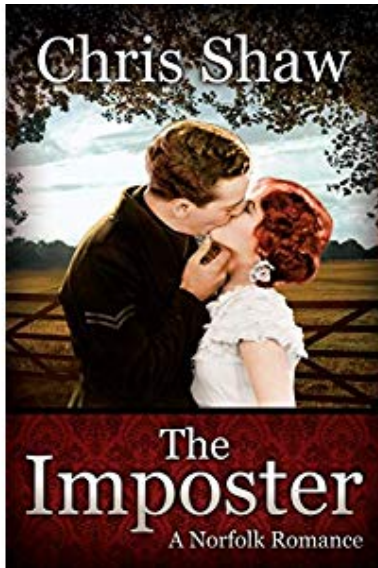




Readers' Favorite[®]

Book Reviews and Award Contest

Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although these are general ratings we hope they will give you an insight into how others may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although your reviewer is not an expert literary critic or professional editor, they are at the very least, an avid reader of books just like yours.

Title: The Imposter
Subtitle: A Norfolk Romance
Author: Chris Shaw
Genre: Fiction - Historical - Event/Era



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.

4

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.
- 4**
- 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 Charles Remington for Readers' Favorite

The Imposter: A Norfolk Romance by Chris Shaw opens with a short chapter describing the gruesome life of a First World War sniper, but quickly moves on to the start of the Norfolk romance mentioned in the title. It is Saturday night and Frank Matthews is at a dance in the local village hall when he notices the most beautiful girl he has ever seen entering. Having no idea how to approach such a beauty, he is astounded when the girl in question strolls right up and asks to join him. So commences a whirlwind romance which, against the backdrop of the early days of WW1, culminates in their marriage. But their married bliss is sadly interrupted when Frank enlists and goes off to serve his country. His talent as a marksman is spotted early, so he spends the rest of the war serving as a sniper, an extremely dangerous duty and one which brings so much danger, horror and pressure that his sanity slowly leeches away into the mud and the blood of the trenches. His luck runs out when a shell explodes close enough to him to cause a good deal of physical damage and he wakes screaming in a front-line medical unit. It is a hard road back to normality but can he put the horrors he has witnessed behind him? Can he win back the love of his life - can he even hope to regain some sort of mental equilibrium? As simple agricultural work and the beautiful North Norfolk countryside begin to soothe him, a small germ of belief begins to grow.

I nearly missed The Imposter: A Norfolk Romance as I rarely review romances, but I am so glad that I took it on - it has proved to be a first-class novel. I lived in Norfolk for a very happy ten years, quite close to all the places mentioned in the book and can confirm that the area is accurately described. The narrative moves at a brisk pace with the scenes both in the Norfolk countryside and the WW1 battlefields and trenches brilliantly observed. I found the characters solid and well-drawn and their situations, from the horrendous conditions for those unsuspecting WW1 recruits to the joyful flights of first love, to be expertly portrayed. Mr. Shaw has used characters from his own family along with his experience of living in Norfolk to flesh out his novel, and in doing so has created a very special book. I thoroughly enjoyed The Imposter - it is a very worthwhile, rewarding story on several fronts and I do not hesitate to recommend it.