

Is My Book In 5 Star Territory?

Questions to Ask About My WIP:

Examples of Gush-Worthy Reads That Do This Well

Have I created **characters** that will stay with readers, not just visit for a while? Are they layered or just surface level? Are their interactions with other characters natural or stilted?

- The Lady & The Lionheart by Joanne Bischof
- The Mistletoe Countess by Pepper Basham
- The O'Malleys series by Dee Henderson
- the Gwen Marcey series by Carrie Stuart Parks
- Courage in the Storm by Laurel Blount

Have I engaged readers' **emotions** with the layers of my story? Will they laugh, cry, swoon, get mad, or all of the above? Did I, while I was writing it?

- How The Light Gets In by Jolina Petersheim
- Within These Walls of Sorrow by Amanda Barratt
- Turn to Me by Becky Wade
- An Endless Christmas by Cynthia Ruchti
- Huckleberry Hill series by Jennifer Beckstrand

Have I immersed my readers into this setting & plot through layered **worldbuilding** so they are experiencing the story, not just reading it? Is there a good sense of place & time?

- the Unblemished series by Sara Ella
- In Search of a Prince by Toni Shiloh
- All the Lost Places by Amanda Dykes
- When Stone Wings Fly by Karen Barnett
- The Five Times I Met Myself by James L. Rubart

What makes my story **unique**? How does it stand out from all the other books in my genre? Have I used a surprise twist, a different writing style, or an intriguing angle to the plot?

- the Timeless series by Gabrielle Meyer
- Mind Games by Nancy Mehl
- Husband Auditions by Angela Ruth Strong
- The Vanishing at Castle Moreau by Jaime Jo Wright
- the True North Springs series by Allie Pleiter

Where do I see **redemption** and/or God at work in my story? Can I take out the redemption thread without harming the framework of the story or are they intrinsically connected?

- The Everstone Chronicles by Dawn Crandall (specifically Vance's storyline)
- Counterfeit Hope by Crystal Caudill
- Indigo Isle by T.I. Lowe
- Shadows in the Mind's Eye by Janyre Tromp
- the Modern Faith series by Beth Troy

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Getting Past the Publishing Gatekeepers

<https://amzn.to/3cKDwm9>