forcing him to rely on instinct to keep moving. With pressure rising from both pursuit and personal obligation, Aris is driven toward a final decision that will determine how far he is willing to go to complete what he started.

Chris Neo's *Beyond Eros* looks at what happens when people say they value commitment but keep stepping into situations that test it. Neo sets up a marriage between Aris and Gina where behavior, not promises, drives the outcome. Gina doesn't sit on the sidelines; she pushes scenes in a direction that forces reactions, whether she is using Aris's allergy to create distance during an argument or confronting him in front of their sons and shifting the balance inside the home. Aris is put in positions where he has access to other relationships, and Neo shows who he is by what he does when those doors open. The settings keep everyone on display, from a house where conflict becomes public to formal gatherings where status shapes every interaction. If you're interested in how a marriage holds up when every decision is tested in real time, this book gives you that front-row seat.



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**Review:**

Reviewed by Romuald Dzemo for Readers' Favorite

Beyond Eros is the first book in The Love Secret series by Chris Neo, which follows Aris Theo, a middle-aged Greek-American insurance broker in a toxic marriage to the manipulative Gina. As his son observes, he craves a love secret that might not even exist, and deep down, he wants a woman's love, a romantic, true love. Aris abandons his business to hunt for the mythical Aphrodite's ancient love secret that makes anyone fall in love. He is accompanied by two unlikely companions, John and the hedonistic Uri. He follows a cryptic map from Tampa to Mexico to Guatemala, in search of relatives of the secret-keepers. But Varo Chase, who is some kind of black widow, is killing her lovers after mating. She is a powerful and obsessive woman with eyes on Aris. His run-ins are many, including a Mexican hairdresser with dangerous brothers, the wife of a Guatemalan general, prisons, and more. What will it take for him to find true love?

Chris Neo's novel is bigger than a sheer romance. It blends adventure with crime and presents a main character who is elaborately drawn and who reflects many of our human yearnings. The idea of going on the hunt for some ancient love secret first sounded ridiculous and then intriguing to me. But it became an element that drove the plot forward. The conflict in Beyond Eros was exciting, building through external threats that involved drug lords, military executions, and high-speed chases. The action was aplenty, the drama was propulsive, driven by ingeniously crafted dialogues and wit that added to the entertainment. This novel examines the question of whether love is a controllable force or an energy to submit to. When you have read this book, you will want to move straight on to the next book in the series.