



2010 Spring Into Romance Contest

Hosted by: RWA-San Diego Chapter

General Information	Category (Check One)
Manuscript Title : _____ _____ Projected Word Count: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary Series/Category Romance <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary Single Title Romance <input type="checkbox"/> Romantic Suspense <input type="checkbox"/> Novel/w Strong Romantic Elements/Mainstream <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Romance <input type="checkbox"/> Paranormal Romance <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult Romance

Definitions of Categories:

Contemporary Series/Category Romance- Fiction set in same time era as it is written. Romance is the focus of the book and drives the story. Word count 40,000+.

Contemporary Single Title Romance– Not category and has more complex plots and subplots, more secondary characters, more attention to setting, but romantic relationship is the focus. 75,000+ Word count.

Romantic Suspense –_This category deals with action, complex subplots and strong characters. Romance should be a strong factor but not the only factor. Think Linda Howard, Anne Stewart, Karen Rose, or Suzanne Brockmann. Word count 70,000+.

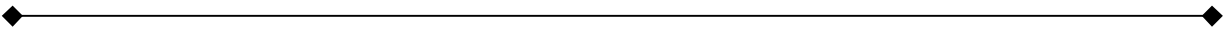
Novel w/Strong Romantic Elements/Mainstream – Can deal with any type of story (comedy, suspense, romance, etc.) Can have multiple points of view & themes can take the plot beyond the traditional romance boundaries. Word count 75,000+.

Historical Romance – Historical fiction that takes place during a real & previous period in history. Can present actual events from POV of characters living in that time period. Attention should be paid to authenticity of historical facts, manners and social details of the era written about. Word count 40,000+.

Paranormal Romance_– This would include Futuristic, Fantasy, Paranormal, featuring fairies, vampires, werewolves, witches, ghosts, timetravel, etc. Other elements of subgenres such as suspense, mystery, chick lit can be blended into these stories.

Young Adult Romance – Protagonist usually portrayed by adolescent with story lines typical of that age group but stories can span the entire spectrum of fiction genres-suspense, romance, chick-lit, etc. Fundamental elements of fiction such as character, plot, setting, and style should remain the same for YA. May be written in 1st person. Word count 40,000-65,000.

JUDGES PROFILE	
_____ Unpublished (Trained)	_____ PRO (Trained)
_____ Published (Other)	_____ Published (Romance)
_____ Agent/Editor	_____ Contest Finalist



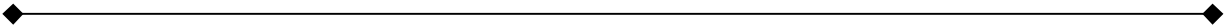
Note to Judges: Comments may be written on the manuscript as well as beneath each item below. If you score a three or lower, comments are *Required*. Please use scoring guidelines listed below. Maximum number of points for each category in bold.

Total Possible Points: 150

- Judging Guidelines:**
- 5** = Ready for an editor’s desk.
 - 4** = Minor revisions needed.
 - 3** = Shows promise.
 - 2** = Major Revisions necessary.
 - 1** = Writer may need to review this concept before revising.

The scoring sheets are programmed for the different categories and close attention should be paid to the manuscript being judged. The beginning pages 3 & 4 will be the same for all categories and will deal with general concerns. The latter pages 5 through 7 will be tailored with questions to fit the individual categories. **On these last pages, each category will have 4 questions worth 20 pts. Find the section that pertains to the category entry you are judging & mark the score in that section.**

The final possible score is the same for all categories.



FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY..... Totals: Page 3: _____ Page 6: _____ Page 4: _____ Page 7: _____ Page 5: _____ Page 8: _____	Judge Codes: Judge #1 _____ Judge #2 _____ Judge #3 _____ (Discretionary) Finalist _____
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Opening/Setting

20 PTS

- 1 2 3 4 5 Does the story start in an interesting place - not too late or too soon – at a point of change?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Does the opening paragraph or line provoke a question?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Is there a sense of impending action?
- 1 2 3 4 5 How well has the writer established the setting (time and place)?

Comments:

Plot/Conflict

20 PTS

- 1 2 3 4 5 Is the plot well developed and believable?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Is the plot unique or, if not, does the writer’s skill make a traditional plot seem unique?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Did the plot interest you at the start and lure you in?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Are the main characters’ internal and/or external conflict clear and believable? Are the characters’ motivations clear to the reader?

Comments:

Dialogue

20 PTS

- 1 2 3 4 5 Is the dialogue natural for the characters/time period/setting or location and not stilted or overly narrative?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Is there an effective mix of dialogue tags, action and dialogue standing alone?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Does the dialogue move the story forward
- 1 2 3 4 5 Does the dialogue define character or provide new information?

Comments:

General Elements

30 PTS

- 1 2 3 4 5 Is the story paced to hold the reader’s interest, not too fast or too slow? Is every scene essential to the story?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Does the writer’s use of point of view provide a smooth and clear understanding of the story? (POV changes are not jolting.)
- 1 2 3 4 5 Is the back story integrated smoothly and evenly?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Does the writer “show” rather than “tell”?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Does the writer employ vivid language, strong verbs and the five senses?
- 1 2 3 4 5 How intriguing is the end-of-the-chapter hook?

Comments: _____

Characterization ~ Heroine or 1st Primary Character

10 PTS

- 1 2 3 4 5 Distinctive Voices
- 1 2 3 4 5 Multi-dimensional/Well-rounded?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Consistent/Believable
- 1 2 3 4 5 Someone the reader can root for?

Comments: _____

Characterization ~ Hero or 2nd Primary Character

10 PTS

- 1 2 3 4 5 Distinctive Voices
- 1 2 3 4 5 Multi-dimensional/Well-rounded?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Consistent/Believable
- 1 2 3 4 5 Someone the reader can root for?

Comments: _____

Mechanics & Overall Impression

20 Pts

- 1 2 3 4 5 Is the writer’s prose clear and grammatically correct?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Is the submission professionally printed? (spelling, format to be considered)
- 1 2 3 4 5 Has the writer’s voice and story caught the reader’s attention?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Did you want to read more of the story?

Comments _____

Mark only the one section that pertains to the entry that you are judging.

Contemporary Series or Category Romance

20 Pts.

- 1 2 3 4 5 Do the heroine & hero meet early in the book and is the attraction between the two believable?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Can you determine the internal conflict for both H & H?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Can you determine the external conflict for both H & H?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Is there sufficient ground work to support their physical attraction and emotional relationship?

Comments: _____

Paranormal Section:

20 Pts.

- 1 2 3 4 5 Do the pages submitted indicate to the reader that this will be a paranormal story?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Does the setting make use of details that enhance a paranormal feel?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Has the author created an interesting paranormal world/situation?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Is the paranormal premise fresh, consistent and/or engaging?

Comments: _____

Historical Section:

20 Pts.

- 1 2 3 4 5 Do any events in story stand out as unauthentic?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Did you get a feel for the era of the story?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Was the dialogue correct for the historical period?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Did you learn anything about the era from the story?

Comments: _____

Young Adult Section:

20 Pts.

- 1 2 3 4 5 Was the dialogue appropriate and ring true for a YA?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Did you feel the characters were typical for the age group?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Did the story reflect YA concerns of the time period in which it was written?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Would you feel comfortable letting a 12 year old read the book?

Comments: _____

Novel with Strong Romantic Elements/Mainstream

20Pts.

- 1 2 3 4 5 Were you drawn in by the book even if the romance was a secondary focus?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Is it clear who the protagonist is?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Is it clear what kind of story this is; mystery, suspense, etc.
- 1 2 3 4 5 Does the lead character(s) appear likeable or redeemable to continue?

Comments: _____

Contemporary Single Title Romance

20 Pts.

- 1 2 3 4 5 Is the lead character believable and interesting?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Are the point of view changes easy to follow?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Does the writing make skillful use of effective comparison and or figurative language?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Do vivid descriptions place the reader in the scene with the characters?

Comments: _____

Romantic Suspense

20 pts.

- 1 2 3 4 5 Could you tell within the first few pages it was a suspense or action story?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Was the premise believable or did it read more like a sci-fi story?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Does the story show rather than tell?
- 1 2 3 4 5 Did you feel the sense of tension, impending action or conflict?

Comments: _____

Additional Comments: Use area below for comments on the entire submission.

