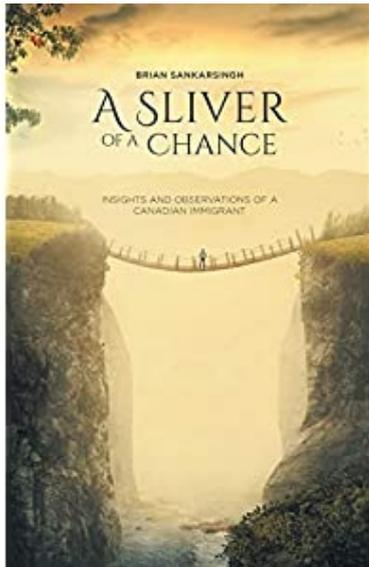




# Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

## Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with general descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although this is just a Mini-Critique, we hope it will give you an insight into how readers may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although they are not a literary professional, they are an avid reader of books just like yours.

**Title:** A Sliver of a Chance  
**Subtitle:** Insights and Observations of a Canadian Immigrant  
**Author:** Brian Sankarsingh  
**Genre:** Poetry - 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.

**5**

**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 Asher Syed for Readers' Favorite

*A Sliver of a Chance* by Brian Sankarsingh is the author's collection of poetry that focuses on the personal experiences of Canada's marginalized communities. While North America's largest country is usually viewed by its neighbors to the south and much of the rest of the world as not having the same issues of systemic racism and disenfranchisement as the United States, Sankarsingh breaks this myth down with poignant and profoundly honest verses, without disregarding the frailty of democracy just below Canada's borders. The poems are divided into six categories, Politics, Racism, Colonialism, Struggle, Love's DNA, and For the Love of Poetry. Each poem is prefaced with an introduction in order to provide additional context.

I was drawn to *A Sliver of a Chance* by Brian Sankarsingh as I am also a brown immigrant to a country that colonized and subjugated my people, but I still chose England over the States for exactly the same reason many minorities choose the UK, Australia, or Canada: racism is universal but at least most of the racists here don't have guns. Sankarsingh writes with a painful degree of wit that elevates him above the parapet of like-minded poets, using wordplay with intelligence and a marked, direct feeling of purpose that is wholly grasped by a reader. I was particularly touched by the poem *The Burden of Colour* which says, "But you, oh, animal of mine, With your skin of varying colour, Subjugation is your lot—To be forever in my power." As the father of a daughter, I also loved the poem *For TBS*, an ode to a child that is as beautiful as it is promising. This is an excellent anthology and I'm so grateful to have come across it. Very highly recommended.