

MARA Fiction From the Heartland Contest

Entry # _____ Category _____ Total Score _____

Title _____ Judge's Code _____

Scoring: 5 = Excellent, ready for an editor's eyes.
4 = Well done, minor improvement may be possible
3 = Element lacks spark or could use polishing
2 = Element there, but should be strengthened/revised.
1 = Element missing or needs major work.

Writing Techniques

Total possible: 25 points

- ___ Strong Opening Hook
- ___ Consistent use of Point of View
- ___ Transitions
- ___ Word usage, strong verbs, specific nouns, free of clichés
- ___ Rhythm (Varied sentence structure, readability)

___ Total Points

Setting

Total possible: 25 points

- ___ A strong sense of place and time without being intrusive
- ___ Accurate Research/Details
- ___ Backstory/Information relayed is necessary
- ___ Atmosphere appropriate for story
- ___ Starts in appropriate place

___ Total Points

Characterization

Total possible: 25 points

(Heroine or Primary character) _____

- ___ Distinctive voice
- ___ Motivation
- ___ Multi-dimensional/Well-rounded
- ___ Consistent/Believable
- ___ Appropriate Actions/Reactions

___ Total Points

Characterization

Total possible: 25 points

(Hero or Secondary character) _____

- ___ Distinctive voice
- ___ Motivation
- ___ Multi-dimensional/Well-rounded
- ___ Consistent/Believable
- ___ Appropriate Actions/Reactions

___ Total Points

Relationship

Total possible: 15 points

- ___ Attraction believable
- ___ Sparks from emotional as well as physical attraction
- ___ Develops at an appropriate pace

___ Total Points

Conflict

Total possible: 20 points

- Strong enough to sustain the story
- Well-motivated
- Internal, very clear
- External, very clear

___ Total Points

Dialogue

Total possible: 25 points

- Sounds natural
- Characters have their own consistent voices
- Appropriately tagged (Both amount and kinds of tags)
- Advances the plot/reveals character
- Well balanced with the narrative

___ Total Points

Manuscript Preparation

Total possible: 20 points

- Grammar
- Punctuation
- Spelling
- Proper format (Double spaced, margins, headers, font size, etc.)

___ Total Points

Plot

Total possible: 25 points

- Easily understood chronology
- Logical
- Characters goals and actions advance the story
- Consistent Tone
- Satisfactory Pacing

___ Total Points

Synopsis

Total possible: 25 points

- Appropriate amount of detail for the proposed length
- Shows character/relationship change or growth
- Believable and satisfactory conflict resolution
- Loose ends tied up
- Does the synopsis make you want to read the book?

___ Total Points

Overall Impression

Total possible: 20 points

- Writing is fresh and original
- Strong Emotional Impact
- Great ending Hook
- I would like to read the rest of this book

___ Total Points

_____ Grand Total Points

Total possible: 250 points

Judge's Status: () Published, Romance
 () RWA Pro

() Published, Other
 () Unpublished

Judge's signature (Optional)_____