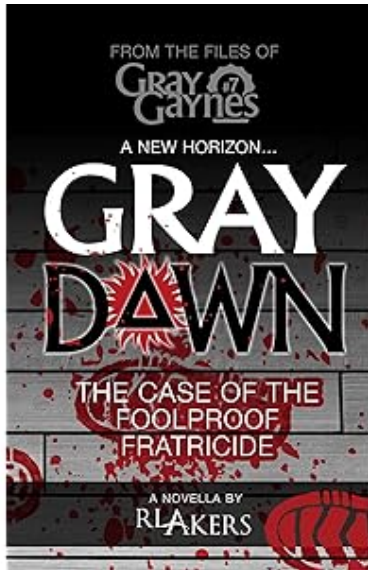




# Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

## 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:** Gray Dawn  
**Subtitle:** The Case of the Foolproof Fratricide (Gray Gaynes Book 7)  
**Author:** R. L. Akers  
**Genre:** Fiction - Suspense



**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:** 5 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:** 4 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:** 5 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 Grant Leishman for Readers' Favorite

Gray Dawn by R. L. Akers is a twisting, fast-paced murder mystery that will keep readers guessing right up to its conclusion. Gray Gaynes was once a respected homicide detective in New York City, but an attack left his wife dead and his career in tatters when he realized the damage to his vision, including color blindness and the inability to recognize faces. He now works as a roustabout for an oil company on the remote North Ridge of the Alaskan wilderness. When Dawn Simmonds, the local Inuit owner of the restaurant at their camp, is accused of murdering her brother, David, Gray's detective instincts are aroused. He doesn't believe Dawn is capable of such a heinous crime, but the deeper he digs into the evidence, the more it appears that she must have been the murderer. Everything seems to point to Dawn; perhaps too perfectly. Gray needs to uncover the truth behind the murder and find the true murderer if Dawn is ever to see freedom again.

Gray Dawn is simply a well-written murder mystery with a complex plot that will have readers beginning to believe that perhaps this time Gray Gaynes may have gotten it wrong. All the evidence, some of it irrefutable DNA evidence, does incriminate Dawn. The author slowly built the mountain of evidence against Dawn. Although this is the seventh book in a series, it does stand alone as a single adventure. I appreciated the character development, especially for first-time readers. The author does an excellent job of dropping in gems of information that help readers understand the background of Gray's story, his emotions, his psyche, and how he ended up on the remote North Ridge. There is no shortage of tension and fast-paced action in the methodical development of the overwhelming case against Dawn. I thoroughly enjoyed this story and look forward to its sequel. I highly recommend this book and the author's works.