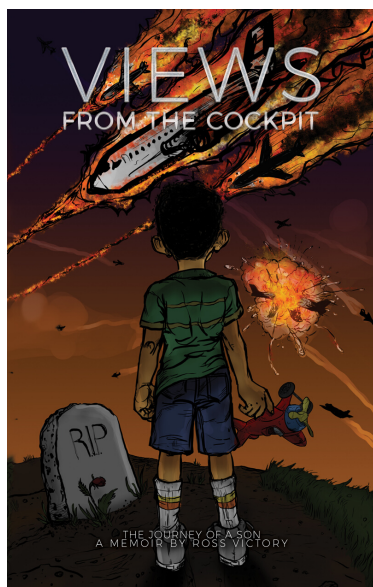


Entry Title: Views from the Cockpit: The Journey of a Son

Author: Ross Victory

Judge Number: 41

Entry Category: Life Stories



Structure, Organization, and Pacing: 5

Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar: 5

Production Quality and Cover Design: 5

Plot and Story Appeal: 5

Character Appeal and Development: 5

Voice and Writing Style: 5

I'm overwhelmed by the *gorgeous* language in this book. So many stellar descriptions stopped me in my tracks, so that I could turn the phrasing around and around in appreciation. 'Inferno of someone else's misjudgments' and 'a connoisseur of moments' exemplify the kind of descriptive magic that reminds me of Alice Sebold's breathtaking phrasing. Well done. I was gripped by the early scenes of the state in which his father is found in disarray, his care barely covered, and the sensory shocks of his frame, his surroundings, the cowering of Vee. Author has crafted a series of gut punches that bring up all kinds of sense memories and imaginings for the reader. We are beyond engaged. Very well done. As the sensory details continue to bring the story to life, we find ourselves carried along in a fine cadence, as the plot progresses well, with no lulls in the middle. There is never a weak portion of the story. Fine transitions are well-crafted, and dialogue stands out with its variations, inner dialogue, movement, and settings. All action and language are anchored in a reality the author has created with great thought to how all of the large and small details work together to build a world and fully-realized characters within it. Their pasts and reactions live. Very well done. I especially loved the descriptions of Regina at the end: "...she was ruled solely by darkness' and 'she was the incarnation of absence.' These descriptions strike powerful chords. Resonant. 'The incarnation of absence' will haunt me for a long time. Beautiful work, author. I hope you will keep writing.

Nicole Howard, Writer's Digest, Judge