

2010 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, we ask that you remember how much of the entrant's heart went into creating this work, so please educate and encourage with your honest and constructive comments.

Manuscript code _____ Title of Entry _____

Category: AMR GRV CWW PVW TTP HER 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 entry give you an indication of the category entered?

_____ 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)

- _____ 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:

2010 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) _____