

B.R.A.G. Medallion Report Card

Book Title: *Cooperative Lives*

Author: Patrick Finegan

Genre: Literary Fiction

Our decision regarding your book was based on the following assessment. For more details about this process please read the ABOUT US/HOW WE DO IT section of our website.

Ratings

The book was rated on the following criteria using this scale:

5 = Excellent, **4** = Very Good, **3** = Good, **2** = Poor, **1** = Very Poor, **0** = Not Rated

Title 4

Intriguing, forceful, appropriate to the story

Cover 3

Striking, professional looking, appropriate to the story

Plot 5

Original, compelling, engaging, coherent

Characters 4

Interesting, appealing, believable

Dialogue 4

Authentic, quotable, advances the story

Writing Style 4

Distinctive voice, pleasing rhythm, evocative

Chapters 4

Logical flow, advance the story, build momentum

Copy Editing 5

Grammar, punctuation, spelling, word choice

Content (Developmental) Editing 4

Structure, coherence, continuity, accuracy

Formatting 4

Front matter, layout, font

Additional Comments

I could tell that a very intelligent, thoughtful, imaginative author wrote this novel. The idea of delving into the various lives of a group of people living in close proximity together and then intertwining their narratives was a fantastic premise for a novel. I would say the only thing that kept me from giving it a perfect score was the need for some editing to tighten up the plot, round out the characters a bit more and keep the interest of the reader on track. Really great!

I liked this book but I still think it might have been even better with some tough love content editing. For example, I was lost a number of times as I waded through the details and tried to keep the characters straight.

Cooperative Lives is the most thrilling work of literature I've read all year. perhaps for many years. Through a collection of extraordinarily perceptive character depictions, Patrick Finegan evokes a complex plot of espionage, fiscal and medical malfeasance, lust and hapless coincidence that captures the essence of our times. This is not an easy book to read; it is best grasped through several readings-- as are the best of books. Not only are the characters drawn with sharp perception, each of the diverse settings and situations is presented with a deep knowledge of place and detail. This is a staggering work of research enlivened with great style and increasingly black humor. This is the US in the 21st century as formed by Caliban's god -- harrowing in its accurate vision. I hope Mr. Finegan is busy writing a sequel, I can hardly wait to see what he would do with the Trump era. I've given a low rating to the cover. It may be handsome in print form but it is illegible in the thumbnail format of on-line sales. At the least the title and author need to be in solid type, not near-invisible outline.

In addition to the numerical ratings, we ask our readers to leave a few brief comments or suggestions to help an author enhance their writing skills, especially if the reader is unable to rate a book on one or more of the above criteria. Please note, however, that not all readers choose to leave a comment.

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