

**2008 ROMANCE THROUGH THE AGES CONTEST**  
**First Round Score Sheet**

Thank you very much for volunteering to judge HHRW's Romance through the Ages contest! The Contest Committee appreciates your time and talent. The purpose of this score sheet is to provide constructive feedback to the entrant. Above all, please be honest. However, we also ask that you remember how much of the entrant's heart went into creating this work, so please educate and encourage by your comments.

Manuscript code \_\_\_\_\_ Title of Entry \_\_\_\_\_

Category: A/M/R G/R/V C/W TT/P PV-WW2 Judge code: J-\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL SCORE** (Max 150 points) \_\_\_\_\_

**LEGEND SCORE** (Max 25 points) \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Bio: Unpub\_\_\_ Unpub, awards\_\_\_ PRO \_\_\_ Pub, romance\_\_\_ Pub, other\_\_\_

**Scoring Guidelines:**

(NOTE: If scoring 3 or less, you must explain why or give example)

5 - Excellent, minimal flaws, ready for submission

4 - Very good, few flaws, only minor revision needed

3 - Good, shows potential but needs some reworking

2 - Fair, needs improvement

1 - Poor, needs major revision

**FORMATTING** (Please answer Yes or No. **Electronic entries excluded**)

Y/N Is the entry presented in the generally accepted manuscript format?

Comments:

**OPENING** (first 2-3 pages) (Maximum 15 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the story begin with action or compelling narrative?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the hook draw you into the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ Have questions been presented that make you eager to read on?

Comments:

**STORY LINE** (Maximum 15 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the entry present enough conflict to sustain the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ Has the author made good use of both internal and external conflict?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the story fresh, or does the author at least make it seem so?

Comments:

**SETTING** (Maximum 20 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Has the author created a strong sense of place and time?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the setting add to the mood and tone of the entry?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are the historical details deftly woven into the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ Were you able to suspend any disbelief, if you encountered what you perceived to be historical inaccuracies?

Comments:

**CHARACTERIZATION** (Maximum 20 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Has the author written a skillfully developed and believable protagonist?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are at least one main character's goals and motivations apparent and realistic?

\_\_\_\_\_ How well did author handle secondary characters? (If none are present, was the author able to convey a sense of depth in the story/characters without them?)

\_\_\_\_\_ Are behaviors consistent with the time period? If not, are they well-motivated deviations?

Comments:

**ROMANCE / RELATIONSHIP** (Maximum 15 points)

**Please only score one column below, for a total of 15 pts for section**

\_\_\_ Has the author laid groundwork for a believable and well-motivated romantic relationship?

\_\_\_ Do the hero and heroine evidence sufficient depth of character, emotion, and self-awareness to imply that their relationship as it develops will have emotional attachment as well as physical attraction? (ex: Relationships with secondary characters are well-developed; protagonist shows ability to engage with world meaningfully, through well-motivated actions, how s/he meets challenges, etc)

\_\_\_ Has the author effectively created sensual or romantic tension or at least hinted at the potential for it?

Comments:

**DIALOGUE** (Maximum 15 points)

\_\_\_ Is the dialogue appropriate to the time period?

\_\_\_ Is the dialogue effective in revealing character?

\_\_\_ Does the dialogue enhance and move the story, or is primarily expositional?

Comments:

**NARRATIVE** (Maximum 15 points)

\_\_\_ Are the narrative passages necessary and interesting, not overly detailed?

\_\_\_ Is the narrative well-balanced with the dialogue?

\_\_\_ Does the pacing effectively move the story forward?

Comments:

**STYLE** (Maximum 25 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ Are there minimal spelling and grammar errors?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the point of view clear? Are transitions between characters, if they occur, smooth?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are all five senses utilized to portray emotion?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are the actions and emotions shown, using telling only to move the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the author's writing vivid and evocative?

Comments:

**OVERALL IMPRESSION** (Maximum 10 points)

\_\_\_\_\_ How intriguing did you find this entry, despite any flaws?

\_\_\_\_\_ Would you be willing to read the rest of the story?

Comments:

**2008 ROMANCE THROUGH THE AGES CONTEST**  
***The Legend Award - A Man For All Reasons***

This score sheet is for the Most Memorable Hero, which will be awarded separately and in no way does it impact adversely or advantageously on the general scoring of the Contest.

Scoring Guidelines:

5 -- Excellent    4 -- Very Good    3 -- Good    2 -- Fair    1 -- Poor

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the hero memorable enough to stick in your mind after the pages are read?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the hero possess enough depth and dimension to become real for you?

\_\_\_\_\_ Has the author crafted a believably motivated hero? Does he have a compelling story worth telling?

\_\_\_\_\_ Has the author shown that the hero possesses traits **or** could possess traits of a man you'd trust with your heart?

\_\_\_\_\_ Did the hero make you want to be his heroine?

Comments:

TOTAL LEGEND SCORE (Maximum 25 points) \_\_\_\_\_