



RWASD 2012 Spring Into Romance

CONTEST RULES

DEADLINE

- ♥ Entries must be postmarked by ~~March 16, 2012~~ **March 31st**
Entries will be accepted at the RWA-SD Meeting on March 18, 2012

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. Word count 75,000+ .
- ♥ **Suspense/Adventure Romance:** 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. 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 includes Futuristic, Fantasy, Paranormal, featuring fairies, vampires, werewolves, witches, ghosts, timetravel, etc. Other subgenre elements such as suspense, mystery can be blended into these stories. Word count 40,000 words+.
- ♥ **Young Adult Romance:** Usually adolescent protagonist W/story lines typical of age group. Stories can span the entire spectrum of fiction genres-suspense, romance, chick-lit, etc. Fundamental elements such as character, plot, setting, and style should remain the same for YA. May be written in 1st person. Word count 40,000+ words.

Note: Any category with less than 10 entries will be cancelled. See entry form for options.

ELIGIBILITY

- ♥ Open to any writer, unpublished in book-length fiction within the last three years of deadline and uncontracted in book-length fiction at the time of submission. You must retain all rights to the entry and not have granted any of them to a publisher or any other party prior to the contest deadline.
- ♥ You may enter more than one submission in any category (separate fees apply).
- ♥ You may NOT enter any work that has previously finished in the Spring Into Romance contest. You may, however, enter a different piece.

WHAT TO SUBMIT

- ♥ Four (4) copies of the first twenty-five (25) pages, maximum, including a prologue (if applicable). Additional pages and/or chapters will be discarded and will not be judged.
- ♥ Layout must meet the following criteria:
 - Double spaced on 8 x 11 white paper (A4 Okay for international submissions)
 - 1 inch margin on all sides
 - 12 point Courier New; 12 or 14 point Times New Roman.
 - Your name must NOT appear anywhere on the manuscript
 - Header, on the left, should include:
 - ✓ Title of the Manuscript
 - ✓ Projected word count
 - ✓ Category entered
 - Header on the right, should list:
 - ✓ Page numbers
- ♥ Please make sure that each manuscript is secured with a paperclip or binder clip.
- ♥ One (1) cover page which lists:
 - ✓ Author's name/Pen Name
 - ✓ Address
 - ✓ Phone Number
 - ✓ Email address
 - ✓ Entry Title
 - ✓ Category entered
 - ✓ Projected word count of entire manuscript

- ♥ A separate entry form and fee must be submitted for each entry.
- ♥ Three (3) copies of the score sheet.
- ♥ A non-refundable fee of \$25.00 (\$20 for RWASD members) made payable to RWA-SD. US Funds only, please. Do NOT send cash. Pay Pal available.

For international entries, \$35 -- by PayPal only.

♥ A self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) for the return of your judged manuscripts and score sheets in Tyvek envelopes are available for FREE at any US Post Office.

- All manuscripts submitted without an SASE will NOT be returned and will be destroyed after judging. Score sheets will be returned.
- The envelope MUST be stamped with sufficient postage to return the entire packet back to you. Do NOT use a postage meter to stamp the SASE.
- For contestants outside the US only -- electronic submission. Please contact the RWASD Contest Chair for the email address to submit your entry. Payment by PayPal only
- Do NOT send anything that requires a signature upon receipt.
- We will notify you via email of receipt of your manuscript, or you may include an SASE postcard which we will return to you upon receipt.

JUDGES

- ♥ First round judging will be done by published authors and trained judges.
- ♥ For point spreads of fifty or more, a discrepancy judge will be used (only if the top score is at least 100) to determine the top four entries (maximum) advancing to the final round.
- ♥ *The top four finalists in each category will be judged by the following industry professionals:*
 - *Contemporary Series/Category Romance: Sarah McDaniel-Dyer Keyren Gerlach (Associate Editor, Harlequin)*
 - *Contemporary Single Title Romance: Angela James (Executive Editor Carina Press)*

- *Suspense/Adventure Romance*: Leis Pederson (Associate Editor Berkley Publishing Group)
- *Novel w/Strong Romantic Elements/Mainstream*: Kevan Lyon (Marshal Lyon Literary Agency)
- *Historical Romance*: Laura Bradford (Bradford Literary Agency)
- *Paranormal Romance*: Sue Grimshaw (Category Specialist & Editor at Large Random House)
- *Young Adult Romance*: Suzie Townsend (Nancy Coffey Literary & Media)

♥ ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- ♥ Categories receiving fewer than ten (10) entries will be cancelled. You may choose to submit to a different category or have your fees returned in the SASE you provide.
- ♥ Entries must receive a minimum score of 120 out of a possible 150 points in order to final.
- ♥ Fees will NOT be returned if disqualification or withdrawal occurs.
- ♥ Finalists will be notified by approximately the end of May 2012
- ♥ Winners will be notified by approximately June 16th, 2012 and will be listed on our website at www.rwasd.com.

MAIL YOUR ENTRY

- ♥ Mail your packet to:

Spring Into Romance Contest
 c/o Tami Vahalik
 977 Pepper Drive
 El Cajon. CA 92021