



MARA Fiction From the Heartland Contest

2010 Official Rules

*****New this year – Accepting Electronic Entries AND Paper Entries*****

DEALINES:

- *Paper Entries* must be POSTMARKED by September 10, 2010. Checks, payable to MARA may be included OR PayPal payment may be made. PayPal payment must be received by 11:59 on September 10, 2010
- *Electronic Entries* and all appropriate fees must be RECEIVED by 11:59 p.m. September 10, 2010 to the appropriate E-mail address for its category
- Entries received/postmarked after that date, sent to the incorrect address, or for which payment has not been properly received will be rejected for entry

Failure to comply with contest rules may disqualify the entry. Fee will not be refunded.

CATEGORIES: (Entry must have a projected minimum length of 40,000 words)

- **Category Romance** includes all novels intended for series lines
- **Contemporary Single Title**
- **Historical**
- **Romantic Suspense**
- **Paranormal** includes time travel, fantasy and futuristic
- **Erotic Romance**
- **Young Adult**
- **Inspirational**

ELIGIBILITY

- Open to any writer, unpublished in book-length fiction (40K) in the past five years of deadline AND uncontracted in book-length fiction at the time of deadline.
- Multiple entries allowed in same or different category (separate fees apply)
- Entry may NOT be entered in more than one category
- You may NOT enter any work that has previously won the Fiction From the Heartland Contest

JUDGING:

Contest will have no more than ten overall finalists from all categories. Manuscripts must achieve 85% or greater of the total points possible to qualify as a finalist

- First Round
 - Entries will be judged by two (2) experienced judges, ONE of which will be a published author.
 - In the event that preliminary scores have more than a 40 point difference (20% discrepancy) AND the entry achieved 85% or greater of total points possible from one judge, a third judge will be used and lowest score will be dropped
 - Each entrant will receive TWO one-page written critiques and detailed score sheets
- Final Round
 - Finalists will be judged by BOTH and **editor** AND an **agent**
 - In the event of a tie for first, second or third place in the final round, first round scores will be used as a tie-breaker
 - Final round scores made by editors and agents WILL NOT be released to contestants
 - Any comments made by final round judges will be released when all final round judging is complete.
 - Finalists will need to send an additional SASE for final round comments to be returned
- Entries, score sheets and critiques will be returned no later than November 15, 2010 to allow entrants to use feedback in preparation for Golden Heart

FINAL ROUND JUDGES

- Editors
 - **Category Romance**
 - **Susan Litman** *Harlequin/Silhouette*
 - **Contemporary Single Title**
 - **Danielle Poiesz** *Pocket Books*
 - **Historical**
 - **Tessa Woodward** *Avon Books*
 - **Romantic Suspense**
 - **Lauren Plude**, *Grand Central Publishing*
 - **Paranormal**
 - **Meredith Giordan** *Berkley Publishing Group*
 - **Erotic Romance**
 - **Meghan Conrad**, *Ellora's Cave*
 - **Young Adult**

- **Natashya Wilson**, *Harlequin Teen*
 - **Inspirational**
 - **Melissa Endlich** *Steeple Hill*
- **Agents**
 - **Sara Megibow** *Nelson Literary Agency*
 - **Helen Breitwieser** *Cornerstone Literary Agency*
 - **Laura Bradford** *Bradford Literary Agency*
 - **Karen Solem**, *Spencerhill Associates*
 - **Claudia Cross**, *Sterling Lord Literistic*

AWARDS:

- First place/highest scored manuscript will receive \$50 and a plaque
- Second and third place will receive Placement Certificate
- All other finalists will receive Honorable Mention Certificate
- Finalists will be notified during the first week of November 2010 and posted on our website www.MARARWA.com
- Winners will be announced by February 1, 2011 and will be listed on our website and the RWR

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

Please submit Entry, including any prologue, AND Synopsis (not to exceed 35 pages)

- **Paper Entries**
 - Double spaced (23-25 lines per page) on 8X11 white paper
 - 1 inch margin on all sides
 - 12 point Courier New, 12 or 14 point Times New Roman
 - Author name must NOT appear on the manuscript
 - Header
 - Title/Category on Left
 - Page numbers on Right
 - Pages must not exceed 35 pages including prologue and synopsis
- **Electronic Entries**
 - Please save entry with Title-Category (*i.e. Sweet Enemy-Historical*)
 - Entry and synopsis should be saved as 1 file, with synopsis at end
 - Double spaced (23-25 lines per page) saved in **Word .doc (97-2003)**
 - 1 inch margin on all sides
 - 12 point Courier New, 12 or 14 point Times New Roman
 - Author name must NOT appear on the manuscript
 - Header
 - Title/Category on Left

- Page numbers on Right
 - Pages must not exceed 35 pages including prologue and synopsis

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES:

- Paper Entries
 - Four (4) copies of each entry, each bound with binder clip
 - Check for \$30 made payable to MARA or copy of PayPal Transaction ID number. Please put entry title in memo section
 - A separate entry form and fee must be submitted with each entry
 - A self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) for the return of your judged manuscript and score sheets
 - Please include an envelope large enough for your return entry. Tyvek envelopes are FREE at the post office.
 - Any manuscript submitted without a SASE will NOT be returned.
 - Many judges make comments ON the manuscript, so you'll want your manuscript returned to you to take full advantage of feedback
 - Envelope MUST be stamped with sufficient postage to return entire entry. Please do NOT use metered postage.
 - Contestants outside of US, please add \$10 to your entry fee to cover return postage (for a total of \$40)
 - Please do NOT send anything that requires a signature upon receipt
 - Please mail packet to:
 - Fiction From the Heartland Contest
c/o Keri Smith
15612 W. 125th Terrace
Olathe, KS 66062
- Electronic Entries
 - PayPal Transaction ID number showing payment for \$30
 - You may go to PayPal link on www.MARARWA.com
 - Or send via PayPal to: treasurer@mararwa.com
 - A separate entry form and fee must be submitted with each entry
 - Should you decide to send separate check, please make it out to MARA and send to:
 - Fiction From the Heartland Contest
c/o Keri Smith
15612 W. 125th Terrace
Olathe, KS 66062

- Check must be postmarked by September 10, 2010. Please put title of your entry in the memo section
- E-mail entry as an attachment to the appropriate category coordinator, with subject line Title/Category/PayPal(or check)
 - **Category Romance**
 - CategoryRomanceMARA@gmail.com
 - **Contemporary Single Title**
 - ContemporarySingleTitleMARA@gmail.com
 - **Historical**
 - HistoricalMARA@gmail.com
 - **Romantic Suspense**
 - RomanticSuspenseMARA@gmail.com
 - **Paranormal**
 - ParanormalMARA@gmail.com
 - **Erotic Romance**
 - EroticRomanceMARA@gmail.com
 - **Young Adult**
 - YoungAdultMARA@gmail.com
 - **Inspirational**
 - InspirationalMARA@gmail.com

Any questions, please contact contest coordinator at:

MARAContestCoordinator@gmail.com