

BOOK REVIEW POLICIES

LONE STAR LITERARY LIFE seeks to help readers, writers, authors, editors, publishers, booksellers, and other consumers and industry professionals make the connections that will improve their enjoyment and experience of books for and/or about Texas, or by Texas authors.

Whether selected by our editorial staff or underwritten by publisher support, our book reviews provide a professional assessment that is impartial and comprehensive, and subject to the same high standards.

LSLL editorial staff will determine which books meeting our general criteria will be assigned for review in upcoming issues; which books will be noted as newly published, received, or forthcoming; and which will not be reviewed, at our sole discretion.

1. We strive for a four-week turnaround from receipt of galleys or book to publication of review, timed as closely as possible with publication of the book.
2. We will notify publishers of a forthcoming review one to two weeks in advance of its appearance.
2. We publish one to two focus reviews per week; while this means that our space for review of deserving books is severely limited, we expect that other books will be covered in columns, features, and notice, and eligible for sponsored reviews.
3. All reviews and notices are archived on the website for ongoing reference and citation.
4. Reviews and other LSLL editorial content are the property of Lone Star Literary Life. However, we grant permission for quotation and reproduction of reviews in entirety or in part (providing that excerpting does not alter the original sense of the review), with proper attribution to Lone Star Literary Life and the author of the review.
2. Books which are intended for a highly specialized scholarly, technical, or professional audience, or textbooks.
3. Books which are intended primarily as gifts, toys, or stunts.
4. Books which do not serve the interests of a wide, general readership, such as pornography, books espousing hate speech, or books espousing extreme political or religious positions.
5. Books that have already been published more than six months prior to LSLL issue date.
6. Books published in digital form only.
7. Books published in languages other than English.
8. Books that do not deal with Texas subject matter, whether fiction or nonfiction. Rare exceptions may be made for important non-Texas works by established Texas authors.

Reviews consist of the following elements:

1. A 350- to 500-word narrative that briefly summarizes the topic or approach, evaluates literary merit and overall quality, and recommends the most suitable readership—without disclosing plot outcomes, relying too greatly on summary, or judging merely on personal taste.
2. Bibliographical information:
 - Title/Subtitle, Author (and any other Contributor)
 - Genre
 - Publisher, Publisher City, Publication Month and Year
 - Edition information
 - Binding, Number of Pages, Illustrations, Features

Some categories of books are not eligible for editorial or paid reviews:

1. Books which, according to our evaluation, fall short of industry-standard editing or production; lack sufficient metadata; or are not available via standard industry distribution.

3. A phrase or tagline providing a capsule description or assessment of the book.

LSLL will expect to obtain galleys, advance reading copies, review copies, and/or publicity materials gratis from publishers or authors, along with the right to reproduce cover images and descriptive information in their entirety, and to quote from text within the bounds of fair use.

1. LSLL will generally request forthcoming books from publishers' announcements but will also consider qualified books that arrive unsolicited.
2. If any form of advance uncorrected text is quoted in a review, LSLL staff will strive to verify final wording with the book's publisher before publication.
3. LSLL's reviewers are generally willing to read and prepare reviews using a digital copy of the work. When the review runs, we will request a printed copy of the finished book on behalf of the reviewer.
4. Reviews will be fact-checked and copyedited for grammar and mechanical style.
5. LSLL staff will request a high-resolution digital image of the book's front cover from the publisher, to accompany the review.
6. On occasion, reviews will be expanded as features. In such cases LSLL staff will request an author bio and headshot, with photographer attribution as desired.
7. Books and other printed materials not selected for review, or that receive notices only, may be given to LSLL staff or reviewers for personal use, or may be donated to a library or other nonprofit program. No digital materials will be shared or donated after use by LSLL.
8. Upon publication of a review, LSLL staff will email the publisher with a web link for their records.

LONE STAR SPONSORED REVIEWS

Books that otherwise meet the foregoing qualifications but are not selected for a focus review—or not scheduled soon enough to meet the publisher's goals for promotion or visibility—may qualify for a paid review sponsored by publisher or author.

1. Please review the guidelines for books that LSLL does not review.
2. Complete the online submission form and upload your digital file along with payment information.
3. Your review will be complete in about 4 weeks, and a proof will be submitted to you via email.
4. Please check your review promptly for accuracy of facts and spelling, and approve it for publication as is or as revised.
5. Because all our reviews strive for objective, fair assessment, inevitably not all reviews will be favorable (or perceived as such). With every book we review we strive to identify strengths as well as weaknesses, and we expect there will be quotable material in every review. But if your paid review does not meet your goals for any reason, you may choose to withhold it from publication, retaining the review for your own use and learning. You will be allowed to keep it and share it with others, though not to cite it as published in Lone Star Literary Life.
6. When your approved review appears in Lone Star Literary Life, we encourage you to promote it widely. Excerpt quotable snippets from it for your website, for Amazon.com, Goodreads, and the like, and even in your email signature. Plan to use it in and on your next book. You'll have a web link that's easy shared on social media as well. Use your review to leverage other coverage and to influence bookseller and library purchases, book club adoption, and event and award selection.

Complete the easy online form to submit your book and fee today, or email reviews@LoneStarLiterary.com.

REVIEWING FOR LONE STAR LITERARY LIFE

Done well, book reviewing is a fine art and a valuable contribution to intellectual and cultural life. We're always glad to expand our network of qualified, experienced contract reviewers, and we compensate them for their good work. If you're interested in reviewing for us, get in touch at reviews@LoneStarLiterary.com. Be prepared to send your curriculum vitae with a list of your publications, areas of interest, and several sample clippings. You may be asked to complete an evaluation exercise. And you don't have to live in Texas, though a knowledge of brisket, Big Tex, biennial legislative sessions, and the Bob Bullock Museum might help.