

Seventy Percent Rule

“If I waited for perfection, I would never write a word.”

—Margaret Atwood

Starting a new chapter in my life as a writer and storyteller overwhelmed me and questioned if I would ever write anything. Then I recalled something I read long ago that helped me.

“Everything in life is subjective. One person’s trash is another person’s treasure. What one person considers expensive, another person considers it a bargain, and vice versa.”

The truth is that in life, there is no such thing as perfection. As a writer, I understand I will never please a hundred percent of the readers.

I confirmed my point by looking up a book from one of my favorite authors on Amazon.

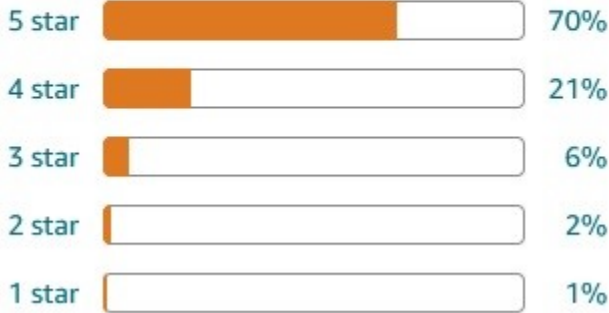


Wow, 33,358 reviews and almost five stars. I could only dream.

But a closer look at the detail section showed a different story.

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

33,358 global ratings



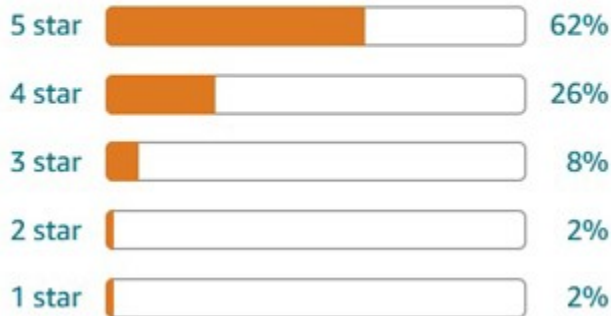
My author has 1-, 2-, and 3-star ratings. The highest rating score is seventy percent. How can that be? I checked another of my favorite books by a different author.

★★★★☆ ✓ 95,236

Wow, almost 100,000 reviews and Hollywood made a movie from this book. But the detail section was an eye-opener for me.

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

95,236 global ratings



This author also has 1-, 2-, and 3-star ratings. The highest rating in this

book is sixty-two percent. Unbelievable.

The initial intimidation factor about writing faded when I discovered that all my favorite authors have 1-, 2-, and 3-star ratings. Not one had over 85 percent in the 5-star rating row. Most of them fell into the low 70s.

Thus, my 70-percent rule.

Let me be clear. My 70-percent rule does not mean that is my goal. It means I strive to surpass it.

Tip:

Search for your favorite books on Amazon and read the comments in the 1-, 2-, and 3-star ratings. Use that information for your writing. The goal is to learn from the bad and the good.

In Summary:

Remember, everything in life is subjective. Keep my 70-percent rule in mind on your writing journey. Not everyone will like your work, but you can always learn something from beta readers, critique partners, and editors. Do not give up.