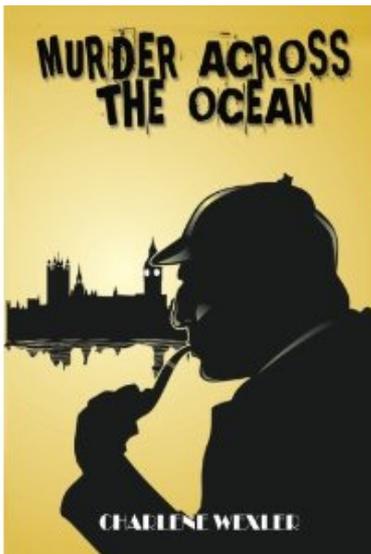




# Readers' Favorite®

## 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:** Murder Across The Ocean  
**Author:** Charlene Wexler  
**Genre:** Fiction - Mystery - 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:** Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed

**5**

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:**

**4**

Formatting is the single most overlooked area by independent 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 Maria Beltran for Readers' Favorite

Murder Across The Ocean, a novel by Charlene Wexler, unfolds in a fancy hotel room in London where Lori Brill finds herself in bed with an old flame. What follows is a mysterious series of events that brings her to Scotland Yard in desperate need of help. Lori, an upper middle class American woman, is in England to visit a family member. Unexpectedly, she bumps into old flame Josh in the airport and becomes entangled in a murder and a high profile case that involves millions of dollars. In the process, she will untangle a family secret and discover herself in the most unusual of circumstances. In the meantime, however, she is not allowed to leave England and her life could be in danger.

Murder Across The Ocean is a mystery novel that keeps the reader guessing up to the very last page. Charlene Wexler's choice of a heroine in Lori Brill is quite unusual and this makes her story thought provoking and unique. Lori is a human being with strengths and flaws one can identify and associate with. Also, the development of the narrative is effective with real and convincing dialogues as well as very interesting characters. The contrast between American and British culture is also evident here and is at times humorous. Throughout the story, the author is able to keep a consistent tone so that the plot comes out clearly and vividly. In short, this is a mystery novel author who knows her craft very well. Certainly an enjoyable read!