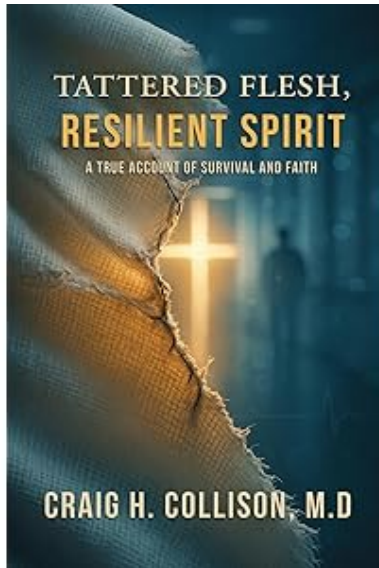




# Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

## 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:** Tattered Flesh, Resilient Spirit  
**Author:** Craig H. Collison  
**Genre:** Non-Fiction - Memoir



**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.

**5**

**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.

**5**

**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.

**5**

**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 Jamie Michele for Readers' Favorite

In Craig H. Collison's memoir, *Tattered Flesh, Resilient Spirit*, April 2000 is the moment that Collison, a pediatric resident, expects to finish training in Cleveland. The plan is to move with his pregnant wife, Michelle, and their two sons to Pennsylvania for a new position. After a routine procedure to remove a growth beneath his shoulder blade, he develops a rapidly advancing infection that drives him into septic shock within hours. Surgeons reopen the incision and find necrotizing fasciitis spreading across his back, forcing extensive tissue removal and prolonged mechanical ventilation in intensive care. Michelle receives updates on his blood pressure readings and oxygen levels while burn specialists attempt temporary grafts that fail to adhere. As blood clots form and his muscle strength declines, the financial pressure mounts, and the delivery of their third child looms, throwing everything they have built into question.

Craig H. Collison's memoir, *Tattered Flesh, Resilient Spirit*, is an incredible survival story, and the first time I have ever heard of necrotizing fasciitis. It is not something I ever hope to experience beyond the pages of this book. The memoir is told in the first person and includes his own daily account, as well as notes and letters from others, and is raw, but also brilliantly thoughtful. He shares the moment when surgeons report that 80-90% of his grafts have taken after hours of surgery, and how it feels to be rolled onto a stainless steel spray table as cold water strikes his exposed muscles. It is almost impossible to imagine. Collison is likeable and relatable, with a writing style that comes across as conversational. Readers benefit first by receiving a first-hand understanding of critical care, and second by witnessing a physician translate that knowledge into daily family life. Overall, this is a bracing and optimistic memoir. Very highly recommended.