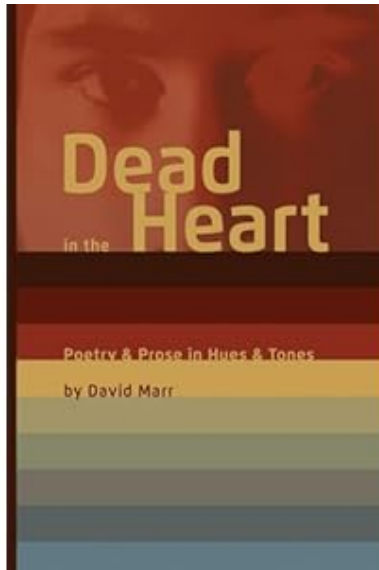




Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

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: Dead in the Heart
Subtitle: Poetry & Prose in Hues & Tones
Author: David Marr
Genre: Poetry - 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: 5	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.
Formatting: 5	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.
Marketability: 4	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.
Overall Opinion: 5	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.

Review:

Reviewed by Pikasho Dekka for Readers' Favorite

Written between 1987 and 1994, *Dead in the Heart* is an emotionally poignant collection of poems by David Marr. These poems cover a variety of themes and topics, as seen from the perspective of a young adult trying to find their place in the world. "My Note" is a moving poem narrated from the point of view of a person who has lost the will to live. The narrator tries to erase the memories of past mistakes and drown their sorrows in "You, Me, and Dry Gin." "Relief of the Lonely" is a short poem about enjoying the fleeting moments of joy within solitary periods. In "My Girl Susan," the narrator talks about a childhood crush and reveals why it didn't work out for them. "Letter to Pauly" pays homage to a loved one.

The poems in *Dead in the Heart* are both introspective and observational. As a reader, you derive a profound sense of melancholia from David Marr's stanzas, which makes for deeply immersive poetic storytelling. The poems in this collection vary a lot -- be it through themes, subject matter, or even style. Many of these poems are very personal and intimate, while others have universal themes the reader can relate to. Yet, others seem abstract and open to the reader's interpretation. The earliest poems speak about helplessness, fear, and yearning for a loved one. Some of the other themes include the changes that come with aging and the notion of beauty that divides people on aesthetic terms. Overall, it's an absorbing poetry collection -- one that gives you a lot to think about. If you're a poetry lover, I highly recommend you grab a copy!