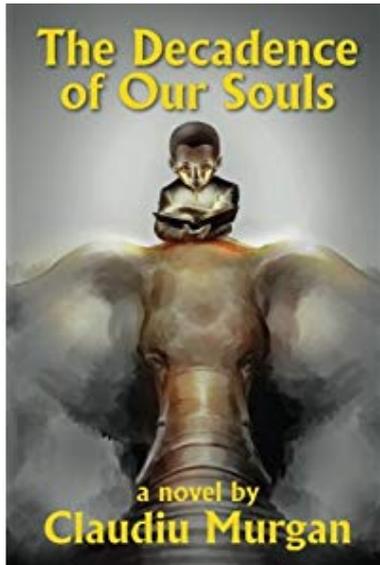




Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

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 Decadence of Our Souls
Author: Claudiu Murgan
Genre: Fiction - Fantasy - 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 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 Edith Wairimu for Readers' Favorite

At the beginning of *The Decadence of Our Souls*, a fantasy book written by Claudiu Murgan, Bart is under pressure to lead Rakash into the "state of bliss". The City Council has other intentions for Rakash's abilities. Bart knows that the state cannot be forced. Rakash and the other children live in the jungle among elephant teachers. Rakash is particularly special for he is an "Orange Soul," having the ability to connect with "The One Who Created All". What follows reveals man's thirst for pleasure and his failure to recognize what he really needs. Rakash is forced to face a world he had never known before and changing it is not so easy. *The Decadence of Our Souls* explores the discussion of finding meaning through spiritual awakening.

Claudiu Murgan's story contains a relevant and sometimes complex theme that is discussed through an easily understandable tale. He compares two vastly different worlds; the world of spiritual enlightenment and that of pleasure and decadence. The town of Laeta and the technologically advanced city of Korobat are effectively used to represent society's decay. As the two worlds meet through Rakash's experiences, the differences are further showcased. *The Decadence of Our Souls* asks the questions - is there more to life and is there a deeper meaning to everything? Is there a spiritual dimension that could lead to greater awareness if explored and cultivated? As the story progresses, the struggle of the convictions of what is right or wrong is evident. A well-designed tale that triggers thought, *The Decadence of Our Souls* will lead any reader to ask and explore.