

The Last Olympiad by John Goodwin

[Marks in report below, out of ten]

SETTING		
Well Written	7.5 – 9.5	Excellent in the main, but errors and occasional cliches
Atmospheric	10*	
Convincing ...	9.5 - 10	

CHARACTER TRAITS		
Engaging	9.5 – 10	
Convincing	9.5 - 10	
Individualised...	9.5 - 10	
Dialogue...	8.5...	(convincing, but there's not very much to go on)

CHARACTER GOALS		
Clear	9.5	
Engaging	10	Plenty at stake, here.
Convincing	10	

PLOT
including effectiveness of storytelling

Hook to gain initial interest ... 10*

Storyline:

Intriguing & original 9 – 10 V good solid plot – nicely intriguing

Conveying of information that leads to problem or conflict 10*

Unfolding of the conflict/how major characters affected .. 10*

Narrative Drive: Sufficiently fast pace of storytelling ... 10*

THEME

Underlying message of author: 9 - 10

PRESENTATION

Accuracy/Neatness: 8

Suitably spaced and laid out: 8

WRITING

Correct Use of Language

(grammar, spelling, etc)

6.5 – 8 A lot of looseness, along with smooth, well

written passages. The errors are easy enough to fix, but that polishing would make a lot of difference to the professional look of the ms.

Style - originality, freshness of language **7 - 9**

An example:

Cliche in yellow / **contradiction** in blue-green / **redundancy** in grey / **punctuation errors** in red / **typing or word error** in dark green / **style error (unnecessary use of the slowing -ing)** in dark blue:

~~After what seemed an eternity~~ a light appeared above him,

'Here he is' an unfamiliar voice. 'Fetch that rope.' Other voices could be heard in muffled reply. Soon a rope slapped down ~~in to~~ the water beside him followed by two men in oilskins and waders slithering down the steep bank

'~~key~~ boy we've got it now' the rope was eased out of his hand.

Gavinder closed his eyes ~~too~~ tired to help or care **any more**, as the rope was passed under his arms and he was dragged up the muddy slope. ~~the~~

~~the~~ Aware of being carried and dragged, pushed and shoved he found himself lying in the back of a van. Safe at last, wrapped in a blanket over his sodden clothes, his exposed skin burning as the warmer air replaced the wind-chill ~~he~~ fell into a deep exhausted sleep.

The actions in the passage above are dramatic and highly intriguing – you never give too much information, and the detail is crisp and clear; an exciting, involving read. But these weak style points slow things down, and the errors are distracting to readers.

Lack of:

Repetition	8 – 8.5
Redundancy	8 – 8.5
Cliches/Idioms	7.5 – 8.5
Stilted or wordy language	8 – 8.5
Errors, or awkward language	7.5 – 8
Variety of sentence lengths	9
Vocab, expressions	8.5 – 9

Variety of sentence patterns 9

Point of view / effective 10

Telling, instead of showing 9.5 – 10*

Backstory 'dumping' 10 Very nicely avoided

Intrusive interpretation/explanation 9.5 - 10

Avoidance of showing or telling *followed by* a further explanation (using other words) of what has already been told or shown ... 8.5 – 9.5

punctuation: 6 Some problems

TITLE

Effective book title 7 – 7.5
 Not quite intriguing, catchy, or suspenseful enough
 for this book, which seems to warrant a stronger, more original title.

SYNOPSIS

Style in synopsis 10

Lack of errors in synopsis 9

Content of synopsis:

Intriguing, good structure, satisfactory conclusions 9.5 - 10

Really excellent. Only one point: not sure that the original planting of the bomb isn't tossed off too lightly, as it were, and the notion that a nuclear bomb would simply contaminate half of London and destroy the Olympic complex strikes us, so to speak, as far lighter and less significant damage than would actually be caused by such a device.