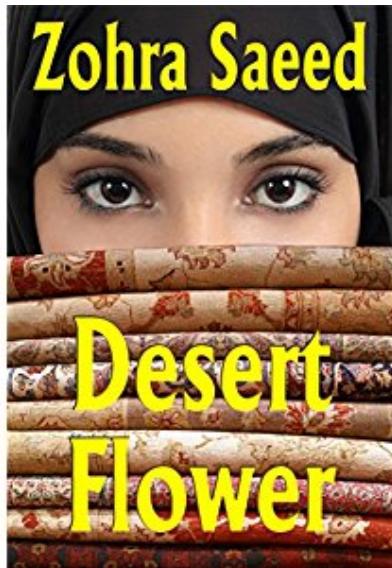




## Book Review Mini-Critique



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:** Desert Flower

**Author:** Zohra Saeed

**Genre:** Young Adult - Romance

**Appearance:** 5 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.

**Plot:** 4 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Review:**

Reviewed by Gisela Dixon for Readers' Favorite

Desert Flower by Zohra Saeed is a fiction romance novella set in the Middle East. Desert Flower starts off with an introduction to Noor, a young Muslim girl from a conservative family living in Bahrain. Her father is a carpet trader and has four wives. Noor is his eldest daughter from his first wife. Noor is able to get some education and is able to speak English better than anyone else in her family. A Canadian named Andrew McInnis then enters the scene and sees Noor when she accidentally appears in front of him with her face uncovered. Andrew is at their house to buy carpets from her father, and since Noor is the only one who can act as an effective interpreter, she and Andrew manage to talk daily right under her father's nose. They soon fall in love, but both know that marriage through traditional means is impossible, and that they could both be stoned or killed if found out. In spite of this, they make plans to elope without anyone's knowledge. This is their love story.

Desert Flower is a quick read, and the plot moves fast. One can tell that the author knows something about Middle Eastern culture; and the feelings and emotions of women living in constant seclusion with little power over their own lives is quite accurately portrayed. Noor is a young teenage girl at heart and her and Andrew's love story told in her own words is well developed. I enjoyed learning a bit more about the Muslim culture in the Middle East as well as some commonly used phrases and terms in the language. Overall, this is an enjoyable read with a twist that young teenagers as well as adults will enjoy.