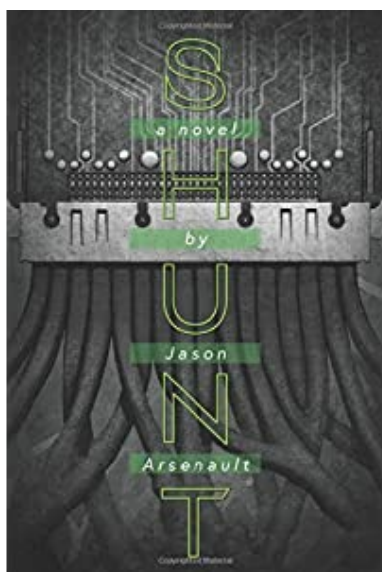




# Readers' Favorite<sup>®</sup>

## 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:** Shunt  
**Author:** Jason Arsenault  
**Genre:** Fiction - Science Fiction



**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:** 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.

**4**

**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 Foluso Falaye for Readers' Favorite

In *Shunt* by Jason Arsenault, you can run from your emotions but can't hide from them. With more than a billion users worldwide, PrimaCore Industries is known for providing moderate to satisfactory relief for all types of suffering through their implants. Their customers usually uplink their disturbing emotions, which are then released inside an anonymous opposite surrogate. However, Jade, who got the implants to reduce the pain she felt over the loss of her brother, decides to locate her surrogate as she is having vivid memories of her deceased little brother, which could only have come from his murderer's perspective. From a sociopathic priest to a soldier who despises being empathetic, an overweight cop, and even drug addicts, each character in *Shunt* has an internal battle to face or switch with another through an uplink.

I love it when a book successfully projects a world with a completely different way of life. This is what I love about sci-fi, and *Shunt* is a brilliant example. While reading the book, I was contemplating the idea of exchanging temperaments with others, and it was greatly entertaining. Different problems and scenarios that could arise from the concept are brought to light through the characters, including a conflict of interest and thought-provoking dilemmas. If you don't like stories with a broad view that switches between several main characters, you might not find the book enjoyable. Nevertheless, Jason Arsenault's narrative will appeal to readers who love large stories with several themes, like sociopathy, drug addiction, corruption, war, LGBTQ+, murder, futuristic technology, Catholicism, politics, and much more. I immensely enjoyed the creative concepts and the climactic, action-packed narrative in *Shunt*.