

# Writer's Digest

12<sup>th</sup> Annual International Self-Published Book Awards  
Commentary Sheet

**Author:** Caryn Lazar Amster

**Title:** *The Pied Piper of South Shore*

**Category:** Nonfiction

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**On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning "poor" and 5 meaning "excellent," please evaluate the following:**

Structure and organization: 5

Grammar: 5

Cover design: 5

Judge's commentary:

1. What did you like best about this book?

The foreword is good. The structure was good, with the murder up front followed by the history. That way the reader is not waiting for the inevitable throughout the book. Instead, we are treated to a loving history of a family and a city that is brought to an unfathomable crisis. Amster has done an excellent job of researching and writing this book; it's hard to believe that it is her own father's death that she is writing about because of the objective feel to the research.

Technically, the book is solid as well. The grammar and usage are strong. Even the punctuation is good, right down to the dashes and quotation marks.

Culturally, this book gives the reader an insider's view of post-Depression Chicago and Jewish family life. I was especially interested in the discussion of how the Lazar family handled Christmas (page 122).